

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 11 1969

TELETYPE

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Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
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Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

1:20M 2-11-69 URGENT DAO

TO DIRECTOR 62-109060 AND DALLAS 89-43

FROM NEW ORLEANS 89-69 7P

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER TWENTYTWO, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. MISC. - INFO CONCERNING. OO:DALLAS.

THE FOLLOWING INFO WAS CONTAINED IN AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE FEBRUARY ELEVEN, SIXTYNINE, ISSUE OF THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE NEWSPAPER, THE MORNING NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT NEW ORLEANS.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE TRIAL ON FEBRUARY TEN INSTANT OPENED WITH THE PROSECUTION QUESTIONING PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO ABOUT THE STATEMENT THAT HE HAD GIVEN ASSISTANT D. A. ANDREW J. SCIAMBRA AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEBRUARY TWENTYFIVE, SIXTYSEVEN. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING RUSSO TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

THIS INTERVIEW LASTED APPROXIMATELY TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS DURING WHICH SCIAMBRA TOOK VERY LITTLE NOTES AND THAT SCIAMBRA'S MEMORANDUM SETTING FORTH THE RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW DOES NOT REFLECT ALL OF THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RUSSO. SCIAMBRA'S MEMORANDUM DOES NOT ENTIRELY AND ACCURATELY REFLECT WHAT RUSSO STATED

END PAGE ONE

56 FEB 18 1969

FEB 14 1969

5-6-69 E

PAGE TWO

AND THERE ARE SOME OMISSIONS AND SOME INCORRECT STATEMENTS IN THIS MEMORANDUM. RUSSO HAD POINTED OUT SEVERAL OF THE ERRORS IN THIS MEMORANDUM TO JAMES PHELAN, A WRITER FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST MAGAZINE.

THEREAFTER, THE PROSECUTION READ THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY SCIAMBRA TO D. A. JIM GARRISON DATED FEBRUARY TWENTYSEVEN, SIXTYSEVEN, OF HIS INTERVIEW WITH RUSSO. THIS STATEMENT CONTAINED BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING RUSSO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH DAVID FERRIE AND THAT RUSSO HAD MET FERRIE'S ROOMMATE ON TWO OR THREE OCCASIONS BUT COULD NOT REMEMBER THIS ROOMMATE'S NAME. IN NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE FERRIE BECAME OBSESSED WITH HOW EASY IT WOULD BE TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT AND THAT AFTER THE ASSASSINATION TOOK PLACE HE COULD FLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO EITHER CUBA OR BRAZIL. BY SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE, FERRIE BECAME STRONGER IN HIS TALKING ABOUT ASSASSINATING THE PRESIDENT AND BEGAN MAKING DIRECT REFERENCE TO JOHN F. KENNEDY.

IN SCIAMBRA'S STATEMENT HE INDICATED THAT RUSSO RECOGNIZED A PHOTOGRAPH OF SHAW AND ALSO A PHOTOGRAPH OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

AFTER THE STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED, RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT AT NO
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TIME DID HE EVER TELL SCIAMBRA THAT FERRIE WAS AN ADMITTED HOMOSEXUAL OR THAT FERRIE'S ROOMMATE EVER HAD DIRTY, BLONDE HAIR OR THAT THIS ROOMMATE'S BEARD WAS HUSKY AS INDICATED BY SCIAMBRA. HE DENIED EVER TELLING SCIAMBRA THAT HE MENTIONED CLAY SHAW'S NAME AND THAT WHEN HE WAS SHOWN A PHOTOGRAPH OF SHAW HE IDENTIFIED THIS PHOTOGRAPH AS A PERSON BY THE NAME OF CLEM BERTRAND. HE ALSO TOLD SCIAMBRA OF SEEING SHAW AT FERRIE'S APARTMENT EVEN THOUGH SCIAMBRA'S STATEMENT DOES NOT INDICATE THIS.

THEREAFTER THE DEFENSE BEGAN TO CROSS EXAMINE RUSSO AND UPON QUESTIONING BY THE DEFENSE TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE THOUGHT FERRIE'S PHILOSOPHY WAS WHY ASSISTANT D. A. SCIAMBRA HAD COME TO BATON ROUGE TO INTERVIEW HIM.

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE LIKENED THE CONVERSATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION IN WHICH FERRIE ENGAGED IN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO AN QUOTE INCONSEQUENTIAL BULL SESSION UNQUOTE. HE DID NOT TAKE FERRIE'S STATEMENTS ABOUT KILLING THE PRESIDENT SERIOUSLY BECAUSE RUSSO HAD BECOME QUOTE INDIFFERENT UNQUOTE TO FERRIE. RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT YOU COULD NOT BELIEVE FERRIE AS FERRIE WAS PRONE TO THE SPECTACULAR AND THAT AT NO TIME WAS RUSSO EVER SWORN TO SECRECY REGARDING THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY.

NO 89-69

PAGE FOUR

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE DID NOT GET ALONG WITH FERRIE'S ROOMMATE AND THEN THE DEFENSE CLOSELY QUESTIONED RUSSO REGARDING HIS IDENTIFICATION OF FERRIE'S ROOMMATE FROM A SKETCH PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

RUSSO TESTIFIED HE WAS NEVER REALLY SATISFIED WITH THIS SKETCH BECAUSE ^S SOME OF THE FEATURES WERE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT HE REMEMBERED ABOUT FERRIE'S ROOMMATE. THE KEY DIFFERENCE WAS THE BEARD WHICH HAD BEEN DRAWN INTO THE SKETCH DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE BEARD WORN BY FERRIE'S ROOMMATE.

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE OBSERVED THIS ROOMMATE ON FOUR OCCASIONS LASTING ANYWHERE FROM A FEW MINUTES TO TEN MINUTES EXCEPT THE ONE TIME AT THE PARTY WHERE THE ASSASSINATION WAS DISCUSSED.

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT IN HIS LETTER HE SENT THE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PRIOR TO HIS INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT D. A. SCIAMBRA HE DID NOT MENTION THE NAMES OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, CLAY SHAW, OR CLEM BERTRAND. HE TESTIFIED THAT IN THIS LETTER TO THE D. A.'S OFFICE HE INDICATED HE KNEW DAVID FERRIE AND WOULD BE

NO 89-69 PAGE FIVE

AVAILABLE TO GIVE A STATEMENT TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY. AT THIS POINT IN THE TRIAL THE DEFENSE REQUESTED THAT RUSSO'S LETTER BE SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE BUT ASSISTANT D. A. JAMES ALCOCK TOLD THE COURT THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN RUSSO'S LETTER TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND DID NOT KNOW OF ANYONE IN THE D.A.'S OFFICE WHO HAD.

THE DEFENSE THEN CONFRONTED RUSSO WITH SEVERAL NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS AND TRANSCRIPTS OF TELEVISION INTERVIEWS THAT RUSSO HAD GIVEN IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, IN WHICH RUSSO SAID HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF OSWALD BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION OR IN WHICH RUSSO EVER MENTIONED THE NAME OF CLAY SHAW OR CLEM BERTRAND. RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT IN NONE OF THE INTERVIEWS WITH NEWSMEN DID HE EVER MENTION ANY CONSPIRATORIAL AGREEMENT OR THE NAME OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD OR THE NAMES OF CLEM OR CLAY BERTRAND.

RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HIS CONTACTS WITH DAVID FERRIE OR THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY PRIOR TO BEING CONTACTED BY THE D.A.'S OFFICE BECAUSE AFTER THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS FORMED QUOTE I LEFT IT UP TO THE PROFESSIONALS AND WHEN THEIR VERDICT CAME I FORGOT IT UNQUOTE.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

UPON BEING QUESTIONED REGARDING HIS ALLEGEDLY HAVING SEEN SHAW AT A DEDICATION CEREMONY ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY, RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT SHAW HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO A COMMITTEE BY THE MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS TO WELCOME PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

UPON BEING QUESTIONED REGARDING THE PARTY AT FERRIE'S APARTMENT AT WHICH THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY WAS DISCUSSED, THE DEFENSE BROUGHT OUT DISCREPANCIES IN RUSSO'S TESTIMONY IN A PRELIMINARY HEARING AND HIS TESTIMONY DURING THIS TRIAL. THE MAIN DISCREPANCY BEING THAT AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING RUSSO TESTIFIED THAT SANDRA MOFFETT HAD ATTENDED THIS PARTY WITH HIM AND THAT ON PREVIOUS TESTIMONY AT THIS TRIAL RUSSO HAD INDICATED SHE DID NOT ATTEND.

RUSSO STATED HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY ANYONE WHO ATTENDED THIS PARTY WITH HIM AT THIS TIME AND THE REASON HE HAD IDENTIFIED PERSONS ~~AT~~ THE PRELIMINARY HEARING WAS BECAUSE DEFENSE ATTORNEY DYMOND HAD ~~XXXX~~

"KEPT PUSHING HIM" AND HAD FORCED RUSSO INTO NAMING PERSONS.

DYMOND REPLIED QUOTE I FORCED YOU TO SAY THAT? UNQUOTE AND RUSSO STATED THAT WHEN HE SAID SANDRA MOFFETT WAS AT THE PARTY DURING THE PRELIMINARY HEARING IT WAS AT THAT TIME A PROBABLE GUESS.

END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

RUSSO TOLD DEFENSE ATTORNEY DYMOND THAT AT THE PRELIMINARY HEARING
QUOTE YOU ASKED ME QUESTIONS OVER AND OVER AND I TRIED OVER AND
OVER TO EXPLAIN UNQUOTE.

DYMOND REMINDED RUSSO THAT QUOTE YOU DON'T STATE PROBABLE
GUESSES UNDER OATH UNQUOTE.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE TRIAL WAS RECESSED FOR THE DAY.

NO LHM BEING SUBMITTED.

EBD

~~WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH MACHINE DID YOU GET SIX OK~~
~~PAGE SIX CAME THROUGH OK.~~

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