

6/5/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION,
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION)**

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (62-4104)(C)

**SUBJECT: JOHN W. CANCLER
CR; INFORMATION CONCERNING**

John W. Cancler

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Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of a letterhead memorandum regarding captioned matter.

For the information of the Bureau:

On 5/21/69, JOHN W. CANCLER, Louisiana State Penitentiary, (LSP), Angola, La., was interviewed by MICHAEL BARON who identified himself as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. CANCLER furnished information regarding an alleged narcotic dealer in New Orleans, La., who is transporting Turpen Hydrate from Mississippi to New Orleans, La. This information was furnished to the Bureau of Narcotics by separate letter copy designated to this office.

Mr. CANCLER then proceeded to discuss the reason for his incarceration and the fact that he was framed by New Orleans District Attorney JIM GARRISON and that his trial was held in such a way that his Civil Rights were violated. He talked at length regarding his dealings with Mr. GARRISON in that he assisted Mr. GARRISON on many occasions, procured girls for Mr. GARRISON and other prominent Louisiana political figures, was involved in the CLAY SHAW trial, etc.

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. 11)
- 2 - New Orleans

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ENCLOSURE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-107060-11

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NO 62-4104/cp

It was noted that CANCLER rambled disconnectedly and jumped from topic to topic and was often incoherent. When CANCLER was asked why he wanted to talk to an FBI Agent he answered that he should be allowed to finish his story and it would be obvious. CANCLER was specifically asked as to how his civil rights were violated and he stated that he had a list of violations and furnished the list of violations to SA MICHAEL BARON. However, before this Agent left Louisiana State Penitentiary grounds he was recontacted by CANCLER who stated that he had located an attorney to fight his case and requested the list of violations he had furnished. The list was returned to CANCLER and Mr. CANCLER requested that no additional action be taken regarding the matter.

It is further noted that CANCLER stated that he had written to the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of United States, and the American Civil Liberties Union in Baton Rouge, La., and New Orleans, La., and was told that the above offices could not offer any assistance in his obtaining a new trial or release from custody.

Mr. CANCLER further stated that one HUGH AYNESWORTH, Editor, NEWSWEEK Magazine, Houston, Texas, Division, was furnished by him (CANCLER) a notebook regarding Mr. GARRISON's attempts to get him to burglarize persons homes in connection with the CLAY SHAW case in New Orleans, La.

The letter from Mr. CANCLER, dated 5/26/69, mentioned in the attached letterhead memorandum contained a sentence as follows:

"I have also wrote to Mr. Hugh Aynesworth telling him to let your office have access to what we were talking about. His business address is 1259 Tenneco Bldg., Houston, Texas 77002."

NO 62-4104/cp

It is further noted that during the interview with Mr. CANCLER on 5/21/69, he stated that he had been contacted by numerous newspaper and television reporters regarding his part of the CLAY SHAW case in New Orleans, La., and offered financial and legal assistance for his story. Included in the reporters who contacted Mr. CANCLER were Mr. WALTER SHERIDEN, NBC Television, and Mr. HUGH AYNESWORTH, Newsweek Magazine, Houston, Texas, Division.

Mr. CANCLER stated that he had furnished Mr. AYNESWORTH a great deal of information regarding Mr. GARRISON and the CLAY SHAW case but was evasive, not comprehensive jumping from topic to topic. He did state that he had furnished a notebook to Mr. AYNESWORTH regarding his dealings with Mr. GARRISON.

Copies of letterhead memorandum have been furnished to USA, New Orleans, La., and Departmental Attorney, New Orleans, La.

In view of the known unreliability of JOHN W. CANCLER and his part in the CLAY SHAW case in New Orleans, La., no lead is being set out to interview Mr. AYNESWORTH, Newsweek; Editor, Houston, Texas, UACB.

It is further noted that in view of Mr. CANCLER's having previously furnished information regarding his alleged violations of his Civil Rights to the U.S. Department of Justice, American Civil Liberties Union, no action is being taken regarding the alleged violations of Mr. CANCLER's civil rights.