

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- June 2, 1967
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS**

Since the inception of his investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison has made numerous charges which appear to have no basis in fact. There is set forth below a summary of the major charges made by Garrison as reported by news media and other sources and a brief analysis prepared by this Bureau concerning such charges:

Garrison's Charge:

"Lee Harvey Oswald did not even shoot President Kennedy. He did not fire a shot from the Book Depository Building. He did not touch a gun on that day. He was a decoy at first. And then he was a patsy and then he was a victim."

New Orleans "Times-Picayune" 5/22/67

Analysis:

President John F. Kennedy was wounded by two bullets which, from the wounds they caused and the marks on the Presidential limousine, appeared to have been fired from above and from the rear, the general location of the upper stories of the Texas School Book Depository Building. This was corroborated by the doctors who performed the autopsy on President Kennedy's body and by FBI Laboratory experts who examined the Presidential limousine after the shooting.

Eyewitnesses observed a man in a window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building with a rifle in his hands at the time the President's motorcade was approaching and passing the building. One eyewitness, Howard L. Brennan, a 45-year-old steam fitter, saw the man in this window take deliberate aim with a rifle and fire in the direction of the Presidential motorcade as it passed.

- Olson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Wick _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Malone _____
- McGuire _____
- Walters _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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Mr. Brennan quickly gave a description of the gunman to a Dallas police officer and later in the evening he identified Lee Harvey Oswald in a police lineup as the person who bore the closest resemblance to the gunman in the window of the Texas School Book Depository Building. Brennan subsequently told the Warren Commission that he could have made a positive identification in the lineup on November 22, 1963, but did not do so because he felt that the assassination was "a Communist activity, and I felt like there hadn't been more than one eyewitness, and if it got to be a known fact that I was an eyewitness, my family or I, either one, might not be safe."

Another eyewitness to the assassination, Harold Norman, an employee of the Texas School Book Depository, was watching the Presidential motorcade from a window on the fifth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. He heard three shots directly overhead and heard the shells hitting the floor as they were ejected from the rifle by the gunman.

Shortly after the assassination on November 22, 1963, Dallas police officers found a rifle which had been concealed behind some cartons on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building. Lee Harvey Oswald was observed on this floor by another employee shortly before the Presidential motorcade approached the area. A palm print of Oswald was found on the rifle and investigation disclosed that the rifle, a 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano, had been purchased by Oswald under the alias "A. Hidell" on March 20, 1963, from the Klein's Sporting Goods Company, Chicago, Illinois. This was confirmed through a handwriting analysis made of Oswald's handwriting.

Shortly after the shooting, a bullet was recovered from the stretcher of Governor John B. Connally at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. This bullet and two fragments of another bullet which were found in the Presidential limousine, were conclusively identified as having been fired from Oswald's rifle. In addition, the three cartridge cases which were found near a window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building where a gunman had been seen by several eyewitnesses, were determined to have been fired from Oswald's rifle.

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Furthermore, within an hour of the killing of President Kennedy, several eyewitnesses observed a man they subsequently identified as Lee Harvey Oswald, shoot and kill Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit. Although the bullets found in Tippit's body could not be conclusively identified as having been fired in the revolver taken from Lee Harvey Oswald at the time he was arrested in a theater, several shell cases which were found at the site of Tippit's killing were identified as having been fired in Oswald's revolver. Investigation disclosed that Oswald purchased this revolver on March 20, 1963, under the alias "A. J. Hidoll" from the George Rose and Company, Incorporated, Los Angeles, California.

Garrison's Charge:

Clay Shaw alias Clay Bertrand conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald and David William Ferrie to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. *Washington Post* 3-3-67

Analysis:

The FBI never investigated Clay Shaw in connection with its investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy nor did the name, Clay Shaw, come up in connection with such investigation. On the other hand, extensive and thorough investigation was conducted to locate and identify Clay Bertrand.

The name, Clay Bertrand, was introduced into the FBI investigation of the assassination by Dean Andrews, Jr., a New Orleans attorney. Andrews informed FBI Agents on November 25, 1963, that in late June, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at his office and requested certain legal assistance. Andrews claimed he talked with Oswald two or three times but never opened a file regarding him and was never paid any money by Oswald. Andrews recalled that a young man in his early twenties with blond hair and approximately five feet seven inches in height accompanied Oswald and Andrews recalled this man was possibly named Clay Bertrand.

Andrews further claimed that on the evening of November 23, 1963, when he was hospitalized in New Orleans and while under heavy sedation, he was awakened from his sleep by a telephone call. Andrews stated the caller

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identified himself as Clay Bertrand and asked if Andrews would be interested in handling the defense of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas.

In a subsequent interview on December 3, 1963, Andrews changed the description of Bertrand materially by describing Bertrand as approximately six feet one inch to six feet two inches in height and as having brown hair. Andrews also was very hazy in his recollection of the telephone call he received from Clay Bertrand on the evening of November 23, 1963, and stated that he had concluded the call was a figment of his imagination.

Extensive investigation by this Bureau to locate Clay Bertrand failed to disclose anyone who knew him. Andrews' secretary stated she could not recall Lee Harvey Oswald ever visiting Andrews' office and she added that a check of Andrews' office files disclosed no information which indicated that Oswald ever obtained legal advice from Andrews.

At a preliminary hearing of Clay Shaw which was held in New Orleans on May 14, 1967, New Orleans District Attorney Garrison produced as a witness, Perry Raymond Russo, who claimed to have attended a meeting at the residence of David William Ferrie in late September, 1963, at which time Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and Clay Bertrand, whom he identified as Clay Shaw, plotted the assassination of President Kennedy. Russo claimed that Oswald was living with Ferrie at the time.

FBI investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald disclosed that Oswald resided in New Orleans from approximately April 25, 1963, to September 25, 1963, when he departed that city en route to Mexico City, Mexico. During our intensive investigation of Oswald's activities, no information was developed that Oswald knew, visited with or lived with David William Ferrie. Marina Oswald, wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, was questioned numerous times concerning her husband's activities during the time they lived in New Orleans. Marina Oswald reported that Oswald lived with her on a day-to-day basis during the entire period they lived in New Orleans. She further reported that there was only one occasion when Oswald spent the night away from their residence in New Orleans and on that occasion she and Oswald, accompanied by relatives, spent the night in Mobile, Alabama, where Oswald spoke before a school audience regarding his observations of the Soviet Union.

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A number of neighbors of the Oswalds in the vicinity of their residence at 4905 Magazine Street, New Orleans, furnished information that Lee Harvey Oswald did reside at that address until September 25, 1963, when he left New Orleans. One neighbor of the Oswalds who was unemployed during the Summer of 1963, said he saw Lee Harvey Oswald at least once every day from mid-July, 1963, until September 25, 1963, when Oswald moved away. Another neighbor recalled seeing Oswald about the house most of the time and reported that when Oswald did leave his residence during the day, he would return shortly thereafter. Marina Oswald testified before the Warren Commission that after Oswald lost his job with the William B. Reilly Coffee Company in New Orleans on July 19, 1963, he spent practically all of his time around the house reading.

Investigation disclosed Lee Harvey Oswald left New Orleans on September 25, 1963, en route to Mexico City, Mexico, where he spent several days. He returned to the United States October 3, 1963, and took up residence in Dallas, Texas.

Garrison's Charge:

On February 22, 1967, David William Ferrie was found dead at his residence in New Orleans, Louisiana. Garrison described Ferrie as "one of the most important individuals in history" and claimed that Ferrie "apparently committed suicide." - *World Journal Tribune* 2/24/67

Analysis:

New Orleans Coroner Nicholas Chetta, who performed the autopsy on Ferrie, concluded that Ferrie died from natural causes. The autopsy revealed that Ferrie died of a brain hemorrhage. Coroner Chetta stated that there was no way for a suicide-bent person to induce such a hemorrhage at will.

Garrison's Charge:

Garrison has claimed that the address books of Clay Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald listed the same digits, 19106, concerning a Post Office Box in Dallas. Garrison claimed that by transposing the digits and subtracting the number 1300, the result was telephone number Whitehall 1-5601, which Garrison identified as Jack Ruby's unpublished telephone number in Dallas in 1963. - *Washington Post* 5/13/67

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Analysis:

The number 19106 appears on page 57 of Lee Harvey Oswald's address book. Contrary to Garrison's claim, this notation was contained among the number of items in the Russian language which appear in Oswald's address book and is not Post Office Box 19106 but instead is a Russian number translated as DD19106. All of the items contained on page 57 of Oswald's address book appear to have been made by him during his stay in Russia from 1959 to June, 1962.

For example, among the items listed on page 57 is a reference to OVIR, which is the Department of Visas and Registration in Moscow. A telephone number listed under this particular entry, K-45026, was listed to the Moscow City Executive Committee. Another reference on this page is to the Hotel Ostankino in Moscow. On December 4, 1963, when questioned about this item, Marina Oswald, wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, advised that she and her husband stayed at the Hotel Ostankino a few days prior to their departure from the Soviet Union in 1962.

We have carefully examined and analyzed Garrison's decoding procedure. His coding system appears to involve a complex manipulation of two letters and five digits which Garrison misinterprets as "PO 19106" and thereafter arbitrarily changes by adding telephone dial equivalents for "p" and "O" or 7 plus 6 equals 13. Garrison then arbitrarily splits this 13 into two segments of 9 and 4 which he reequates on the telephone dial to "WH."

In a similar arbitrary fashion, Garrison changes 19106 by rearrangement into 16901 and then subtracts 1300 from this rearranged number to obtain 15601; combining the two manipulations, Garrison comes up with "WH 1-5601" which was Jack Ruby's telephone number. This telephone number is publicly identified in the Warren Commission Report as an unpublished telephone number of Jack Ruby. This is Commission Exhibit number 2300.

Garrison's purported decipherment is an arbitrary manipulation of letters and numbers to arrive at a predetermined conclusion and no technical validation for it can be found.

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The New Orleans "States-Item" newspaper for May 12, 1967, reported that the notation in Clay Shaw's address book concerning "P.O. Box 19106, Dallas, Texas," referred to a post office box which had been registered to Lee Odom. Odom was identified as a bullfight promoter who told newsmen that he had been in contact with Clay Shaw in New Orleans last year in an attempt to promote a bullfight. Odom is also reported to have stated to newsmen that he obtained Post Office Box 19106 in the Summer of 1966.

Garrison's Charge:

Garrison has charged that some anti-Castro Cuban refugees who were affiliated with a Cuban refugee training camp near Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, during the Summer of 1963, were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Washington Sunday Star 2/26/67

Analysis:

In July, 1963, this Bureau received information from several sources that a number of Cuban refugees had come to New Orleans from Miami, Florida, through the efforts of Rudolph Davis, reportedly to attend a training camp after which they would be sent to a training camp in Guatemala. Sources reported this group became disenchanted and returned to Miami shortly after their arrival.

We interviewed Rudolph Davis in this matter and he indicated he acted as a coordinator between the Movimiento Democratica Cristiano (MDC), an anti-Castro organization, and the New York City Police Department in 1961 and that he was the delegate for this anti-Castro organization in New Orleans. He stated he came to New Orleans in August, 1961, and in early 1963 made friends with persons in the lumber business in Guatemala with whom he formed the Guatemalan Lumber and Mineral Corporation. Davis said he brought approximately 19 men to New Orleans to train for lumber-cutting work in Guatemala. He added that when the men learned they were to work in a lumber industry and were not recruited for military operations against Cuba, they became disenchanted and returned to Miami. Our files contain no information indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald had any contact or connection with Davis or the anti-Castro organization which Davis represented. Data concerning Davis and the group he brought to New Orleans in July, 1963, was disseminated to the Warren Commission during our investigation of the assassination.

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