



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Los Angeles, California
March 28, 1967

ROBERT CLAYTON BUICK
BANK ROBBERY - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Robert Clayton Buick was indicted on April 20, 1966, by the Federal Grand Jury, Los Angeles, California, charging him with violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 2113(a)(d), involving the armed robberies of 22 Federally insured savings and loan associations. Nineteen of these savings and loan associations were located in the greater Los Angeles area, and three were located in the San Diego, California area. All of these robberies occurred between July, 1961 and February, 1966.

Buick, on May 9, 1966, appeared in United States District Court at Los Angeles and entered a plea of not guilty to all 22 counts of this indictment.

On October 11, 1966, a jury trial was held in United States District Court, Los Angeles, with Judge Irving W. Hill presiding. On the motion of the United States Attorney, to which the defense attorney agreed, the last three counts of this indictment were severed, and Buick was only tried on these three counts of the indictment. The jury returned a verdict on October 19, 1966, of guilty on all three counts.

United States District Judge Irving W. Hill on December 9, 1966, sentenced Buick to 20 years in the custody of the Attorney General under Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 4205(a)(2), on each count, the sentence on each count to run concurrently with the others.

Buick's attorney advised after sentencing that she intended to file an appeal in this matter, at which time Assistant U. S. Attorney Richard M. Coleman advised the court

ENCLOSURE

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that if Buick's conviction was affirmed on appeal, his office would consider dismissing the remaining 19 counts of the indictment.

Subsequent to Buick's conviction in Los Angeles, he has been identified as the bandit in two other bank robberies in the Los Angeles area.

Investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the savings and loan association robberies for which Buick was indicted reflected that Buick lived in various cities in Mexico, including Mexico City, Nogales, Juarez, and in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In these cities, Buick has fought in the bull ring as a bullfighter. Buick also owned and operated a marble importing business in Mexico City and San Diego, California.

Prior to Buick's trial on the above bank robbery charges, Buick wrote the United States Attorney at Los Angeles, Manuel L. Real; and Assistant U. S. Attorney Richard M. Coleman, Central District of California, alleging that he had information concerning "Dallas." Buick indicated he wanted to talk to Mr. Real. Assistant U. S. Attorney Coleman, with Buick's attorney, Gladys Towles Root, saw Buick and discussed the matter with him. Buick at that time stated he had knowledge concerning the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy, but he would not discuss it with Mr. Coleman or with Mrs. Root. He stated he would discuss it with Mr. Real or a judge of the court or with Chief Justice Warren.

Mr. Buick thereafter underwent psychiatric examination. The general conclusion of these examinations was that Buick was competent and responsible, though perhaps sociopathic.

In several of Buick's letters to the United States Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, he threatened "to create utter international chaos" unless Mr. Real would speak with him. Buick was not contacted by the United States Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, prior to trial.

Recently, Mr. John K. Van de Kamp, United States Attorney, Central District of California, and Assistant U. S. Attorney Richard M. Coleman, received letters from Buick in which he indicated that he had information about crimes of

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a "felonious nature" against the United States, and that he wished to talk with an investigator from the United States Attorney's Office.

Later, Mr. Coleman received a telephone call from Buick asking that Coleman personally speak with him about these matters. Mr. Coleman received information that Buick, in a letter to his wife, had made reference to "the news from New Orleans," saying that it "adds perfectly well" with what he has.

Mr. Coleman consulted with Buick's attorney, Mrs. Root, at which time she advised she had no objections to an interview with Buick, stating she felt his allegations should be heard. Mr. Coleman arranged for an interview with Buick and notified Mrs. Root of the time and place should she wish to be present.

At approximately 9:45 AM on March 23, 1967, Mr. Coleman and Agent Frank Slocum of the United States Secret Service met with Buick at the Los Angeles County Jail, Los Angeles. At the outset, Mr. Coleman advised Buick that he did not have to talk with him and that they were there at his request. Mr. Coleman informed Buick that anything he did say could be used against him and that he did have an attorney and that she had been advised of the meeting, but had not appeared, at which time Mr. Coleman asked him if he desired to proceed without her. Buick stated he did. Buick showed Mr. Coleman two affidavits of people who apparently attended his trial. In the affidavits, allegations were made that the witnesses incorrectly described the defendant and that there were irregularities in the conduct of the case. The gist of the affidavits was that the testimony was collusive.

Mr. Coleman informed Buick that he was not there to discuss the pending case, that the matters in the affidavits, should he wish to pursue them, should be raised by appropriate procedures on appeal. Buick responded that there were other ways of dealing with them and that steps were being taken south of the border to obtain citizenship for him. He stated he knew that the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles would be the first obstacle to his crossing the border to take up citizenship at this time.

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Mr. Coleman again advised Buick that he was not there to discuss his case and that he could raise the allegations he made on appeal, and that he, Coleman, was not empowered to make any deal. Mr. Coleman informed Buick that they were there because they believed he wished to discuss with them the information he claimed he had concerning the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy.

Buick stated that that might be part of the package but that if Coleman would not discuss the other matter he was not going into any of that. He stated that he had made the record clear that he had tried to talk with someone about this matter at previous times.

Mr. Coleman informed Buick that they were there at that time for that purpose and if he wished to talk about it he would listen, but that he could not make any deal. Buick stated that he would not discuss it and the interview was terminated.

In regard to psychiatric reports concerning Buick, [REDACTED] stated in his report that Buick indicated that his information related to the possibility of other parties being involved in President Kennedy's assassination. [REDACTED] gave this account of Buick's statement: "He (Buick) said that by a chance of fate he knew of the meeting which planned the assassination. He stated that it had been on his conscience as to whether he should disclose this to the United States authorities at the proper level. He said in response to questioning that there is no direct connection between the bank robberies and the assassination. He said that he has been to the big boy and that he has documentary proof and two witnesses who have fled to another country. He said that he believes they could be reached 'if they are still healthy!' He said 'I'm an extreme idealist. My admiration for President Kennedy was very high. I would do almost anything, even if it meant my life to have the truth known.'"

[REDACTED] concluded: "As a result of my examination it is my opinion that his alleged information may be real and of some importance or possibly fictitious; however, I doubt if it is delusional or hallucinatory in character."

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] diagnosed Buick to be a sociopathic personality and stated: "Subject admittedly tries to manipulate and 'deal' in his reportedly having dismissed his attorney, which he did not intend and in threatening to protract proceedings by calling many witnesses. His attempts to involve supposed knowledge of President Kennedy's assassination in his case appears to be also an attempt to manipulate, consistent with his personality type."

[REDACTED] report of Buick stated: "This defendant is playing a very skillful game of trying to convey the impression that he has valuable information but he is unable to divulge it except to such people as the Chief Justice of the United States. He has the typical effrontery of the sociopath."

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