



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

November 23, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dana Robert Backus

On November 23, 1963, Mrs. Jeannette Harger, PEK Operator, Sears Roebuck, Inc. Store at Vermont and Slauson Avenues, Los Angeles, California, who resides at 1910 Orange Avenue, Anaheim, California, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at the above store. She advised that at approximately 10:40 a.m. on November 22, 1963, she went to the coffee shop at the penthouse of the store, where she saw Dana Backus, an insurance agent of the All-State Insurance Company, at the store. She told Backus that she heard a report that the President was either dying or dead. Backus said "that should have taken place at 8:00." She asked Backus to repeat what he had said. Backus then said "I said that it was scheduled for 8:00." She told Backus that he must have had something to do with it. Backus just grinned and said nothing.

Mrs. Harger stated that Delphine Neathery, Manager of the coffee shop, was present when the above statements were made by Backus.

On November 23, 1963, Mrs. Delphine Neathery, Manager of the coffee shop at the penthouse at the Sears Roebuck Store at Vermont and Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, California, who resides at 1406 West 67th Street, Apartment 200, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at her residence. She stated that at about 11:00 a.m. on November 22, 1963, in the coffee shop, in the presence of Jeannette Harger, during a discussion of the shooting of the President, she heard Dana Backus say "That was scheduled for 8:00." She then asked him what he had said, but he did not reply.

On November 23, 1963, Harold Wenger, Security Officer at the Sears Roebuck, Inc. Store at Vermont and Slauson Avenues, Los Angeles, California, who resides at 9406 - 4th Avenue, Inglewood, California, was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI at the store. Wenger stated that on the afternoon of November 22, 1963, he mentioned to

Dana Robert Backus

Dana Backus that the shooting of the President was a terrible thing, that he wondered if it had to do with civil rights. Backus told him that it goes deeper than that, that there are a lot of outfits that would like to get him for selling the country down the river to the commies, that he thought it was the best thing that had happened to the country, and that he would be willing to contribute money to the "guy" who did it.

Dana Robert Backus was interviewed on November 23, 1963 by Special Agents of the FBI, at the Sears Roebuck, Inc. Store, Vermont and Slauson Avenues, Los Angeles, California. Backus stated that he has been employed as an insurance agent by the All-State Insurance Company at the Sears Roebuck, Inc. Store, and resides at 1733 Oak Avenue, Manhattan Beach, California. He said that his strong anti-communist political convictions, and his opposition to the Kennedy administration are well known by his associates, but that while he feels that President Kennedy's removal from the Presidency to be beneficial in the long run, he did not approve of the method used to remove him.

He stated that he recalled making a remark to employees in the store to the effect that the shooting of the President was scheduled for 8:00, but he was merely trying to be humorous. He also recalled saying that there ought to be a collection for the man who did it, but by this remark, he did not mean to approve or condone the shooting. He denied having any prior knowledge of the plan to assassinate the President, or being in any way involved.

Backus claimed that he was a civilian employee of the U. S. Armed Forces in the Far East, and was captured in December, 1941 by the Japanese on Corregidor, and served four years in a prisoner of war camp. From 1950 to 1962, he served as a Major in the Military Department of the State of California (California National Guard). He denied membership in the Minuteman Organization, or any extremist group, but stated that he was assigned by the California National Guard about two years ago to penetrate the Minuteman Organization and to attempt to find out if they had obtained guns from the California National Guard.

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