

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109060)

DATE: 6/2/67

FROM : *WJW* SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1166) (C)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

For the information of the Bureau, Cincinnati, Dallas, and New Orleans, U. S. Attorney GILBERT S. MERRITT, Nashville, Tennessee, furnished the following information to SA HENDERSON HILLIN, JR., on 5/22/67. Mr. MERRITT advised that he had previously furnished this information to the Department of Justice and no action was recommended or indicated as far as the government was concerned but that he wanted it to be made a part of FBI records. This information is as follows:

A Mr. CHARLES WALKER, owner of Radio Station WKDA, Nashville, Tennessee, accompanied by DICK BUCKLEY, Program Director, WKDA, and WKDA's attorney, WILLIAM F. CARPENTER, JR., appeared at Mr. MERRITT's office on 5/22/67 and furnished, in the presence of Davidson County District Attorney General's Investigator CHARLES HUNTER, the following information:

GARY EDWARDS, which is the pseudonym for GERALD MUNDY, News Director, of WKDA, is an old friend of GORDON NOVEL. GARY EDWARDS had been employed in the past by Station WNOE in New Orleans, Louisiana, when he came to know NOVEL, also of New Orleans. During the New York World's Fair, EDWARDS took leave of absence to work on the Louisiana exhibit, and at that time renewed his acquaintance with NOVEL. Several months ago NOVEL called GARY EDWARDS and discussed with him NOVEL's relationship to the GARRISON investigation of the assassination of President JOHN KENNEDY and how GARRISON had planned to arrest and extradite NOVEL from Ohio to New Orleans.

- 2-Bureau
- 1-Cincinnati (INFO)
- 1-Dallas (INFO)
- 1-New Orleans (INFO)
- 1-Memphis
- HH:wp
- (6)

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Handwritten signatures and initials

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NOVEL told EDWARDS thereafter in a conversation with WALKER and BUCKLEY that he had worked sometime prior to January or February, 1967 for District Attorney GARRISON on the KENNEDY assassination as an electronics expert. NOVEL had told them that in the past he (NOVEL) had been getting money from the Governor of Louisiana and the CIA for information obtained regarding GARRISON and the assassination.

As a result of NOVEL and EDWARDS' relationship, on Tuesday, 5/16/67, NOVEL came from Columbus, Ohio, to Nashville, Tennessee, and played for EDWARDS a number of tapes that he had secretly made of conversations which allegedly took place in meetings between GARRISON and his associates in the KENNEDY assassination investigation. Also there were tapes which he had obtained from illegal wire taps from phones in the New Orleans area. GARY EDWARDS had this information in his files and he had overheard and had listened to NOVEL's tapes.

NOVEL and EDWARDS spent Tuesday through Saturday, 5/20/67 going over these tapes at WKDA located in downtown Nashville. EDWARDS called some of the people on these tapes and asked some very pointed questions, which would indicate that he knew of the conversations that NOVEL had taped. EDWARDS also allegedly taped his conversations that he had had with these people.

According to WALKER, an underworld character offered to buy all of NOVEL's tapes but that this character would have to call "the man" (meaning GARRISON) to see what they were worth and allegedly there was some conversation regarding a meeting on a boat.

On Saturday night, 5/20/67, NOVEL and EDWARDS were at Radio Station WKDA and returned to EDWARDS' apartment from the radio station in a panel truck. As they went into the driveway, a bullet went through the front of the cab; both hit the deck and the first shot was followed by a series of shots, some of which went through the cab of the truck. (This information came to WALKER from GARY EDWARDS, who telephoned him at 5:10 a.m., Sunday, 5/21/67, from Bowling Green, Kentucky, and told him what happened.)

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Allegedly the shooting occurred shortly after 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, 5/21/67. NOVEL was allegedly shot in the arm but not hurt badly, and EDWARDS was not hurt but did receive some wounds from flying glass.

BUCKLEY went to the scene and did find that some bushes in the area had been tramped down as if someone had been lying there. The panel truck was there and there were indications that it had been shot up. EDWARDS and NOVEL somehow got to Bowling Green, Kentucky, in an automobile, although EDWARDS did not own a car. From somewhere in Kentucky EDWARDS and NOVEL split up; NOVEL returned to Columbus, Ohio; and EDWARDS was allegedly to proceed to Washington, D. C., where he was to appear at a meeting previously scheduled for news editors at a Department of State briefing.

U. S. Attorney MERRITT made available a Xerox copy of a memo found in the files of GARY EDWARDS which relate to alleged tape recordings mentioned above. This is being set out for the information of the Bureau and receiving offices:

Mr. MERRITT stated that he did not know the significance of this information but that he had made it available to the Department of Justice and no action was recommended other than to place it in our files.