



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 23, 1964

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

Set out below is a copy of a letter postmarked at Savannah, Tennessee, March 9, 1964, addressed to the "U. S. Investigating Committee. on death of late President Dallas Tex." bearing the return address "John C. Paulk, 2405 Mill St., Savannah Tenn."

"2405 Mill Street

"Savannah Tenn
March 8th 1964

"To US Invstingating Committee on the Late President murderer. Mr Oscar Barnhill perhaps can give you more information on the kind of rifle used. Mr. Barnhill was in Second World War

"Very Respectfully

Rev John C. Paulk

"Write to Oscar Barnhill
c/o U. S. Post Office Here."

[Signature] 1977

The Reverend John C. Paulk, 2405 Mill Street, Savannah, Tennessee, age 87, who is the pastor of the Tennessee Valley Church of God, with headquarters, Anderson Indiana, was interviewed on March 19, 1964. He stated he knows nothing whatsoever about the rifle used in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, other than what his nephew Oscar Barnhill told him during recent conversations. In effect he said his nephew told him it would be difficult to fire three shots from this type of rifle in such a short time. During the interview Rev. Mr. Paulk stated he had recently called the U. S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and spoke to some lieutenant concerning his views on the Cuban situation.

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He also disclosed he had conversed with U. S. Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee and expressed his opinion on the recent Federal income tax measure. He continued he had recently written to the Judge in Dallas who was in charge of the Jack Leon Ruby trial and advised him what the Bible said about "blood being taken by one man of another."

Mr. Oscar H. Barnhill, 1104 Oak Street, Savannah, Tennessee, a postal clerk at the U. S. Post Office, Savannah, advised on March 19, 1964, he had on a number of occasions conversed with his wife's uncle Rev. John C. Paulk, concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He said Rev. Mr. Paulk is a fanatic in some ways, particularly on religious matters, but he agrees with him on quite a few issues.

Mr. Barnhill stated he based his views on the weapon used in the slaying of President Kennedy as a result of reading newspapers, magazines, watching television programs and hearing radio broadcasts correlated with his experiences in the U. S. Army. He went on to say if the weapon used in the assassination is what he believes it to be, he was at a loss to understand how a man could fire three shots at a moving target in ten seconds. Mr. Barnhill stated he thought Oswald was a "damn good shot" and if Oswald was an average man he seriously doubted whether he would be able to fire three shots effectively as alleged. Mr. Barnhill was critical of the Police Department at Dallas, Texas, "for allowing Oswald to have been killed" and thought this should be held against the Dallas police.

Mr. Barnhill opined Oswald possibly had an accomplice, that ballistics tests would show whether the three bullets were fired from the same weapon, and if Oswald did fire the gun as alleged, the U. S. Marine Corps should know whether he had this ability.

Concerning Jack Leon Ruby, Mr. Barnhill advised he would have to listen to the evidence before passing judgment and he also felt it was possible Ruby was "goofy." Mr. Barnhill concluded he has no first-hand knowledge whatsoever relating to the slaying of President Kennedy.