



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Houston, Texas

July 2, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

RE: DAVID MOREY WASS, JR. /

Handwritten: FBI FILE
~~David Wass~~
131 26 22
Pl. 10-1-1, 116

Reference is made to the memorandum under the above first caption dated June 22, 1964, at Dallas, Texas.

On June 25, 1964, Paul Colletti, 4308 Tulane Street, Port Arthur, Texas, who is owner of the Golden Cask Supper Club, 4940 Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur, Texas, furnished the following information:

Colletti first met David Wass as a customer who frequented his club. He stated he also recalls Wass because Wass presented what later turned out to be a non-sufficient fund check. He called the check to the attention of the Port Arthur Police Department; however, Wass later made the check good and no complaint was filed.

Colletti recalls that on one night during March, 1964, Wass was seated by himself at the bar, and also at the bar was a girl named Frances Golden who was accompanied by a male companion. A verbal argument commenced between Wass and the man accompanying Mrs. Golden. Colletti stated he paid little attention to the argument; however, within a short time one of his waiters advised him that there was a scuffle taking place in the men's restroom. Colletti went to the restroom and asked that the door be opened, and when opened, he noticed Wass and the male companion of Mrs. Golden standing just inside the door. Colletti stated he did not notice any marks or bruises on Wass but Wass presented the appearance of having been shaken a bit. Colletti

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stated he had both men go back to the bar and stop arguing. He, Colletti, returned to his office, and Wass followed him and proceeded to explain what had happened. Colletti told Wass he was not interested in what had happened and all he wanted was that Wass cease arguing. Wass at that time became very belligerent and returned to the bar and continued to harrass Mrs. Golden and her companion with verbal abuser.

Mr. Colletti stated he went to the bar and asked Wass to leave, and when Wass declined to do so he had him forcibly ejected from the club. Wass continued to return to the club, and it took approximately twelve forcible removals from the club before Colletti called the Port Arthur Police Department, who came and arrested Wass on a charge of disturbing the peace.

Colletti advised that at no time did he hit or strike Wass and used only enough force to eject him from his club.

Colletti stated that during the removal of Wass from his club, Wass threatened to sue Colletti, and on several occasions since this incident Wass has telephonically contacted Colletti from Houston and stated "you are going to get your's." Colletti refused to talk on one long distance call from Wass, and Wass is reported to have told the operator that "he had better talk to me or he will be sorry." Colletti stated in his opinion Wass was not drunk but appeared to have had something else besides alcohol. He stated he had seen people act the same as Wass in the past who had been under the influence of narcotics. Mr. Colletti advised that Wass' actions were very strange and he considered Wass to have a very serious mental problem. He stated he feels Wass is the type of person who some day may approach him, Colletti, and attempt to take his life.

On June 25, 1964, Detective Sergeant Floy Phillips, Port Arthur Police Department, furnished the following information:

Detective Phillips advised that part of his duties as a member of the Vice Squad of the Port Arthur Police Department was making frequent checks of local bars, clubs and lounges within the city. Over a period of several months in conducting these routine checks, he became acquainted with an individual by the name of David Wass who frequented some

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of the bars he contacted. As a result of these contacts with Wass, he became "more or less Wass' friend" and as a matter of fact Wass, who is a dental technician, made Phillips a pair of gun grips.

Phillips stated Wass appeared to be having trouble with a girl friend of his and started drinking to excess. In many instances he caused disturbances in the bars in which he was drinking. Phillips advised that when Wass drank he seemed to drink to excess, but when he was not drinking he was an excellent dental technician. Wass' girl friend continued to give him problems and it was not long until Wass started writing non-sufficient fund checks drawn on a bank in Houston, Texas. Phillips stated that when these matters were brought to Wass' attention he usually made restitution.

Detective Phillips described Wass as a person who liked a lot of attention, wanted sympathy and enjoyed having people talk to him. On one night Wass seemed "to go crazy" at the Golden Cask Club, Port Arthur, Texas, and caused a disturbance which brought about his being ejected from the club and placed in jail.

Detective Phillips advised that in his opinion he feels Wass is suffering from some sort of mental problem and should be in an institution.

On June 25, 1964, Detective Lieutenant W. D. Beall, Port Arthur Police Department, Port Arthur, Texas, advised he first met David Wass while working the detail on the night shift which required him to make frequent checks at bars and lounges in Port Arthur. He stated he had occasion to meet David Wass at one of these bars almost every evening and through these meetings became somewhat of a friend of Wass'.

Detective Beall advised that Wass was keeping company with Frances Golden, a beauty parlor operator, and Mrs. Golden later stopped going with him. Soon thereafter, Wass started drinking to excess and in several instances caused commotions at the various bars where he was drinking. Detective Beall advised he recalls Wass on one occasion attempted suicide by stabbing himself in the wrist, and from this and other instances there is no doubt in his mind that Wass is suffering from some sort of mental problem.

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Detective Beall stated Wass has an acid burn on his hand and once told him that he, Wass, had to take narcotics for quite some time to kill the pain in this hand. Detective Beall feels that Wass might be continuing the use of narcotics as on several instances Wass had stated he had been in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Detective Beall advised that when Wass was arrested in Port Arthur, Texas, on March 24, 1964, Wass was requested to leave town, and he, Beall, transported Wass to the city limits and furnished him with some money.

Detective Beall stated that while in Port Arthur, Texas, Wass passed several non-sufficient fund checks; however, no complaints were filed against Wass inasmuch as eventually all of these checks were made good.

On June 26, 1964, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Nederland, Texas, furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] reviewed his medical records and advised that he first saw David Morey Wass, Jr., on March 16, 1964, when Wass was admitted to the Park Place Hospital, Port Arthur, Texas. Wass was admitted after having become upset and had threatened suicide. [REDACTED] advised that his inquiry of Wass as to why he attempted suicide revealed that Wass had an automobile which developed mechanical trouble and he thought he would be unable to return to his job in Houston.

[REDACTED] stated he treated Wass for a small nick on his hand and prescribed a mild tranquilizer. Wass was released from the hospital on March 18, 1964.

[REDACTED] advised that his records reflect Wass was readmitted to the hospital on March 18, 1964, due to a case of overexposure. [REDACTED] advised that he interviewed Wass and determined that Wass had missed his bus to Houston, Texas, and tried to hitchhike. He was unable to secure a ride, and due to a severe rain storm he was returned to the hospital by the Port Arthur Police Department.

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[redacted] advised Wass was again released from the Park Place Hospital on March 21, 1964, but came back later in the evening stating he had gone to a local club for a drink and was beaten and complained of weakness, shock, and soreness over his body. [redacted] stated he afforded Wass a thorough physical examination of the chest, back and ribs and discovered no injury. He stated Wass was also furnished extensive X-ray examination of his entire body and no injuries were revealed. Wass was again discharged on March 23, 1964.

[redacted] further advised he telephonically contacted the Veterans Administration office in Houston, Texas, and he was advised that Wass should be sent to the outpatient care section. [redacted] later mailed the Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas, a summary of Wass' case history and a recommendation that Wass be afforded further psychiatric care.

[redacted] stated he at no time told Wass he had broken ribs or a cartilage being torn loose from his sternum. He stated on every contact with Wass he was given a thorough physical examination and other than suffering from overexposure and a slight nick on the hand, he discovered no injuries.

On June 25, 1964, [redacted] Park Place Hospital, Port Arthur, Texas, advised a search of the hospital records under the name of David Morey Wass, Jr., reflects the following information:

[redacted] stated the first time Wass was admitted was on March 19, 1963, and was discharged on March 24, 1963, his case being listed as acute anxiety.

[redacted] stated the next time Wass was admitted was on March 10, 1964, and was released on March 20, 1964, his case given as acute anxiety, attempted suicide.

[redacted] stated Wass was re-admitted on March 21, 1964, and discharged on March 23, 1964, his case listed as acute anxiety reaction.

[redacted] advised that upon Wass' discharge on March 23, 1964, he understood that Wass was leaving Port Arthur and attempting to enter the Veterans Administration Hospital at Houston, Texas.

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On June 25, 1964, Detective Lieutenant Richard Singleton, Identification Bureau, Port Arthur Police Department, advised a review of the Port Arthur Police Department file, Number A 29,396, revealed that David Morey Wass, Jr., who gave his address as the Carousel Motel, 3330 Reveille Street, Houston, Texas, was arrested on March 20, 1964, by officers of the Port Arthur Police Department. Wass was charged with disturbing the peace at 5000 Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur, Texas. This charge was dismissed on March 21, 1964. A notation in the file reflects that Wass was drunk and causing a disturbance at the Golden Cask Club, cursing in front of women, and when asked to leave would not depart.

Detective Singleton advised that Wass was again arrested on March 24, 1964, on a charge of investigation, and the disposition shows he was released for the purpose of leaving town on March 24, 1964. Detective Singleton furnished the following description of David Morey Wass, Jr., as obtained from the Port Arthur Police Department files:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'7½"
Weight	129 pounds
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Medium-slender
Complexion	Fair
Born	January 26, 1920, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Occupation	Dental Lab Technician at Stern Dental Lab, 908 Austin Street, Houston, Texas
Mother	Ida V. Wass, Leonard, Texas
Father	Dr. David M. Wass, Sr., 3831 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Half brother	John C. Scherer, Leonard, Texas
Sister	Jane Harris, 5711 Windingway, Dickinson, Texas

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Scars	1/2" cut scar edge left eye; operation scar abdomen
Characteristics	Does not have complete use of both hands as a result of burns

Detective Singleton advised that their files contain an identification record from the Identification Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., under FBI Number 816 130 E. This record reflects that on June 27, 1951, Wass was fingerprinted by the Police Department at Salinas, California, as a "sleeper" and was released and no charges filed.

Detective Singleton further advised that their offense report number M-1483 dated March 16, 1964, reflects that the Port Arthur Police Department was in receipt of a telephone call at 3:20 AM on March 16, 1964, from the Knowles Ambulance Service. This service reported that they were going to the Merchants Cafe, Port Arthur, Texas, on an attempted suicide call. The report further indicates that officers from the Port Arthur Police Department made a call at this cafe and found that a David Wass, a white male, was lying on the floor of the cafe bleeding from his left hand. Officers questioned Wass regarding what had happened. He stated he had taken a dental tool and stuck it in his left hand and let it bleed over the commode in the cafe. The report indicates that Wass would not tell officers where he lived or anything about himself except that he was from Houston, Texas. Wass was taken to the Park Place Hospital, Port Arthur, Texas, and treated by [REDACTED]

Detective Singleton advised that a supplementary offense report was filed in this matter by Detective Sergeant Floy Phillips. This report reflects that David Wass came to Port Arthur, Texas, from Houston, Texas, to see a girl friend and when she refused to see him he commenced drinking and "got down in the dumps and then was feeling sorry for himself and cut his hand." The report reflects that in the opinion of Detective Phillips, Wass is "a little off at times," and Phillips has known him for approximately two years.

On June 29, 1964, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Medical Towers Building, Houston, Texas, advised

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that David Wass worked for him as a dental technician for
thirteen days in about April, 1964. He advised that he
considers Wass to be a drunkard and compulsive liar. In
the thirteen days he worked at the [REDACTED]
he got \$400 advance payments, which he has never reimbursed.