

4:38 p. m.

December 8, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
 MR. BELMONT  
 MR. MOHR  
 MR. CONRAD  
 MR. DE LOACH  
 MR. EVANS  
 MR. ROSEN  
 MR. SULLIVAN

*O*  
*Assassination*  
*of President John*  
*F. Kennedy*

*X NY*

*Calif*  
*D.C.*  
*5/17*

Mr. Richard Berlin called and stated that Mr. Jack Cook, an employee of the Hearst Corporation who has charge of all their land, of one of their vice presidents' land, cattle, mines, etc., in the West, was in Mr. Berlin's office and was telling him that a San Francisco lawyer by the name of Harold W. Tobin, 291 Geary Street, San Francisco, came to Mr. Cook's office the other day and said he had offered to represent this fellow Rubenstein; that he made a trip to Dallas; that he would be glad to tell the Hearst papers that Rubenstein was paid to kill Oswald and who paid him and Rubenstein was guaranteed that he would not be convicted of murder in the State of Texas. Mr. Berlin stated Mr. Cook does not know if Tobin is screwy or not but he is a lawyer in San Francisco. Mr. Berlin then put Mr. Cook on the line.

Mr. Cook said he does not know whether Tobin is just trying to get publicity or not but one of their more illustrious lawyers, Jake Erlick, volunteered to go to Texas and apparently was turned down. Mr. Cook stated Tobin happens to represent somebody with whom they do business; is some sort of an officer of the California Bar Association; in the course of that capacity in order to see American jurisprudence done, said he would go to Dallas and make some representation of this man (Rubenstein).

Mr. Cook said Tobin came to his office and thought maybe he would bring some attention to himself and, in the course of so doing, made these statements.

Mr. Tolson  
 Mr. Boardman  
 Mr. Nichols  
 Mr. Belmont  
 Mr. Mohr  
 Mr. Casper  
 Mr. Callahan  
 Mr. Conrad  
 Mr. DeLoach  
 Mr. Evans  
 Mr. Gale  
 Mr. Rosen  
 Mr. Sullivan  
 Mr. Tavel  
 Mr. Trotter  
 Mr. Tele. Room  
 Mr. Holmes  
 Miss Gandy

JEH:rm (12)

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ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, & C. W. Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan, December 3, 1964

I asked if Tobin would be willing to talk to one of our men. Mr. Cook said he thought Tobin would be but he does not know whether Tobin is reliable or not; that one of the television networks apparently inquired of his volunteering representation and set up an interview to be put on the network; that in this regard Tobin told Cook the questions that were to be put to him were all faced and he felt they were so loaded that he chose not to partake of this interview. Mr. Cook said he believed the network was ABC and Tobin did not give them the interview.

Mr. Cook further stated they have a man with the San Francisco newspaper who has done some fairly outstanding jobs of reporting locally, a Mr. Montgomery; that Tobin said he would give Mr. Montgomery his story; that he (Cook) gave this to their San Francisco publisher but that he is not certain how much follow-up he has given.

I stated we have been getting a number of these stories but not one can be discounted.

Mr. Berlin remarked that you never know; that he asked if Tobin is a nut and Mr. Cook said he did not appear to be; that he is an attorney in San Francisco and is in the California Bar Association.

I indicated I would like to have our Agent in Charge, Mr. Lynn, personally see this Mr. Tobin. Mr. Berlin suggested Mr. Lynn first contact Mr. Montgomery. I then asked if he knew whether Montgomery knows about this yet. He did not. Mr. Cook said this happened just last week before he came to New York; that the publisher of the paper is in New York for a few days; and that they could find out from him if he knows whether the assignment of this has been given.

Mr. Berlin then suggested I not use his name or Montgomery's name; that we just ask him (Tobin) to give our man the story and see if he can develop it.

I then said I thought we should handle it as Mr. Berlin suggested; that I would get in touch with Mr. Lynn; that we will find out what Montgomery knows; and then will follow up and see Tobin in the evening.

Mr. Cook then advised that Tobin told Cook that he (Tobin) had been asked by the FBI in Dallas or somewhere just not to stir up the waters because the FBI was in the process of preparing a report for the President

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, DeLoach, Casper, Callahan, Conrad, Felt, Gale, Rosen, Sullivan, Tavel, Trotter, Tele. Room, Holmes, Gandy  
December 3, 1963

and would prefer not to have too many other people mixing in it. I stated I doubted our men would say that; that we have to cover everything in the report to the President; and that we could not choose just what we want to put in the report. Mr. Berlin remarked that this was Tobin's excuse at the moment that he had been asked to stay out. The FBI was through and that it sounds phony.

I told Mr. Berlin we would get in touch with Montgomery right away and then would be in touch with Tobin.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:25 AM
DATE 12-11-63
BY Jre