

1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr

1 - C. D. DeLoach
1 - R. T. E. Bishop
1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

December 28, 1967

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

News media for December 27, 1967, carried accounts of a press conference conducted by New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison on December 26, 1967. Set forth below is a concise summary and analysis of numerous allegations made by Garrison during his press conference.

Garrison alleged that Lee Harvey Oswald was "working for the Central Intelligence Agency in November, 1963" when he informed the FBI of a plot to kill President Kennedy in Dallas.

In his testimony before the Warren Commission on May 14, 1964, Mr. John A. McCone, then Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, stated he had personally handled the inquiry within his Agency relating to Lee Harvey Oswald and had reached the conclusion that Oswald was not an agent, employee or informant of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. McCone added that the Central Intelligence Agency never contacted Oswald, interviewed him, talked with him or received or solicited any reports or information from him, or communicated with him directly or in any other manner. Mr. McCone further stated that the Central Intelligence Agency never furnished Oswald with any funds or money or compensated him directly or indirectly in any fashion. Mr. McCone added that Lee Harvey Oswald was never associated or connected directly or indirectly in any way whatsoever with the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Garrison alleged that President Lyndon B. Johnson and other high officials of the United States Government have concealed from the public the truth of the assassination. Garrison described President Johnson as "the man who profited most by the assassination" and alleged that President Johnson decided that "vital evidence" could not be seen by the public for 75 years. Garrison also alleged that President Johnson "got away with this decision." Current regulations of the National Archives provide that reports of investigative agencies are not to be made available to any member of the public, regardless of his credentials or purpose, for a period of 75 years without the approval of the agency which prepared the report. The guidelines for determining which documents of the Warren Commission records should be made available to the public were proposed by Mr. Nicholas deB. Katzenbach when he was Attorney General of the United States. These guidelines were approved by Mr. McGeorge Bundy on April 19, 1968, when Mr. Bundy was serving as Special Assistant to the President.

Garrison alleged that the assassination of President Kennedy was carried out by "an infinitely larger number than you would dream" and that in Dealy Plaza (the assassination site in Dallas) alone, there could have been as many as 15 individuals involved in the assassination. During the past several months Garrison has changed his story frequently as to the number of individuals involved in the assassination. In his various press releases, Garrison has claimed that Dallas police officials, Secret Service, Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel, Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, David William Ferrie, numerous anti-Castro Cuban refugees and others were involved in the conspiracy plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

Garrison alleged that before the gun set on November 22, 1963, Government officials and investigators knew that a lone gunman did not kill President Kennedy. Garrison claimed that "Washington has fooled not only the people of this country but also the world, to stay in power."

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Garrison's statement is, of course, completely false. On the evening of November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was in the custody of the Dallas Police Department and was charged with the murder of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit and was also being held as a suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy. Investigation was proceeding on that date to determine if Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in his crimes or whether he had accomplices. Extensive investigation, it was the conclusion of the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin. This conclusion was based on overwhelming evidence.

Garrison alleged that Loran Hall of California had inside knowledge of the assassination the day it occurred.

The name of Loran Eugene Hall came up in the investigation of the assassination in connection with an allegation made by Mrs. Sylvia Odio, Dallas, Texas, who alleged on December 18, 1963, that she received a letter from "Leon Oswald" and two Mexican companions on September 26 or 27, 1963, and that these three individuals brought her a message from her father who was being held as a political prisoner in Cuba. Odio testified that she believed "Leon Oswald" was identical to Lee Harvey Oswald.

The FBI conducted extensive investigation concerning Odio's allegation and found absolutely no corroboration for it. It was determined that Lee Harvey Oswald was on a bus en route to Mexico City on the day Odio claimed she was visited by "Leon Oswald" and his companions.

During our inquiries concerning Odio's allegation, we determined that Odio was regarded by her close associates as being mentally unstable. We were also informed that Odio had been hospitalized for a long time for mental illness and that she had also committed suicide in the past. Odio testified before

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the Warren Commission on July 22, 1964, at which time she informed the Commission that she was then under the treatment of a psychiatrist. The Warren Commission concluded in its Report that Odio had not met Lee Harvey Oswald.

During the course of our investigation of the assassination, we received information that Loran Eugene Hall had been in Dallas, Texas, in September or October, 1963, and reportedly was soliciting contributions from anti-Castro Cuban refugees. We contacted Loran Eugene Hall on September 16, 1964, at which time Hall was residing at Kernville, California. Hall informed us that he never met Lee Harvey Oswald. He did state that he and two companions were in Dallas, Texas, in September, 1963, and had contacted various Cuban refugees in an effort to solicit funds for work against the Castro regime in Cuba. Hall recalled that he had met Sylvia Odio at that time and was accompanied by Lawrence Howard and William Seymour.

Interviews of Howard and Seymour and other investigation failed to corroborate Hall's statements. Our inquiries disclosed that Hall had a history of mental instability and a reputation for telling falsehoods. Results of our inquiries in this particular matter were disseminated to the Warren Commission.

William W. Turner, who has written several articles for "Ramparts" magazine attacking the conclusions of the Warren Commission, appeared at Garrison's press conference and urged that certain Warren Commission documents, now withheld from the public, be released for Garrison's perusal. Turner claimed that more than 200 documents have been classified by the Warren Commission and many are pertinent to Garrison's probe.

William W. Turner was a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from February 5, 1951, to July 19, 1961. He was dismissed, effective the latter date.

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The Civil Service Commission Board of Appeals and Review sustained his dismissal on the grounds that he had demonstrated he lacked the truthfulness, accuracy and responsibility required of an FBI Agent, and that he had shown a poor attitude toward the FBI and its Director. Turner then instituted a civil action for reinstatement in the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia. He lost, and the Supreme Court, in due course, denied certiorari.

After the failure of his efforts in the courts, Turner resorted to the radio and the public press in a continuing campaign to vilify the FBI and its Director. Turner's appearance at Garrison's press conference appears to be a part of Turner's campaign. It also serves the purposes of Garrison.

NOTE:

Above disseminated by cover communications dated 12/28/67 to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at the White House and to the Attorney General.