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1/9/75

JAMES

'FBI Dealt' for Denial

A Morgan City, La., resident who claims as an FBI employe in 1963 he saw a teletype indicating President John F. Kennedy might be murdered later that year in Dallas said Tuesday he was pressured by the FBI this year to sign a statement that he hadn't seen the teletype.

William S. Walter, now director of marketing for the Patterson State Bank in Morgan City, said the suggestion he sign a statement came after he asked for a copy of his personnel file under the Freedom of Information Act.

Agents said he could have his file if he signed the statement.

Also, after he told New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and author Mark Lane about the teletype, an FBI agent in New Orleans said he had been sent by then Dir. J. Edgar Hoover "to straighten you (Walter) out."

"I considered that a threat and walked out of the office," Walter said.

Walter was a code clerk in the New Orleans FBI office in the early morning hours of Nov. 17, 1963 when he said he received a teletype saying there may have been a plot by a revolutionary group to kill Kennedy in Dallas.

Current FBI Dir. Clarence M. Kelley said Tuesday the charges had been examined in 1968 and again during the past month but nothing had been found in bureau files or otherwise uncovered.

Walter noted it has been admitted by high bureau officials the FBI had a practice of removing "embarrassing" material from files just to be able to make the statement nothing had been found in them.

Walter believes Hoover

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ordered the teletype records destroyed and put a clamp on other sources. He said he has been told some of the 53 teletype operators in bureaus which would have received the message have never been contacted.

Harry Maynor, special agent in charge of the New Orleans office at that time, denied there was such a message of warning.

Walter, in a televised news segment on CBS Tuesday night, was said to be alone in the office when the message was received, and quoted it as saying that "A militant revolutionary group may attempt" to assassinate the President during his visit to Dallas. Walter said that FBI offices in New Orleans, Mobile and Dallas acknowledged receipt of the message.

On Monday, a day before the CBS report, FBI press spokesman Tom Harrington told a Washington Post reporter that the assertion has been referred to the Justice Department to be investigated along with other matters concerning FBI actions in connection with incidents at the time of the Kennedy assassination.

The new investigation was sparked by the news a month ago that FBI officials had destroyed a letter sent to an FBI agent by Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission concluded acted alone in the slaying of Kennedy.

One of the first to learn of Walter's charges apparently was Lane, a long standing critic of the Warren Commission. Lane told The Post last week that he had spoken to Walter in January 1968 while Walter was a student at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Lane quoted Walter as saying that upon receipt of the teletype message from Washington, he called the special agent in charge of the New Or-

leans field office and that he was instructed to "call FBI agents in New Orleans who maintained contact with various informants."

Lane said he prepared an affidavit after his interview with Walter and gave a copy to Garrison, the New Orleans prosecutor who was then conducting his own investigation of the assassination. Lane also said that he wrote an article about the alleged warning but that it drew virtually no public attention at the time.

In addition, Lane said Walter told him of another FBI teletype, received after the assassination, directing "agents who had conducted interviews regarding the assassination of President Kennedy to examine those interview reports to make sure there were no conflicts contained within them," Lane said Walter told him.

According to Lane, Walter said that "agents were ordered to resolve the conflicts, prepare new reports and destroy the old ones."

Walter did not discuss such a second message in his CBS interview. Last week, in a telephone interview with the Post, Walter would not go into any of the charges except to say that "very significant revelations would be forthcoming," and that he has been under pressure by the FBI.

On Monday, Maynor denied advance warning or instructions suggesting that records he destroyed had been received in his office.

Maynor, now the security chief for General Telephone and Electronics in New York City, said in a telephone interview that he had no "recollection along those lines, nothing similar to that happened . . . I can say it is incorrect."

Asked if he were denying the thrust of the report and the specifics as well, Maynor said, "That's right."