

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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Mohr	
Bishop	
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Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
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Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: February 10, 1969

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan *WAB*

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

*MA*  
*TAKEN*

SYNOPSIS:

For information, press reports New Orleans District Attorney Garrison's star witness 2/7-8/69 was Charles I. Spiesel, who testified to party in June, 1963, at which Clay Shaw and David Ferrie discussed assassination of President Kennedy. Under cross-examination defense elicited statements from Spiesel indicating he was mentally unstable. Spiesel applied for position as Special Agent, FBI, in 1949, and was rejected as "temperamental." Numerous contacts since have shown he is mental case.

Vernon Bundy, admitted drug addict, testified 2/7/69 to seeing Shaw and Oswald together on lake front. We have previously received information that Bundy made up his story of Shaw in deal with Garrison.

Three witnesses on 2/7/69 placed Oswald in Clinton-Jackson, Louisiana, area in August, 1963. By the timing fixed by one of these, Oswald would have had to be away from home from 7:30-8:30 a.m. to 4:30-5:30 p.m. Neither Marina Oswald nor their neighbors at that time ever mentioned such a trip or even such a period away from home.

ACTION:

For information. No communication being prepared for Attorney General regarding Spiesel since his testimony on cross-examination has shown him to be mental case. Case being closely followed.

TNG:as  
(7)  
62-109060

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. T. N. Goble

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
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DETAILS:

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES I. SPIESEL:

Star witness for prosecution in second and third days (2/7-8/69) of trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans was Charles I. Spiesel of New York, according to press. Spiesel testified that in June, 1963, in New Orleans he met David Ferrie in bar and Ferrie later took him to party where Clay Shaw and others were present. At party assassination of President Kennedy discussed, according to Spiesel. On cross-examination defense attacked credibility of Spiesel by eliciting information indicating he was mentally disturbed. 2/9/69 Washington, D. C., "The Sunday Star" indicated not only Spiesel's credibility had been destroyed, but also that Garrison's case "stood close to being discredited for placing such reliance, and such vital testimony, on such a witness."

ANALYSIS OF SPIESEL'S TESTIMONY:

Bureau files reveal information on Spiesel dating to 1949, when he applied for position of Special Agent and was unfavorably recommended, because of temperament. Since 1949 he has contacted our New York Office number of times and been interviewed at Bureau. These contacts indicate he has persecution complex and is mental case.

His mental condition is illustrated by following. In 1962 he wrote us threatening to visit the Soviet Embassy and furnish it information about his father unless the harassments against him were stopped. Harassments listed included: (1) followed continuously; (2) subject of psychological warfare; (3) hypnotized continuously, at home, on subways, on TV; (4) persons placed in his house disguised as his father and mother and other relatives; and (5) victim of three or four heart attacks when he does not have heart condition. No contact was made with him then, since contents of letter obviously depicted him as mentally unbalanced.

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Spiesel's father has advised us that Spiesel was  
mentally disturbed



WITNESSES TO OSWALD'S PRO-CASTRO ACTIVITIES IN NEW ORLEANS:

The prosecution on 2/7/69 placed several police officers and others on the stand who testified to Oswald's activities in New Orleans in the Summer, 1963, when he handed out leaflets for the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," according to press.

ANALYSIS:

Our investigation developed information that Oswald, while in New Orleans in the Summer of 1963, passed out leaflets in support of Fidel Castro, that he got in a fight with some anti-Castro Cubans over this and was arrested. All of this we furnished to the Warren Commission. This testimony was obviously to lay the groundwork for the testimony of Vernon Bundy.

TESTIMONY OF VERNON BUNDY:

Another of prosecution's witnesses on 2/7/69 was Vernon Bundy, the admitted narcotics addict who testified in March, 1967, at the hearing for Shaw that he saw Oswald and Shaw meet on the lake front in New Orleans in June, 1963. Bundy repeated this testimony. On cross-examination defense questioned Bundy about reports he had told fellow prisoners he really knew nothing about the Shaw case. Bundy denied this. Defense also questioned him about his past as a thief. He denied he was professional thief.

ANALYSIS:



According to press he is presently

DETAILS CONTINUED OVER

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under five-year probationary sentence. In 1967, following Bundy's public testimony about Shaw, several sources volunteered to us information that Bundy had made up the story about Shaw in a deal with Garrison so he would be kept out of prison.

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM E. DUNN, MAXINE KEMP AND MRS. BOBBIE DEDON:

These were prosecution's first three witnesses on second day of trial (2/7/69). Dunn said he saw Shaw and Oswald in Clinton, Louisiana, in August, 1963. Mrs. Dedon, former hospital receptionist at state hospital in Jackson, Louisiana, recalled Oswald once asked her for directions to hospital employment office. Miss Kemp said that in September, 1964, she saw work application in hospital files in Oswald's name.

ANALYSIS:

This follows prosecution's attempt of first day of trial to place Oswald in Clinton-Jackson area. Dunn said he saw Oswald at 10:30 a.m. and last observed the Cadillac in which Oswald was riding at 2:30 p.m. The area is over 100 miles from New Orleans, a two-three hour drive by automobile. By Dunn's timing, Oswald would have had to leave New Orleans at 7:30-8:30 a.m. and return at 4:30-5:30 p.m. Neither Marina Oswald nor any of Oswald's neighbors at that time gave information that Oswald ever made such a trip away from New Orleans. In fact, their information furnished to us would make such a trip almost impossible. It is noted the defense has subpoenaed Marina Oswald.

Bureau files contain no information identifiable with these three people.

AD  
W.C. Sullivan