

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

No Support Forthcoming On JFK Threat Teletype

By **BOB DUDNEY**

and

HUGH AYNESWORTH

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DALLAS — A former FBI employe has claimed the agency issued a teletype warning of a potential assassination plot five days before President Kennedy's death, but he has not produced a copy of the alleged teletype he says he possesses.

The alleged teletype message was outlined to The Dallas Times Herald more than three weeks ago but an intensive investigation has provided no evidence to substantiate the account.

Also, the FBI, prompted by questions from the Times Herald several days ago, has conducted its own investigation of the allegations and Tuesday issued an official response saying no evidence could be developed to support the existence of such a teletype.

William S. Walter, a night security clerk at the New Orleans FBI office in 1963, asserted in an interview Sept. 7 that the alleged teletype originated in FBI headquarters at Washington and was received by him personally in the New Orleans field office Nov. 17, 1963.

This report was made public Tuesday by CBS News and several other newsgathering organizations.

However, the Times Herald effort to verify the story — which included more than 60 interviews and a polygraph examination of Walter in Dallas — failed to provide any corroboration of any such teletype message.

Walter has told the Times Herald that the teletype was transmitted and that he is in possession of a duplicate of the original teletype. He said the copy was kept in a safety deposit box.

According to Walter's typewritten note allegedly stating the contents of the teletype, the message said:

"Threat to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, November twenty-two, nineteen-sixty-three. Miscellaneous information concerning."

Information has been received by the bureau. Bureau has determined that a militant revolutionary group may attempt to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas, Texas, November twenty-three, nineteen-

John F. KENNEDY

"All receiving offices should immediately contact all CI's (confidential informants), PCI's (potential confidential informants), logical racial and hate group informants and determine if any basis for threat. Bureau should be kept advised of all developments by teletype.

"Submit PD 302's (FBI interview reports) and LHM's (letterhead memorandums)."

Walter has told the Times Herald and the FBI repeatedly during the past two weeks that his primary concern in making the alleged document available was potential criminal liability for theft or possession of official government papers.

However, on Sept. 24 the FBI, in an almost unprecedented move, offered Walter written assurances of immunity from prosecution in order to allow the agency to receive the alleged document and attempt to verify whether it actually was authentic.

At this date, Walter has not delivered the alleged teletype to either the FBI or to the Times Herald which also was told the teletype would be forthcoming.

The FBI tender of criminal immunity was authorized by U.S. Attorney General Edward Levy, according to FBI officials.

Walter, who left the FBI in 1966, now owns part interest in a bank in Morgan City, La. He has been interviewed by the Times Herald in that city and in Dallas in recent weeks and has been questioned more than two dozen times by telephone.

During his visit to Dallas on Sept. 11, Walter underwent a polygraph examination concerning his statements about the alleged teletype's existence, but the expert examiner concluded the test results were inconclusive.

The examiner's report, commissioned by the Times Herald, stated in part: "Although . . . Mr. Walter's polygraph

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charts contain criteria indicative of deception it is the examiner's position that the polygraph examination is inconclusive."

The examiner, William B. Burnham, stated in the report that the indications of deception in Walter's chart may have been caused by the potentially incriminating questions.

The questions posed to Walter were: "Did you actually receive an official teletype at the New Orleans FBI office on Nov. 17, 1963 alerting the FBI to a possible assassination of the President in Dallas?"

"To the best of your knowledge was this an authentic teletype transmitted from the FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C.?"

Walter answered "yes" to both questions.

At Walter's request, he was examined only as to his personal knowledge of the alleged teletype and whether he believed it to be authentic. Other relevant questions, those concerning his actual possession of the purported document, were deleted from the examination.

Originally, Walter was to have been questioned at length in conjunction with a photostat of the alleged teletype message, but he failed to provide the copy during his visit and has not delivered it yet.

Mention of the alleged teletype surfaced briefly in 1968 during New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison's unsuccessful attempt to investigate and prosecute businessman Clay Shaw for his alleged role in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy, which Garrison claims was watched in New Orleans.

At that time, Garrison appeared on a network television program with an affidavit from Mark Lane, a self-styled assassination investigator, which stated such a teletype had moved from FBI headquarters five days before Kennedy's death.

The affidavit stated Lane had spoken with Walter in 1967 and that the ex-FBI employe told him of the message. Lane repeated this in a Washington press conference Tuesday.

But Walter told the Times Herald he never disclosed the teletype's existence to Lane, and that shortly after he heard of the Garrison remarks he voluntarily appeared in the New Orleans FBI office to deny any part of the incident.

The FBI, however, initiated an investigation of Garrison's statement, according to FBI sources, and eventually interviewed 53 agents and other personnel in the office. The probe turned up no evidence to substantiate the allegations, FBI officials have stated.

According to FBI director Clarence M. Kelley's statement Tuesday, Walter also stated to agency officials and the New Orleans U.S. attorney, Louis LaCour, in 1968, that he had no knowledge of nor did he have possession of such a document.

Walter asserted, however, that in the 1968 investigation he was never questioned about whether the Lane and Garrison remarks were true, only about his possible role as the source of the affidavit.

Walter last Wednesday personally delivered his allegations to FBI deputy associate director James B. Adams during a conference telephone call routed through the Times Herald switchboard.

"I will swear to a grand jury, to Clarence Kelley or to anyone else that I did receive a teletype," Walter said. "It was dated Nov. 17, 1963, and it did say there would be an attempt on Kennedy's life in Dallas.

"I do know, of personal knowledge, other individuals in the New Orleans office who saw this, helped me find it and discussed it with me."

Adams replied that the FBI would like to take Walter's statements down under oath.

Walter, contacted by newsmen Tuesday night after the CBS program, said "I told him (Adams) I didn't need immunity — that I had nothing to hide. It looked then as though they were agreeing it (the message) could be a possibility and they wanted to cooperate."

Published reports have stated that Senate and House committees also intend to question Walter about the alleged teletype's existence.

Walter told the Times Herald during the Sept. 7 interview that he personally received the teletype in the early morning hours of Nov. 17, 1963, and immediately contacted five high level FBI agents to make them aware of the message.

Walter also gave the Times Herald the names of four other FBI employes with whom he claims to have discussed the teletype's existence shortly after the assassination.

When contacted about the matter all said they had no recollection of discussing it with Walter. Two of them stated they believed the account had been fabricated.

Special agents in charge of the New Orleans bureau in 1963 and at present have both denied in wire service reports the existence of such a teletype message.

Reports of the alleged teletype message were brought to the Times Herald during the course of its investigation of the facts surrounding a threatening letter delivered to the Dallas FBI office by Lee Harvey Oswald only days before the President was assassinated here.