



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Omaha, Nebraska
January 5, 1968

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

Edward Beckham

The Omaha World-Herald, an Omaha, Nebraska, newspaper, in an article dated December 30, 1967, disclosed that Thomas Edward Beckham, who used the name Mark Evans as an entertainer, believed that by moving to Iowa he may have avoided a summons to testify in New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation of an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. According to this article, Beckham, who claimed to be a bishop in the Universal Life Church, was the subject of a subpoena issued by a New Orleans Judge on December 29, 1967, to appear before an Orleans Parish grand jury on February 1 and 2, 1968.

This article further disclosed that Beckham, when interviewed by a reporter at Omaha, displayed documents stating that he received a "bachelor of theology degree" from Faith Bible College and Theological Seminary, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in June, 1964; a "master of church education" from the same school on May 10, 1967; and a "doctor of psychology" from that school on June 1, 1967. He also disclosed documents indicating he received a "doctor of philosophy" from the National Institute of Criminology and a "law degree" from the Blackstone School of Law, a correspondence school.

On January 4, 1968, [redacted], Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Omaha, Nebraska, advised that the following note had been received by the Sheriff that date:

"To the Sheriff

"As I was reading in the paper today, I read the story about Dr. Edward Beckham and the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Well, I think I know a little about it. Not that what I know means anything; it's just what Dr. Beckham told me, and what I have seen and about the offer that was made me.

"/s/ [redacted]

"[redacted]"

6010

ENCLOSURE

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Michael X Richardson

[redacted] described [redacted] as a Negro male, born April 5, 1950, at Lubbock, Texas, who is presently incarcerated in the Douglas County Jail, Omaha, on a robbery charge awaiting a hearing in Juvenile Court. He stated that he contacted [redacted] relative to this note and learned from him that he had worked for Beckham in Omaha during 1967, but he did not believe [redacted] to possess any pertinent information regarding Beckham's activities prior to the time he arrived in Omaha or any information regarding President Kennedy's assassination.

On January 5, 1968, [redacted] was interviewed by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at [the Douglas County Jail] Omaha, Nebraska, and furnished the following information:

He first met Dr. Edward Beckham, who was known by the name of Mark to his friends and associates, in the early summer of 1967. At that time Beckham operated the Universal Life Church of America located at 16th and Binney Streets, Omaha, in an old store building. Beckham operated a secondhand store handling home furnishings, appliances, and other items on the ground floor, and in the basement of this building, which was decorated as a chapel, he held church services on rare occasions. [redacted] became friendly with Dr. Beckham and after a short period started working for Beckham as a delivery boy, delivering merchandise sold in the store to various homes in the area.

[redacted] stated that Dr. Beckham had an assistant who used the name of "Chuck", but whose name he later determined to be Dave Smith, working with him. He stated that both of these individuals did quite a bit of traveling to Kansas City, Missouri; Wichita, Kansas; and Texas cities; however, he was not aware of the purpose of these trips. He advised that on one occasion he accompanied Beckham and Chuck to Lincoln, Nebraska, where they went into a house, staying approximately two hours and leaving him in the car. He stated that Beckham on this occasion paid him \$50.00 just for accompanying him to Lincoln.

[redacted] cited an incident which occurred in August, 1967, in which he appeared in Juvenile Court on a destruction of property charge accompanied by Beckham wearing a priest's collar. He stated that Beckham was instrumental in

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"getting him off" on this charge. Later Beckham told him that in return for "getting him off" he expected [REDACTED] to help him pull a deal in the future, for which he would pay him \$1,000.00; however, he never disclosed to [REDACTED] what this deal was.

[REDACTED] advised that Chuck on one occasion asked him to obtain a .32 caliber pistol for him, and [REDACTED] was able to obtain such a weapon for \$5.00 from a boy and subsequently sell it to Chuck for \$25.00. He also observed on another occasion a .25 caliber Beretta pistol. Chuck also on a later date asked him if he could obtain for him a 30.06 rifle, and he told Chuck that he did not feel he could obtain such a weapon for him. He stated that Chuck later showed him an Army rifle, possibly an M-1, which he said he had obtained at Wichita, Kansas. Chuck claimed he had no shells for this rifle, but when he obtained same he would show [REDACTED] how to shoot it.

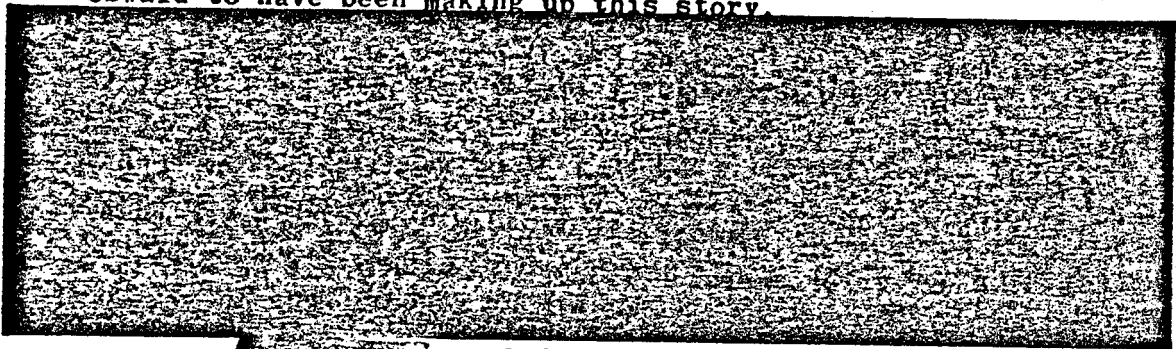
[REDACTED] related that sometime during the summer of 1967 a white male having blond, crew cut hair appeared at Beckham's store looking for Beckham. He stated he remained at the store most of the day waiting for Beckham, and after talking with Beckham on the telephone left the store and he never saw him again. He stated this individual was driving a white over gold 1964 Chevrolet with white bucket seats and Texas license plates. He stated this individual showed him a pistol which he had in his glove compartment and four rifles located in the trunk of his car.

He continued that Beckham had numerous rough looking friends who frequently came by the store to visit him; however, he never met these individuals and could furnish no information concerning them.

[REDACTED] continued that during his period of contact with Beckham, Beckham resided at 4201 Ida Street, Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife and mother-in-law. Beckham told him that he was a singer, psychiatrist, and medical doctor and showed him identification to back up most of these claims. When he first met Beckham, Beckham claimed to have recently arrived in Omaha and at that time he was driving a maroon colored Dodge Dart, approximately 1964 model, which contained either a telephone or citizens band radio in it.

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[REDACTED] stated Beckham told him that on one occasion he had ridden on the same airplane as Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy, but Beckham had made no other comments regarding Oswald or the assassination. He described Beckham as quite a "con man" and for this reason he believed Beckham when making the comment concerning Oswald to have been making up this story.



[REDACTED] concluded that he has not seen Beckham since approximately August or September, 1967, at which time Beckham sold most of the merchandise on hand to someone else and went out of business. He stated he was unable to recall any comments made by Beckham regarding his background, places of residence, or activities prior to his arrival in the Omaha area.

Files of the Omaha, Nebraska, Police Department, Identification Bureau, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Omaha, were caused to be checked on January 5, 1968, concerning Beckham and no information identifiable with him was located.

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