



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Houston, Texas

February 1, 1967

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS,
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

AT ARANSAS PASS, TEXAS

On January 23, 1967, [REDACTED]
Johnson and Johnson Sea Food, Conn Brown Harbor, advised
as follows:

Clifton Johnston has not unloaded shrimp with
Johnson and Johnson for approximately two years. Johnson
said he had seen Clifton Johnston within the past six
months, but had no information to assist in locating him.

On January 23, 1967, [REDACTED] Retail
Merchants Association, informed her only record concerning
Clifton Johnston is that a collection item in amount of
\$2.00, received from the Aransas Hospital, was paid by him
on December 8, 1966. Four notices regarding this bill were
mailed to him at Route 2, Box 124, Hereford, Texas, and
payment was received by mail.

On January 23, 1967, [REDACTED]
Aransas Pass Police Department, checked records of this
agency and informed he was unable to locate any record
concerning Clifton Johnston or Johnson.

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62-109060-4457

ENCLOSURE

Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
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Eastman K. [unclear]

He advised that [redacted] has the following record of arrests with the Aransas Pass Police Department:

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] was described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	July 25, 1914
Place of Birth	Biloxi, Mississippi
Height	5'6"
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Address	General Delivery, Aransas Pass
Occupation	None shown

On January 23, 1967, [redacted] Gulf King Shrimp Company, advised his records reflect Clifton Johnston was previously employed by this company on shrimp boats, dates not available; but that he has not been employed since at least early 1966. His Social Security Number was given as [redacted] home address at [redacted] Texas.

On January 27, 1967, Clifton Johnston, Jr., was located at the Beach Grill on the waterfront at Conn Brown Harbor and he furnished the following signed statement:

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Sec 2001 46798-117
"Aransas Pass, Texas
"January 27, 1967

"I, Clifton Johnston, Jr., make the following free and voluntary statement to Penrod W. Harris who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This statement concerns a matter that I understand is of interest to the Federal government. My rights have been explained to me as set out on a separate form, and I have waived them by signing the form.

"I was born August 22, 1923, at Paris, Texas, and am now 43 years of age. My mailing address is Rt. 2, Box 124, Hereford, Texas. I am a shrimp boat rigger on rigman. I have been working on the shrimp trawler 'Bronecker' for several months and am getting ready to go out on the trawler 'Wild Goose.' Both of these boats are owned by John F. Taylor who lives at Ingleside, Texas. We unload at Independent Sea Food, owned by Burl King at Aransas Pass. I usually stay on the shrimp boat on which I am working. I have a room at an old hotel across the street from the Police Station at Aransas Pass, where I go to clean up.

"In January, 1959, my father, Clifton Johnston, Sr., who was living at Brownsville, Texas, bought a shrimp trawler named the 'Jane R.' It was bought from Johnny Ryan, and financed through the Pan American State Bank at Brownsville. I was captain of this vessel.

"The first fishing trip made on this boat after my father bought it, commenced on Friday the 13th, 1959, from Brownsville. The rig man was Eastace Chatham, whom I had not known before. The third man was a Mexican whose name I cannot recall.

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"We left Brownsville and I believe we fished two nights. We came in to Aransas Pass because of the weather, about February 15, 1959. We stayed in port one night, and the Mexican got off and left the boat, as he had been seasick. We went out one night with another header (or third man), with Chatham as rigger and with me as captain. We came back in because of the weather.

"Chatham claimed he had a toothache and he could not go back out, as he had to have the tooth pulled. He had no money so I gave him a Master's Certificate so he could go to a Marine Hospital and have his teeth fixed. He left and I understood later he had gone to Brownsville and then to New Orleans, Louisiana, to a Marine Hospital.

"The next I heard directly from or about Chatham was some months later. I was at Brownsville and my father's lawyer, a man named White, advised us Chatham was going to sue him. The suit claimed Chatham did not have the right kind of help on the 'Jane R' and it caused him to hurt his back. The suit was settled for \$100.00.

"I understand Chatham has made a statement to the effect that while he was on the 'Jane R,' I made some statements about killing the President of the United States. I wish to state I never at any time made any such statement to Chatham or anyone else. I have never owned a rifle of any type or a pistol.

"The 'Jane R' was seized by the U.S. Marshal on or about December 1, 1963, at Brownsville.

"I would like to point out that Chatham's trip on the 'Jane R' was only about four days in February, 1959. Kennedy was not President of the United States at that time.

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"I never said anything at all to Chatham about Lyndon Johnson, or that I knew him or had visited him. I never stated he wanted to be President or anything to that effect. I never discussed Johnson or Kennedy with Chatham.

"After Chatham left the 'Jan R' I hired a rig man named Newt Odem, who worked for me for a number of years. He was on the boat when Chatham came to the boat at Brownsville and asked if I was going to give him his job back. I told him I was not, as he had left the boat at Arnansas Pass, and I had already advanced him \$160.00 before he left. He came to the boat at Brownsville about two or three weeks after he had left the boat at Arnansas Pass.

"I have no idea why Chatham would make allegations that I ever discussed shooting the President of the United States, which is entirely untrue. I do not know of any grievance he could have had against me, or any reason for ill feeling toward me. It is my personal opinion Chatham is mentally ill. I thought this when he went out on the boat with me. He was a 'wino' then and very unstable.

"I know of no reason Chatham would have thought up such a fantastic tale. There is no truth whatsoever to it. I never at any time owned a rifle or had one in my possession, nor showed any rifle to Chatham. We had no conversation whatsoever regarding Kennedy or Johnson. As mentioned above, I am positive of the dates Chatham was on the 'Jane R' and this was long before Kennedy became President. Chatham was on the 'Jane R' in February, 1959, and Kennedy did not become President till 1961, as I recall.

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"I have sixed this state ment am It is
tru true and correct to the best of my know
ledge_

"/s/Clifton Johnston, Jr.

"Witness:

"/s/Perrod W. Harris, Special Agent,
F.B.I., Corpus Christi, Texas."

Following is the physical description of Johnston
which was obtained during the course of interview with
him:

Name	Clifton Johnston, Jr.
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	August 22, 1923
Place of Birth	Paris, Texas
Height	6'1"
Weight	118 pounds
Build	Slender
Hair	Dark brown, graying
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Education	7th grade
Religion	Protestant - no religious preference
Scars and Marks	Tattoo on right arm, "CORA"; round burn scar, 1", on left arm
Teeth	Stained and uneven
Social Security #	467 18 8746
Military Service	Served in United States Air Force
United States Air Force Service #	38761090

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Immediate Relatives

Father

Clifton Johnston, Sr.,
Hereford, Texas

Mother

Ellie Johnston,
Hereford, Texas

Brother

J. R. Johnston, age 38,
Dimmitt, Texas

Sister

Mary Frances Roberts, age 41,
Dowsman, Wisconsin

Sister

Sammie Jo Gray, age 36,
Tyler, Texas

Sister

Virginia Ellen Daniels, age 31,
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Occupation
Employment**

Shrimper
Shrimp trawler "Wild Goose,"
unloading at Independent
Sea Food, Aransas Pass

**Home (Mailing)
Address**

Route 2, Box 124,
Hereford, Texas