



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Portland, Oregon
March 31, 1967

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Sheriff Leroy Altmiller, Clearwater County Sheriff's Office, Orofino, Idaho, advised on March 22, 1967, that Quincy Martin Rector, in custody at the County Jail, Orofino, Idaho, on check charge, advised he was released from the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Salem, Oregon, about two months ago. Another inmate at OSP, Odis Von Baker, told Rector he had been in Dallas, Texas, at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy and he wanted to talk to an FBI Agent. *was Mexico*

Odis Von Baker, also known as Otis Vaughn Baker, FBI No. 962 876 A, OSP No. 30516, inmate OSP, Salem, Oregon, was interviewed on March 30, 1967. Baker stated he is presently confined to OSP on conviction of assault with a deadly weapon growing out of his shooting of Robert Britt in Hood River, Oregon, in September or October, 1964. Baker was committed to OSP on October 23, 1964, to serve a five year sentence. Baker stated that he was admitted to OSP with active tuberculosis, but this condition is presently arrested. Baker furnished the following information: *B 9-4-1933 Enola*

He had been in Dallas, Texas on many occasions in the past as a transient and had met Jack Ruby in the Animal Bar on Ervay Street in Dallas in August, 1959. This was Baker's first encounter with Ruby, but he associated with Ruby to some extent thereafter. Baker said he encountered Ruby in bars in Dallas, including the Animal Bar and the Longhorn Bar, located near the intersection of Ervay and Jackson Streets in downtown Dallas. Ruby bought Baker drinks on many of these occasions, but Baker was never in Ruby's club nor in Ruby's apartment. Baker admittedly is a heavy drinker at all times, in a state of drunkenness whenever able to obtain liquor, and lives in cheap hotels in downtown Dallas when there. *APR*

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ENCLOSURE

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Baker said he left Dallas shortly after his first association with Ruby and went to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he remained until 1962. He made a living "hustling" and doing odd jobs. In June, 1962, Baker went to Fort Worth, Texas, and resided in cheap hotels in the skid row area. He was looking for former girl friend named Beverly Wilson, but was unable to locate her. He then went to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, remained there for a short while and then proceeded to a town near the Texas-Oklahoma border, which Baker identified only as Shattuck (phonetic), Oklahoma. Baker stated he is illiterate and unable to give correct spelling. There he met Sonia Elizabeth Wilhelm (phonetic) (ph) a German alien employed by a ballet troupe. Baker and Wilhelm were married by a Justice of the Peace in Parryton (phonetic), Texas, on September 4, 1962. Shortly thereafter, Baker was arrested on a drunk charge at Vaulet (ph), Texas, and his wife supposedly left and returned to Germany.

Baker remained in jail at Parryton (ph) for approximately three or four weeks, then left and went to Oklahoma City. He then joined two other individuals, identities unrecalled, and traveled to Dallas. The three then decided to go to California and proceeded to Phoenix, Arizona, where they split up around the end of 1962. Baker then went alone to Sumican (ph), Arizona, on the Mexican border. He was arrested by Mexican police for possession of a stolen check and jailed in the St. Louise jail, Mexico. He was released on Christmas Day, 1962.

Baker then went to Los Angeles, California and resided at 1019 West 11th Street during the early part of 1963, until April or May. Upon arriving there he wrote a letter to Ruby and asked if Ruby had any type of job which he could do. Baker stated he wrote Ruby because in 1959 he had taken a car from El Paso, Texas to St. Louis, Missouri, for Ruby. In this connection, Baker stated that he had met Ruby in Dallas after being released from the Dallas County Jail in 1959. Baker at this point was confused as to the year, first indicating it was 1962 and then stating it was 1959. Baker was unable to recall the month involved.

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On aforementioned occasion, Ruby had approached Baker and offered him \$600.00 cash in advance to go to El Paso and pick up a car and drive it to St. Louis, Baker picked up the car at a lot at the Greyhound Bus Station in El Paso in July or August, recognizing the car from a description given by Ruby. Baker stated the car was parked with the keys in the ignition. The car was described as a 1959 Chevrolet, two-door, gray in color. Baker took the car to the Greyhound terminal in St. Louis, and called a telephone number previously given him by Ruby. A man answered and Baker told him he had a car from Ruby. The individual advised Baker to leave the car with the keys in the ignition and go on his way. Baker was unable to recall the telephone number.

After writing Ruby from Los Angeles, Baker received a reply telling him to telephone Ruby in Dallas. Baker telephoned Ruby around May 25, 1963, at which time Ruby told him to take a bus to El Paso and pick up a 1959 Ford at the Greyhound Bus Station and bring it to Dallas. Baker left Los Angeles around May 28, 1963, and picked up the car in El Paso under the same conditions as before. Baker took the car to Dallas and parked it on a street near the Longhorn Bar. He registered at a cheap hotel across the street from the bar and telephoned Ruby at his club, and advised him of the location of the car. Ruby stated that he would bring another individual to meet him that evening, and that the other individual had a job for him. That evening, which was around June 1, 1963, Ruby appeared at Baker's room with an individual whom he introduced as Harlan Oswald. (Baker stated that this individual was Lee Harvey Oswald. He later recognized him from photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald. This was the first time Baker had ever seen Oswald).

Oswald told Baker that he wanted him to help him kill a man. Oswald refused to identify the victim, but stated that he had been hired by someone else and was being paid a great deal of money. Oswald refused to give any other particulars concerning the murder, other than that the victim was coming to Dallas in the near future, and Oswald would receive a long-distance call prior to his arrival. Oswald offered Baker \$2,500 to aid in the killing, and stated that all Baker had to do was pull a trigger. Oswald did not identify the type of guns

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to be used, but stated that he would have a gun also and would also fire a shot. Baker inquired of Oswald what the victim had done to him, and Oswald stated that he could not tell him. Baker refused to accept, and Ruby stated that he would give Baker an extra \$1,000 after the job if he would accept. Baker refused again and Oswald became disgruntled and wanted to leave. Oswald told Ruby that they would call another person who would take the job, and mentioned this other person by name. Baker stated that he was unable to recall that individual's name. Oswald and Ruby then left, after staying in Baker's room for approximately 30 or 40 minutes. Baker admittedly was drunk during this meeting.

Baker stated that he did not contact authorities at that time or after the assassination because he was afraid of being implicated. Baker stated that no other person saw the three together in his hotel who would be able to corroborate the story. Baker stated that the only other person he had ever told of this was "Pappy" Bigelow, an inmate of OSP. Bigelow allegedly wrote letters for Baker to J. Edgar Hoover and Bill Decker, Sheriff, Dallas, County, in December, 1964, giving the full story. However, Baker alleged that the OSP would not let the letters go out. Bigelow is now dead, having died at OSP in 1966 from a heart attack. Baker said he is now revealing the story to the FBI since he has now decided he can help solve the assassination and now regards John F. Kennedy as a great president.

Baker went on to say that two days after meeting with Ruby and Oswald, he was in Dutch's Cafe on Main Street in Ft. Worth. He was drinking and having supper, when Oswald came in and sat down beside him. Baker was not sure as to whether this was a chance meeting or Oswald had known of his whereabouts. Oswald again tried to persuade Baker to take the job. Oswald drank coffee during this encounter, which lasted about 30 minutes. Oswald said the job would be in approximately two weeks or two months, depending on when the victim came to Dallas. Baker again refused, stating that he did not want to get involved in murder. Oswald then left, but told Baker to meet him at the Cellar in Ft. Worth that night and Oswald would buy him a few drinks. This Baker did not do, and he never saw Oswald again. Baker also never saw Ruby again, although Ruby owed him an additional \$100 on the car delivery from El Paso to Dallas. Baker said there was no one who saw him with Oswald in Ft. Worth.

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Baker added that during the first meeting with Oswald, Oswald was wearing pants and a sport shirt. On second meeting, Oswald wore pants and a pull-over sweater.

Baker stated that two days later he left Ft. Worth and took a bus to Phoenix, Arizona. There he met a girl named Terry (last name unknown). He stayed in Phoenix two days and returned to 1019 West 11th Street, Los Angeles. He was accompanied by Terry, and he told the landlady that Terry was his wife. Baker stated that that address is Helen's Apartments. He stayed there with Terry three or four weeks, then got drunk and beat her up. He was arrested and lodged in Lincoln Heights Jail, Los Angeles. He remained in jail overnight and then hopped a freight train and went to Marysville, California. There he picked peaches for two weeks, then went to Hood River, Oregon. He did not know when he was in Hood River or how long, but stated that he then went to Orville (phonetic), Washington, and worked for Thorndike's Apple Packing Company. He was working there at the time of the assassination. He was jailed at Orville for 60 or 90 days, then went to Wenatchee, Washington. Baker was confused as to the periods of time he was in Wenatchee, first indicating January, 1964, then August, 1964. He then went to Portland, Oregon, from Wenatchee and recalled leaving Portland in September, 1964, and going to Hood River, Oregon, where he became involved in the shooting for which he is presently confined to OSP.

As the interview was concluding, Baker stated that the Oregon Supreme Court had turned down his appeal and that he had actually shot the individual in Hood River in self-defense. He made various other allegations concerning his treatment at OSP, and stated that he wanted to file a complaint against the OSP doctor and warden for bad treatment. He stated that his parole had been recently denied because of arrest for child molesting, but had been telling dirty jokes to children, and was not guilty of child molesting. Baker felt that this should not have been in issue concerning his parole.

Warden C.T. Gladden, OSP, stated that Baker is one of the problem inmates of the institution, and stated that he had no knowledge of Baker's attempts to send letters to

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J. Edgar Hoover and Bill Decker. Baker's file was made available by Deputy Warden G. E. Sullivan, who also stated that Baker was continually alleging abuse by prison officials and had written several letters to the Governor. Baker's file indicates that he was committed on October 23, 1964 from Hood River, Oregon, for Assault with a Deadly Weapon. He is serving a five-year term. On February 16, 1967, Baker directed a letter to the Oregon Governor in which he alleged mistreatment and stated that he had attempted to send letters to Mr. Hoover and Mr. Decker concerning the assassination. Baker stated that if he did not receive some response that he was going to court and tell everything. No other record could be located in Baker's file which indicated he attempted to send these letters. Baker's file describes him as being a 33-year-old white man, divorced, a 4th-termer, with an I.Q. of 73. His prior prison terms were served in the Arkansas State Penitentiary. Baker's criminal arrest record began in 1951, and includes crimes of car theft, burglary, larceny, checks, robbery, child molesting, narcotics violations, and assault. ~~Baker was born September 4, 1933, at Enola, Arkansas.~~ He was committed to OSP with active tuberculosis. He was subsequently treated and a negative TB test was obtained February 2, 1965. On July 28, 1965, Baker began yelling at other inmates in the TB hospital, threatened to kill a hospital employee, and when two officers arrived, he barricaded himself in his room, fought with them, spat in their faces, and threatened to kill them. Baker's file contains a letter to the Governor's Office, dated March 1, 1967, from Warden Gladden, stating, among other things, that Baker's claim of submitting letters to Mr. Hoover and Mr. Decker is false. He never submitted such letters. A review of Baker's psychological record reveals that he has a recurrent memory of something traumatic in his past. He has guilt feelings and is preoccupied with this past experience. He suffers from insomnia, and probably has brain damage from excessive use of alcohol. He also suffers from frightening dreams and severe headaches.

A review of the file of Ray H. Bigelow, OSP number 29817, indicates he was committed on October 28, 1963 from Lincoln County, Oregon, for a term of five years for bad checks. He died at OSP on November 22, 1966. His record failed to reveal any indication that he had written the alleged letters for Baker.

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A review of the file of Quincy Martin Rector, OSP number 31011, indicates he was committed on August 31, 1965 from Klamath County, Oregon on a conviction of bad checks. He was released December 15, 1966.

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