



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

South Georgia  
November 22, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
November 22, 1963  
Dallas, Texas

On December 2, 1963, Mr. J. Thornton, manager, Town  
House Hotel Restaurant, Columbia, South Carolina, advised that  
he is acquainted with Mr. J. J. Burton who is a guest at that  
motel occasionally. Mr. Thornton visits this restaurant when he  
is in Columbia, and Mr. Thornton said he last saw Mr. Burton  
about ten days prior to December 14th when Mr. Burton mentioned  
that several months ago he, Burton, heard a man in this restaurant  
describe a method of assassinating the President of the United  
States which was very similar to the way President Kennedy was  
assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Thornton said that he then  
asked Mr. Burton that he recalled no such conversation and said that  
he can furnish absolutely no information regarding such a con-  
versation.

He said that he does recall that during October, 1963,  
on one occasion while Mr. Burton was at this restaurant, an  
intoxicated man came into the restaurant and it was necessary  
to call the Columbia Police Department to have him taken away.  
He said that he does not know this man's name, but he believes  
this man was connected with the state fair that was then located  
near Columbia.

Mr. Thornton said he has never heard anyone in this  
restaurant describe a method of assassinating the President of  
the United States. Mr. Thornton said that he stays in the kitchen  
most of the time cooking and that he has very little conversation  
with the customers.

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Mr. Thornton stated that he does recall that Mr. Burton was an ardent admirer of President John F. Kennedy, and that he said the President was doing what God intended him to do regarding integration. He said that he was making such statements in the restaurant while talking with other guests. Mr. Burton frequently engaged in discussions with persons who felt otherwise regarding integration.

Mrs. Marie Kovora, waitress, Town House Motel Restaurant advised on December 1, 1961, that she is acquainted with Mr. J. C. Burton but could furnish no information regarding anyone in the restaurant who was planning for the assassination of the President of the United States. She said that she does recall on one occasion a stranger, who was in the restaurant and described reading in a book or newspaper that the most logical method of assassinating the President of the United States would be with a rifle. She could suggest no person who would know the identity of the person making such a statement and said she does not know whether Mr. Burton talked with this man.