

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	/
DeLoach	/
Mohr	/
Bishop	/
Casper	/
Callahan	/
Conrad	/
Felt	/
Gale	/
Rosen	/
Sullivan	/
Tavel	/
Trotter	/
Tele. Room	/
Holmes	/
Gandy	/

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DL*

DATE: March 28, 1967

FROM : A. Rosen

Organization of President John F. Kennedy

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. McInerney
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: PHILLIP KITZER, SR., AND OTHERS
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN
PROPERTY; FRAUD AGAINST GOVERNMENT;
MAIL FRAUD - CONSPIRACY

PURPOSE: To advise of recent developments in captioned case which is being tried in U. S. District Court, Bismarck, North Dakota.

BACKGROUND: This is the case where 17 individuals were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury during January, 1966, at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on charges of Mail Fraud, Fraud by Wire and Conspiracy arising from the fraudulent operations of 4 insurance companies financed largely by questionable borrowings and from which subjects drew extensive sums for their personal use. Cyrus Magnusson, Minnesota Commissioner of Insurance and unsuccessful candidate for Governor and David Richard Kroman, unsuccessful candidate for Attorney General for Minnesota are among the subjects. Trial in this case was postponed until after the November, 1966, elections and began this month in U. S. District Court (USDC) at Bismarck, North Dakota.

On early morning of 3/27/67, Kroman, one of the defendants in this case, while driving alone in an auto near Bismarck, North Dakota, went off the highway into a ditch and was slightly injured. A State Highway Patrolman, who responded to the accident, found Kroman in possession of a loaded shotgun. Kroman refused to make any statements concerning accident to this officer. Following accident Kroman was treated at a local hospital where physicians were of the opinion Kroman may have suffered a convulsion. Kroman is known to have a history of epileptic seizures which could have been the cause of his accident.

While being treated in the hospital, Kroman held a press conference and claimed he had been followed by two cars and at point of accident a gun was pointed at him from one of these vehicles causing him to wreck his auto. He claimed he has been conducting his own investigation of the Kennedy assassination and intimated he knows the true identity of the President's assassin but will not reveal it at this time. Kroman discharged himself from the hospital, contrary to the wishes of the attending physician.

On afternoon of 3/27/67, Kroman appeared in USDC, Bismarck, North Dakota, before U. S. District Court Judge Edward J. Devitt, who is

Enclosure *sent 3-28-67*

SFM:ctj
(9)

REC-62-109060-4973

CONTINUED OVER

NOT RECORDED
199 APR 5 1967

APR 4 1967

59 APR 12 1967

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: PHILLIP KITZER, SR.

hearing trial re captioned matter and repeated his allegations that auto accident was caused by two cars following him and stated he had been investigating the Kennedy assassination since December, 1963, and claims the assassination is solved and he will not release any information concerning the solution. Kroman alleged that during his investigation of the assassination, he was assaulted in a motel in Tennessee during 1966 where papers were stolen from him pertaining to an interview he conducted with a cab driver who drove Oswald during his attempted escape and who was allegedly killed in Dallas a day after Kroman was assaulted in Tennessee.

Investigation at time of Kroman's alleged assault in Tennessee by the Tennessee State Bureau of Criminal Identification failed to substantiate his story concerning the assault. It should be noted that William W. Whaley was the cab driver who transported Oswald after he left the Texas School Depository Building. Whaley died as a result of a head-on-collision, Dallas, Texas, 12/18/65. It is noted Kroman alleged Whaley died in 1966.

Kroman refused to name names or discuss involvement with the Kennedy investigation; however, he states the Warren Commission arrived at a conclusion before they had examined the issues and that when the truth is out it is going to hurt some "big-name people" in the United States.

On 3/27/67, U. S. District Court Judge Devitt ordered Kroman's bond revoked, and he was placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal to be taken to the Federal Penitentiary at Springfield, Missouri, for observation and psychiatric examination for a period of 45 to 60 days. A mistrial was declared as to Kroman in view of his press release 3/27/67 on the Kennedy assassination. According to United Press International Release 3/27/67, Judge Devitt reportedly stated, "There is reasonable cause to believe that Kroman may be insane or otherwise so mentally incompetent that he is unable to assist in his own defense." Judge Devitt stated he would rule on whether the trial could continue as to the other defendants on 3/28/67. Motions of Defense Attorneys for mistrial in view of Kroman's serverance scheduled for 3/28/67.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to the Attorney General concerning this matter for his information. We are following this matter closely, and you will be advised of pertinent developments.

Rjm

✓

Sh

o/s