



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

1114 Commerce Street
Dallas, Texas
December 21, 1963

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Also Known As
Edison Vance Smith

On December 19, 1963, a letter was furnished the Dallas Office in an envelope bearing the return address of Tannehill Lodge No. 52, AF & AM, E. W. Speer, Secretary, Masonic Temple, Dallas 1, Texas, which was postmarked December 17, 1963, at Dallas, Texas. Enclosed was an unsigned handwritten note approximately 3 3/4" x 6 1/4" in size, which reads as follows:

"11/30/63

"Brother Speer:

"Many Brother Masons are wondering just what is the background of the shooting of J. F. Kennedy and the Governor of Texas.

"The underground in Southern Florida have been heard to say Castro planned to have J.F.K. killed in Tampa but the job was muffed; but it was accomplished in Dallas.

"Please do not use my name in this; as they may shoot me for passing this along."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
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On December 19, 1963, Mr. FRANK J. BELL, Assistant Secretary, Tannehill Masonic Lodge No. 52, Masonic Temple, 507 South Harwood, Dallas, Texas, advised that Mr. E. W. SPEER, Secretary of the lodge, was confined at his home due to illness and would not be available for interview prior to December 20, 1963.

On December 20, 1963, Mr. E. W. SPEER, 5554 Richard, telephone TA 7-6536, Dallas, advised he is Secretary of the Tannehill Lodge No. 52, AF & AM, with offices in the Masonic Temple at 507 South Harwood, Dallas, telephone RI 7-3345. He said he received an unsigned note about a week prior and thought nothing about it for a day or two and finally decided to mail it to the FBI in Dallas. He said he thought the person sending the note might be identified through a "file of marks" or through other official records at the Masonic Temple in Dallas. He said that his assistant, Mr. FRANK J. BELL, would assist in trying to locate this information.

He said he believed the letter transmitting this note had been destroyed.

On December 20, 1963, FRANK J. BELL through searching the mailing lists at the Masonic Temple and receipt records established that one EDISON VANCE SMITH, 731 North Oleander Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida, paid dues in the amount of \$2.50 which was acknowledged by receipt No. 552 issued at Dallas on December 3, 1963, for the Dallas Council No. 18, "Royal and Select Masters."

It was noted that other correspondence in Mr. SMITH's file bore a marked similarity to the handwriting in the above mentioned anonymous note. It is also noted that an envelope was located which was postmarked December 1, 3:30 p.m., 1963, at Daytona Beach, Florida, which contained handwriting "Postmaster, Confidential, Deliver to ... Only" with a stamped address E. W. SPEER, Recorder, Masonic Temple,

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Dallas, Texas 75201. This handwriting also bore a marked similarity to the handwriting which was contained in the official records of the Masonic Temple relating to EDISON VANCE SMITH.

The known handwriting of EDISON VANCE SMITH consists of a petition to the Dallas Chapter #47 Royal Arch Masons or "Cryptic Degrees, Royal and Select Masters," which was dated June 5, 1946. This application reflects SMITH was born in Monticello, Indiana, September 26, 1898, and indicated he was a mechanical engineer for the Veterans Administration and his residence was shown to be 2027 West 10th Street in Dallas, Texas.

A handwritten letter dated April 2, 1958, from SMITH advised the Masonic Temple that he was living at 860 Riverside Avenue, Apartment 3, Jacksonville, Florida, and that he had recently been transferred there from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.

The current mailing address in the records at the Masonic Temple indicates EDISON VANCE SMITH is residing at 731 North Oleander Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Mr. BELL said that no other information was contained in the official records of the Masonic Temple which would indicate anyone else might have mailed in dues from Florida during the period November 30 - December 4, 1963.

Mr. BELL advised that he and Mr. SPEER did not know EDISON VANCE SMITH personally, and neither of them could give any additional information concerning him.