

FBI

Date: 11/29/66

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

**TO:** DIRECTOR, FBI (62-109060)

**FROM:** SAC, NEW ORLEANS (89-69) (RUC)

**SUBJECT:** ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,  
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(OO: DALLAS)

EUSTACE CHATHAM, 1932 St. Thomas St., Apt. E,  
New Orleans, La., telephonically contacted the FBI  
office, New Orleans, 11/28/66, and advised that he  
had information relative to the assassination of  
President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

CHATHAM stated three men were involved,  
including one named CLIFFORD JOHNSON, whom CHATHAM  
described as a cousin of President LYNDON B. JOHNSON.  
He further stated that he could not recall the names  
of the other two men, except that one looked like LEE  
HARVEY OSWALD.

CHATHAM claimed CLIFFORD JOHNSON worked with  
him several years ago on a shrimp boat, belonging to  
CLIFFORD JOHNSON's father, in the Gulf of Mexico, and  
had asked CHATHAM if he would kill President KENNEDY  
for \$50,000 or \$100,000, and that the plot had  
originated with the then Vice President LYNDON B.  
JOHNSON.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Dallas (89-43)
- 2 - New Orleans

HQC:srl  
(7)

REC 30

62-109060-4303

DEC 1 1966

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
C. W. McR  
Merrill  
Mr. McLaughlin  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

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*Eustace Thadden Chatham*

CHATHAM was interviewed by Bureau agents at the New Orleans FBI office, 11/28/66, and furnished the following information in the form of a signed statement:

*INT*

*Eustace Chatham*

"I, EUSTACE T. CHATHAM, Apartment E, 1932 St. Thomas Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, do freely and voluntarily furnish the following statement to HARLAN Q. COFFMAN and ALOYSIUS MC FALL, who identified themselves to me as Special Agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

*B7-25-1914  
Euler, Miss*

"I was working on a boat called the "Gene R" (phonetic), which belonged to a man named JOHNSON, with his son, CLIFFORD JOHNSON, several years ago in Brownsville, Texas. The boat had been bought from the Brownville Exchange Company. After cleaning the boat, CLIFFORD JOHNSON and I set out to sea with another man on the "Gene R." I think the other man's nickname was "Moody" and he was of Mexican nationality.

"While at sea, CLIFFORD JOHNSON told me to have a drink of whiskey with him. I noticed CLIFFORD had been drinking and might have had a shot of morphine in him. He asked me then if I would kill the President for \$50,000 or \$100,000 or \$150,000. He told me that "we would get him", meaning President KENNEDY. He stated to me that LYNDON JOHNSON wanted to be President of the United States and that LYNDON JOHNSON doesn't care how he gets it. He told me also that LYNDON JOHNSON had wanted people to say someday that a JOHNSON had been President of the United States.

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"He told me that he and his family use to visit LYNDON JOHNSON several times.

"CLIFFORD JOHNSON displayed an "army" rifle with a telescopic sight to me and a .45 caliber Luger-automatic. He told me he could pick off a red bug's eyeball with that rifle.

"I don't think the Mexican man, MOODY, could hear our conversation.

"We stayed at sea only one night and then came in to dock at Ranses Pass (Phonetic), Texas.

"After being docked, I saw CLIFFORD JOHNSON give some money to MOODY and then MOODY went home. Right after MOODY went home, I noticed two men standing on the dock looking at the boat. One of these men resembled LEE HARVEY OSWALD and I saw him come up to CLIFFORD and ask him for a job. The other man, an American, did not approach the boat.

"A few minutes after this man who resembled OSWALD came on the boat, we went out into Lydian (phonetic) Channel with the boat and stayed for about two hours and then returned to Ranses Pass where we docked the boat again.

"CLIFFORD then hired a taxi and had me taken to the Greyhound bus station. I went by bus to my home in Brownsville, Texas.

"After staying a few days in Brownsville, Texas, I went to New Orleans, Louisiana, to enter the Marine Hospital and to have my eye and stomach treated.

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"About thirty or thirty-five days later I went back to Brownsville to settle with CLIFFORD JOHNSON who owed me some money. CLIFFORD told me that his Dad would handle it. I was offered \$50.00 by CLIFFORD's Dad's lawyer and decided to take the money.

"When I went to Brownsville to get my money from CLIFFORD I found CLIFFORD and these other two men on the "Gene R" which was docked at the Port of Brownsville. The other two men were leaving the boat wearing my clothes. It made me mad but I didn't attempt to get my clothes back.

"After receiving the \$50.00 from CLIFFORD's Dad, I came back to New Orleans and have been here ever since.

"About three years ago my brother, EDISON CHATHAM, saw CLIFFORD JOHNSON at Ranses Pass, Texas.

"I have not seen CLIFFORD JOHNSON or the two men that were with him since I received the \$50.00 from CLIFFORD's Dad.

"CLIFFORD told me that he had been in the Air Force and was a pilot. He told me he was the first man to have silver plates put in his head and that he had 28 plates in his body.

"CLIFFORD JOHNSON's description, to the best of my knowledge is as follows: a white American; age of 52 to 54; height 6'; weight 140 lbs.; build, slim; hair brown; eyes brown; and a ruddy complexion. CLIFFORD was married and had 3 or 4 children, but I don't know his wife's name.

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"I remember that it was about 15 to 18 days before I entered the Marine Hospital in New Orleans that CLIFFORD told me about LYNDON JOHNSON wanting to be President and not caring how he got it.

"The above statement, consisting of this page and four other pages, was read to me by Special Agent COFFMAN, as I can not read. I have initialed each page of this statement, and those corrections in the statement which were pointed out to me by Special Agent COFFMAN, and I now sign it because it is true."

/s/ EUSTACE T. CHATHAM

Witness: HARLAN Q. COFFMAN, Special Agent, FBI,  
New Orleans, La., 11/28/66.

ALOYSIUS J. MC FALL, Special Agent,  
FBI, New Orleans, La., 11/28/66.

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During the course of the interview, CHATHAM appeared vague as to dates and details of occurrences set out above. He stated that he had not furnished this information to any other law enforcement agency previously, as he feared for his life.

CHATHAM indicated that he wanted to receive any rewards paid for the above information by the Federal Government.

CHATHAM denied ever having received any treatment for mental illness.

CHATHAM had to be cautioned by Bureau agents to remain with the facts of his statement, as he repeatedly rambled off on accounts of personal experiences with other law enforcement agencies.

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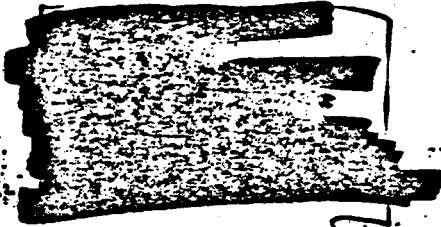
New Orleans indices reflect EUSTACE CHATHAM had contacted this office in 1943 and had indicated a desire to be a paid informant of the FBI.

The following descriptive data was obtained by Bureau agents during the course of the interview:

Name	EUSTACE THADDEUS CHATHAM
Address	Apt. E, 1932 St. Thomas St., New Orleans, La.
DOB	7/25/14
POB	Biloxi, Miss.
Education	3rd grade
Height	5'8"
Weight	190 lbs.
Hair	Black (Graying)
Eyes	Brown
Scars	Scars on upper arms
Tattoos	Reversed question mark on middle finger, right hand; Number of tattoos on arms
Peculiarities	Walks with limp - broken left hip
Relatives	Wife: [REDACTED] Son: [REDACTED] Son: [REDACTED] Daughter: [REDACTED] Brother: [REDACTED]

NO 89-69/srl

**Arrests**



In view of the nature of the allegations set out by CHATHAM in his statement, no dissemination of this information to other agencies will be made unless specifically directed by the Bureau.

No leads are being set out, nor will any additional investigation be conducted by the New Orleans Division, UACB.