



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Dallas, Texas

December 19, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

**ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
11/22/63
DALLAS, TEXAS**

The files of the Dallas office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflect the following information concerning Finis Smith Blankenship:

[REDACTED] FBI number [REDACTED] has been fingerprinted by numerous law enforcement agencies for a variety of offenses since 1954. He served a sentence for arson at Texas State Penitentiary and has been convicted of lesser offenses. He was found sane by a Tarrant County, Texas jury in December, 1968 after conviction and sentence of fifty years in connection with armed robbery charges. He is currently incarcerated in the Ellis Unit, Texas Department of Corrections, Huntsville, Texas.

[REDACTED] is well known to law enforcement officers in Texas and Oklahoma as a suspect in various types of crime, including burglary. In June, 1967, [REDACTED] complained to the FBI office at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma that he was injured by handcuffs that were too tight, in connection with his arrest by officers of the Oklahoma City Police Department on April 18, 1967 on a traffic offense. Investigation discloses a loaded sawed-off shotgun was observed in his car, and he was handcuffed for this reason as well as personal knowledge of his criminal reputation.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



62-10916-7464
ENCLOSURE

**ASSASSINATION OF
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While incarcerated in Tarrant County Jail, Fort Worth, Texas in March, 1968, [REDACTED] alleged use of excessive force on the part of [REDACTED] which was denied by [REDACTED]. Extensive investigation resulted in no prosecution. [REDACTED] later stated to an FBI agent that he had grabbed the revolver of one of the officers transporting him on April 4, 1968 from Fort Worth, Texas to Dallas, Texas. He said it was his intention to [REDACTED] kill the officer and then kill himself.

[REDACTED] was at liberty briefly in July, 1968 after escape from the Johnson County Jail, Cleburne, Texas, in which county he had been [REDACTED] indicted on felony charges. Thereafter, [REDACTED] attempted to file with the District Clerk, Northern District of Texas, a pleading that the court require F. Lee Bailey, nationally known criminal attorney, to represent him in connection with said charges.

In May, 1969, the Dallas FBI office received a copy of pleading prepared by [REDACTED], at that time an inmate of the Texas Department of Corrections, in which he named [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively, of Dallas County, Texas, as respondents in a suit for \$1,250,000.00 and asked the United States District Court to compel the respondents "to get the Plaintiff the necessary medical treatment for his serious injuries, that was inflicted upon Plaintiff at the direction of respondent in Dallas County Jail."