

February 9, 1967

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. Watson: JOHN F. KENNEDY

Eustace Thaddeus Chatham advised our New Orleans Office that several years ago he worked on a boat out of Brownsville, Texas, named the "Gene R," operated by one "Clifford Johnson." Chatham alleged "Clifford Johnson" asked him if he would kill the President, referring to President Kennedy, for a specific amount of money. Chatham also alleged that "Clifford Johnson" claimed he was a cousin of President Johnson.

This Bureau initiated immediate investigation into this matter. It was determined Eustace Thaddeus Chatham has an arrest record, he cannot read and he has a third-grade education. Medical records reveal Chatham has "paranoid ideas" and was suspected of being a "malingerer."

Investigation determined there was a boat named the "Jane R," which was owned by one "Clifton Johnston, Sr." from 1959, until March 3, 1962. At that time it was sold at Brownsville, Texas, by the United States Marshal based on a court order.

Mr. Clifton Johnston, Jr., was located at Aransas Pass, Texas, and was interviewed by a Special Agent of this Bureau. Mr. Johnston verified the fact his father formerly owned the boat named the "Jane R," which was a shrimp trawler. Mr. Johnston also verified the fact that during February, 1959, Eustace Thaddeus Chatham was employed on the "Jane R" for four days as a rigger. He said Chatham left the boat as he had to have dental work done and he did not see or hear from Chatham again until several months later when Mr. Johnston, Sr.'s lawyer advised Chatham was filing suit alleging he had injured his back while employed on the "Jane R." This suit was subsequently settled for \$100.

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Wick _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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REC 36

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

FEB 9 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
FEB 9 1 42 PM '67

Delivered to [unclear] of [unclear] [unclear]

62-109060-4462

Mr. Marvin Watson

Mr. Johnston emphatically denied making a statement about killing the President to Chatham or anyone else. He stated he never owned a rifle or pistol of any type and had no idea why Chatham would make such an allegation. Mr. Johnston said it was his personal opinion Chatham is mentally ill and very unstable.

There is no substance to the allegations made by Eustace Thaddeus Chatham since our investigation determined that if his allegations were true, they would have occurred prior to the time that President Kennedy was President of the United States. In addition, "Clifford Johnson" has been identified as Clifton Johnston, Jr., who is no relation to President Johnson. Therefore, no further action is being taken by this Bureau.

A copy of this communication is being furnished to Mr. Ramsey Clark, Acting Attorney General, for his information and all information in our possession regarding this matter is being furnished to United States Secret Service.

Sincerely yours,

1 - The Acting Attorney General

NOTE:

See Rosen to DeLoach Memo dated 2/7/67, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS" KMR:blw.