

1 - Mr. Sullivan

March 6, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

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FBI
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Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

On March 3, 1964, Clarence Daniel Smelley, a resident of Birmingham, Alabama, and a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, advised our Birmingham Office that in 1962 he and another member of the Teamsters Union, whom Smelley declined to identify, gave \$20,000 to an unnamed juror in the 1962 Nashville, Tennessee, trial of James Riddle Hoffa, President of the Teamsters Union, in order to assure a deadlock or mistrial. Smelley said he received this money from Hoffa and took this action on Hoffa's instructions.

Smelley claimed further that in September, 1963, he and the same unidentified associate met with Hoffa and Lee Harvey Oswald in Washington, D. C., at which time Hoffa gave "contracts" to Oswald to kill President Kennedy and the Attorney General. Smelley would furnish no further specifics at that time but claimed to have tape recordings of his conversations with Hoffa. Smelley declined to make these recordings available until he cleared with his associate and said if he became known as the source of this information he would be a "dead duck."

On March 4, 1964, Smelley exhibited to Special Agents of our Birmingham Office a box containing a small tape recorder and approximately 20 tapes which he said contained conversations with Hoffa and others. He attempted to play one of these tapes on the recorder but it was inoperative and the recording could

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COMM-FBI

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- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
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- Rosen _____
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- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

WB:eem
(11)

NOTE: See Rosen to Belmont memorandum of 3/5/64, captioned "JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA; CLARENCE DANIEL SMELLEY; LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT; CONSPIRACY; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE," WB:eem.

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

not be heard. Smelley declined to turn the tapes over to the Special Agents or discuss their contents further. He also declined at that time to disclose the identities of other participants or further details of the alleged meetings, other than to say that he had evidence to "hang Hoffa good." Smelley refused to furnish any evidence to back up that statement but said he would confer with his associates and, if they were willing, he would furnish the evidence he has in his possession by the first part of next week.

The Department of Justice is arranging for the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum by a Federal grand jury at Nashville, Tennessee, calling for the forthwith appearance of Smelley before that body on March 6, 1964.

Smelley is described as having been born on August 26, 1932, at Talladega, Alabama, presently resides at 214 Eighth Street, Robinwood Station, Birmingham, and has been employed by the Jack Cole Trucking Company, Birmingham, since 1955.

Records of the Birmingham Police Department show that one Clarence Daniel Smelley, same birth date, was arrested on November 19, 1960, by that Department and charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The case was later dismissed upon payment of court costs. Records of the Identification Division of this Bureau show the following additional arrests for Clarence Daniel Smelley, FBI number 57 040 E, who may be identical with the above-mentioned person:

On January 9, 1962, Smelley was arrested by the Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, on a charge of assault with intent to murder. On June 6, 1962, the charge was reduced to assault and battery and Smelley was placed on one year's probation. On July 5, 1963, Smelley was arrested by the Police Department, Tarrant, Alabama, on a charge of driving while under the influence - reckless driving. A fine of \$105 was imposed.

You will be advised of further developments with respect to the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover