



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana  
May 8, 1968

Cecil M. Shilstone  
Information Concerning

On May 6, 1968, Mr. Charles I. Denechaud, Jr., an attorney located at 1412 Pere Marquette Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, appeared at the New Orleans Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with Mr. Cecil M. Shilstone. Mr. Denechaud stated he has represented Mr. Shilstone for many years and that Mr. Shilstone was insistent upon coming to the New Orleans Office of the FBI to provide certain information.

Mr. Shilstone stated he is president of the Shilstone Testing Laboratory, Inc., as well as president of the Shilstone and Associates, located at 814 Conti Street in New Orleans. He stated that in the past he has had an association with District Attorney Jim Garrison in regards to Garrison's probe of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He said this association with Garrison was strictly to give financial support to Garrison's investigation. Mr. Shilstone said that at the inception of Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy and prior to the time that Clay Shaw was arrested, Garrison needed money to conduct his inquiry. As a result, Garrison contacted Shilstone, as well as Willard Robertson and Charles Rauch (phonetic), requesting contributions. He said these three individuals, as well as others, whom he did not name, contributed money to Garrison and had formed a group known as "Truth and Consequences."

Mr. Shilstone stated his purpose in appearing at the New Orleans Office of the FBI was that in the past day or so individuals had told him there was a rumor going around New Orleans that Shilstone is the New Orleans industrialist and

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ENCLOSURE

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"political killer" referred to in the New Orleans newspapers a week or so ago in connection with the murder of Martin Luther King. Shilstone stated he had read these articles in the New Orleans papers and that he had no idea as to how these rumors got started. He said the following individuals were personal friends of his and had contacted him and had told him about the rumors:

Harry Batt, owner and operator of Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park - (-

Louis Rousell, a New Orleans financier

Clem Sehrt, President of the National American Bank in New Orleans

A New Orleans physician whom he did not wish to identify

Mr. Shilstone stated that in the past he has been a political ally of Governor John McKeithen, Governor of Louisiana, and had contributed to the Governor's campaign and had, in fact, "master-minded" the Governor's re-election for a second term.

Mr. Denechaud stated that about a week ago he was informed by Carlos Chimera, who is the operator of the Pere Marquette Garage, that Chimera had been informed by Joseph Dirosa that rumors were circulating that the person referred to in the newspapers as the New Orleans industrialist was Cecil Shilstone.

Mr. Shilstone stated he had no information in regards to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and that when the various people had told him about these rumors, he informed them there was nothing to these rumors. Mr. Shilstone stated he had not attempted to ascertain the source of the rumors. Mr. Shilstone related that he was concerned that these rumors

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about him, if they became generally known, might cause some Negro militant to shoot him.

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