

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

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

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen

DATE: February 20, 1969

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

Moynihan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

TAYLOR
W. A. Branigan
W. C. Sullivan

News media report following pertinent highlights in trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans on 2/19/69.

Richard Randolph Carr, Dallas, testified that on 11/22/63, at about the time of the assassination, he was on the seventh floor of a building facing Dealey Plaza, Dallas, from where he could see the Texas School Book Depository Building. He said he saw a man on the fifth floor of the school book building. Shortly thereafter he heard one small arms shot and three rifle shots which he believed came from the so-called grassy knoll. He said he later saw three men leaving the area in a station wagon and the man he had previously seen in the school book building hurrying from the area. He said he gave this information to the FBI and was told to "keep his mouth shut."

Analysis:

We first interviewed Carr on 1/4/64, after receiving a report that Carr had stated he saw the individual who fired the gun at President Kennedy and it was not Oswald. Carr told us he was in a building under construction on Dealey Plaza on 11/22/63 and saw a man looking out the top floor window (seventh floor) of the Texas School Book Depository Building. A few minutes later he heard sounds he believed automobile backfire. Looking toward the tripple underpass he saw persons falling to the ground. He immediately walked to the street and saw individual he believed to be same person he saw earlier in the school book building. He then went home. He denied saying he saw an individual firing a gun from the Texas School Book Depository Building on 11/22/63. On 2/3/64 Carr furnished a signed statement wherein he repeated information he previously furnished. In this signed statement he said he did not see anyone in the school book building with a gun and did not see the assassination of President Kennedy. He stated he did not have any information concerning the assassination.

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

New Orleans Office advised it was informed by our Dallas Office that none of the references in the Dallas Office to Richard Randolph Carr contain any information that a statement such as "keep your mouth shut" was made to Carr by Bureau Agents.

News media also highlight fact that Judge Haggerty would not permit New Orleans Policeman Aloysius Habighorst to testify that Shaw, while being booked for conspiracy in 1967, admitted using the name "Clay Bertrand." Prosecution accused Judge Haggerty of passing on credibility of the officer in the presence of the press and the world. The Judge replied without raising his voice "the world can hear that I do not believe Officer Habighorst.

Another witness, Dr. John M. Nichols of Kansas University, testified that in his opinion the fatal bullet which struck President Kennedy was fired from the front. His opinion is based on his study of color slides from the Zapruder film. Defense on cross-examination brought out that Dr. Nichols had little formal training in the fields of pathology or forensic medicine, but is largely self-taught. He also admitted his formal training in the field of ballistics consisted of a one-hour lecture in medical school, recovering bullets, testifying in court and conducting experiments. He also testified he did not have a minute's formal training in photography. He further testified he is suing the federal government to be permitted to examine the photographs of the President to see for himself where the bullet entered the President's body.

Analysis:

Bureau files reveal Dr. Nichols has written number of letters Bureau seeking information concerning scientific tests made on evidence. We did not answer his last two letters written in 1968. He has been unwilling to put any information in documentary form and apparently hopes to obtain from us information to use in a book. A well-recognized Army pathologist has confidentially advised Nichols is extremely arrogant, loud mouthed and likes to impress others with his own importance.

ACTION:

For information. Case being closely followed.

(157) *W.C. Sullivan* ✓