

Memorandum

TO : MR. W. C. SULLIVAN

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

DATE: 5-16-67

FROM : MR. J. A. BRANIGAN

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. E. F. Kieffer

1 - Mr. Lenihan

1 - Mr. Branigan

SUBJECT: JAMES C. GARRISON
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

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

We are in receipt of an allegation that District Attorney James C. Garrison may have committed a fraud against the Government and we must now decide how this allegation will be furnished to the Department and whether the Bureau should initiate a Fraud investigation.

By airtel the New Orleans Office forwarded information received from Aaron Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission in New Orleans. Generally, the information relates to some of the legal excesses of the Garrison investigation. Specifically, Kohn is alleged to have advised that he learned that District Attorney Garrison had been offered the opportunity of resigning his commission with the National Guard or facing military charges. Kohn advised that Garrison is alleged to have falsified his drill duty certifications for approximately six months for which he was paid. Mr. Kohn advised that Garrison might be in violation of Federal statutes for this alleged fraud.

In March, 1967, Raymond Huff, district director of the U.S. Customs Service in New Orleans, advised that he received information that Garrison had been permitted to resign his commission in the National Guard as of the last week in February, 1967. Huff stated that it was his understanding that Garrison, who held the rank of lieutenant colonel, was falsifying his attendance records and claimed to be at "drill" when, in fact, he was not. Huff added that he did not know if this could be confirmed.

As reflected in memorandum 4-12-67, this information was supplied to Assistant Attorney General Vinson of the Criminal Division and Assistant Attorney General Yeagley of the Internal Security Division for information purposes and without highlighting.

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN
RE: JAMES C. GARRISON

the possible fraud violation and without comment as to any action contemplated by the Bureau. At the same time, it was pointed out that any investigation of Garrison by us could well result in criticism of the Bureau and could be construed by Garrison and his associates as an attempt by the Bureau to impede Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

OBSERVATIONS:

We have now received from two sources the same basic allegation of fraud in connection with Garrison's service in the Louisiana National Guard. The situation today is the same as existed in April, 1967. Any investigation of the fraud allegation by the Bureau would become known in the New Orleans area. Rightly or wrongly, the Bureau would be accused of trying to intimidate Garrison and engaging in the same tactics which are currently being charged to Garrison himself.

ACTION:

It is believed the Bureau's best course of action here would be to disseminate to Assistant Attorneys General Sanders, Vinson and Yeagley the information we have received since these individuals are the normal recipients of all data volunteered to the Bureau concerning the current Garrison investigation. It would not be in the Bureau's best interest to voluntarily institute a fraud investigation of Garrison at this time.

Handwritten: DISMEM, OK, V, NCL, R

Handwritten: jw

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570/27 sent to
AAG Yeagley, Sanders
Sanders, by 1-6 5/15/68