

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

1 - Mr. Bassett  
1 - Mr. Gallagher

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm.
- Comp. Syst.
- Ext. Affairs
- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Insp.
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Legal Coun.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

TO : MR. CALLAHAN

DATE: 9/24/75

FROM : MR. J. B. ADAMS *JBA*

SUBJECT: JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION MATTER

On 9/22/75, Tom Johnson, publisher, "Dallas Times Herald," advised me that his source, not identified to me by name, but who could only be former clerk William S. Walter based on information furnished, had advised Mr. Johnson of his continuing concern over possible prosecutive action in the event he made available an actual New Orleans copy of an alleged teletype to All SACs dated November 17, 1963, warning that information had been received by the Bureau that militant revolutionary group may attempt to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Johnson advised that Walter claims to have such a document and has considered destroying it because of his concern over possible prosecutive action. I advised Mr. Johnson that a thorough inquiry was conducted in 1968 without any evidence being developed that such a teletype had ever existed and it was therefore most important that if Walter claimed to have such a document in his possession that we continue our efforts to secure this copy in order that appropriate examinations could be made to determine whether it was authentic. Therefore, I intended to contact the Department of Justice to ascertain whether approval could be obtained to inform Walter that he would not be prosecuted for taking or possessing the alleged document if he made it available at this time.

On 9/22/75 I contacted Deputy Attorney General Tyler, made available to him background information concerning the 1968 inquiry as well as the fact that Walter now claims to have an actual copy of the alleged teletype to All SACs. I informed Mr. Tyler that Walter claims to have reservation about making such a document available to the FBI because of his fear of possible prosecutive action. I requested to be advised whether the Department would authorize some type of immunity from prosecution in the event Walter made the alleged document available.

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PERS. REC. UNIT

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**Memorandum for Mr. Callahan**  
**RE: JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION MATTER**

On 9/23/75, Judge Tyler contacted me and advised that after a review of the matter in the Criminal Division of the Department he would authorize me to inform Walter that in the event he promptly made available the alleged copy of a teletype to All SACs dated November 17, 1963, he would not be prosecuted for purloining, possessing or not previously making available this alleged stolen document. However, this immunity would not extend to any other activity such as furnishing false information to the FBI during this current inquiry.

On 9/23/75 I advised Mr. Johnson of the authorization I had received from Mr. Tyler and he advised me that he would contact his source who had previously indicated a willingness to talk to me to see if he would now be willing to receive these assurances and make the alleged document available. Mr. Johnson called me back late on 9/23/75 and asked that I attempt to have his source connected on a conference call in order that this matter might be discussed as he had indicated a willingness to proceed. He furnished me the telephone number of the source which was area code 504-395-5530. A conference call was thereupon established by the FBI Headquarters operator between Mr. Johnson, Mr. Walter and myself. I identified myself to Mr. Walter by name and position and informed him of the fact that I had been authorized by Deputy Attorney General Tyler to state that he, Walter, could be assured that if he promptly made available the alleged New Orleans copy of a teletype to All SACs dated November 17, 1963, that he would not be prosecuted for purloining, possessing or failing to have made it available previously to the FBI but that this immunity would not extend to other activity on his part including furnishing false information to the FBI concerning any current inquiries. Mr. Walter immediately stated that he was not saying he was in possession of any documents, and during the ensuing conversation never admitted that he was currently in possession of any FBI documents. I impressed upon him that I had gone to a lot of trouble securing immunity authorization from the Deputy Attorney General after being assured that the alleged teletype copy would be produced should such immunity be obtained. Further that by now stating he was not claiming to be in possession of any such document, he was obviously playing games with me. He stated he hasn't claimed to be in possession of any such documents and I told him that Mr. Johnson, a reputable newsman, had advised me

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that he had a source who claimed to have an actual copy of the alleged teletype in question who was concerned about possible prosecutive action and wanted assurances he would not be prosecuted if he made the copy available. Mr. Johnson did not identify the source to me by name but indicated if I secured immunity authorization he would arrange a conference with the source. Thereafter, upon obtaining authorization and so notifying Mr. Johnson he arranged the conference which was then taking place which included Mr. Walter. By now not making the document available or agreeing to do so he was merely playing a game.

Mr. Walter wanted to know why the FBI did not go out and reinvestigate this matter at this time and I told him that the matter had been thoroughly investigated in the past and he is the only individual who claims to have personal knowledge that such an alleged teletype existed. The most logical step, therefore, to resolve whether he, in fact, is right and the prior FBI investigation is wrong would be for him to produce the alleged document in order that an examination of it could be conducted to determine whether it is, in fact, bona fide. I pointed out that he is the one making this serious allegation and he has a responsibility to assist in resolving the allegation. He still would not admit that he was in possession of such a document but if he hears of anyone who is he will advise them that they too would have a possibility of obtaining immunity from any prosecution for being in possession of such a document.

During the course of the conversation Mr. Walter denied that he had ever informed Mark Lane that he had actual possession of the teletype copy in question.

Mr. Walter reiterated an allegation he had previously made that during an interview of him by former SAC D. K. Brown that he had not been asked whether he had actually seen the alleged teletype in question.

Mr. Walter was advised that at the time of the inquiry by the FBI into this matter he had indicated that other employees were aware of the existence of the alleged teletype yet refused to furnish the identity of any individuals having such knowledge. Mr. Walter

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replied that he had made the identities of such individuals known to the office of the United States Attorney in New Orleans during their interview of him. I asked him if he would submit to an interview under oath by Agents of the New Orleans Office after being advised of his rights and would he at that time furnish complete information regarding his allegations as well as the names of individuals he now claims to be personally knowledgeable concerning the existence of the alleged teletype. Mr. Walter advised that he would submit to such an interview after the FBI complies with his FOI request and review by him of the results of the prior investigation by the FBI.

Mr. Walter also felt that review of the investigation would show that the FBI had determined that such a teletype existed. I reiterated to him that the results of our investigation failed to disclose any evidence whatsoever that any such teletype had ever been in existence.

Mr. Walter felt that employees previously interviewed by the FBI concerning this matter probably did not tell the truth because they felt that the Bureau at that time did not want to know the truth. He felt that the truth would come out if they were again interviewed under oath and assured that no action would be taken against them for their former statements.

Mr. Walter advised me that other elements of the news media were aware of this matter and would probably be making inquiry of the Bureau. I told him that I felt that the Bureau would have no difficulty in responding to such inquiries since our prior investigation had revealed no evidence of the existence of the alleged teletype and further since he is the only individual who has alleged personal knowledge that such a teletype existed. Further, he had actually claimed to have a copy of the teletype in his possession and after being assured that no prosecution would result upon his making that copy available refused to do so. Mr. Walter stated that any such statement by me could be considered libelous and I advised him that it would not be libelous because I had been so advised by a reputable individual who has established his reliability in the past therefore my statement would not be motivated by malice.

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Following the termination of the conversation with Mr. Walter, Mr. Johnson reiterated to me that Mr. Walter had stated to him that the actual New Orleans copy of the alleged teletype was under his possession or control. Mr. Johnson also advised me that the alleged teletype copy as well as other possible documents are allegedly maintained by Mr. Walter in a lock box in Patterson, Louisiana, or New Orleans, Louisiana.

ACTION:

Information only.

*gma*



*Over*

ADDENDUM

9/24/75

JBA:mah <sup>ch</sup>

On 9/24/75 I contacted Charles Culotta, Patterson, Louisiana, an attorney whose name was furnished me by Mr. Walter as his legal representative in this matter. I advised Mr. Culotta of the immunity authorization made by Deputy Attorney General Tyler and aspects of my conversation with Mr. Walter the previous evening. I likewise indicated that Mr. Walter is not claiming to have any actual documents. He was aware that Mr. Walter had stated he was agreeable to being interviewed under oath concerning material aspects of this matter once he had been furnished results of the 1968 investigation. I asked him if he could assure me that Mr. Walter would make himself available for testimony under oath because I felt that I had been turned around last night having been previously advised that Mr. Walter was willing to make available the actual New Orleans copy of the alleged teletype upon being granted immunity from prosecution for possessing it. Before I presented this matter to the Department I wanted his assurance as Mr. Walter's attorney that he would carry out his offer. He advised me that he would get in touch with Mr. Walter and would then communicate with me.

Mr. Culotta advised that the FOI request was not intended to include current inquiries concerning this matter and need only involve information available up to the date of the request which he believes was in April, 1975.

*[Handwritten signature]*