

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 2/23/67

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

cc Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Wick

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

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

The Acting AG called me at approximately 5:35 p.m., 2/22/67. He stated he had just received a call from the President. He made reference to David W. Ferrie who he indicated had reportedly passed away that afternoon, according to the UPI ticker. He stated the President was very concerned about this matter and wanted to get details regarding the reasons for Ferrie's death. He mentioned that it was most unfortunate that Ferrie had died, inasmuch as Garrison could now claim either foul play or that Ferrie had committed suicide in order to escape arrest by Garrison.

I told the Acting AG that, of course, we were not conducting an open investigation, but that we would attempt to discreetly ascertain the reasons for Ferrie's death.

I called SAC Rightmyer in New Orleans and advised him of the above facts. He was instructed to not make any open inquiries, but to discreetly ascertain from established contacts the reasons behind Ferrie's death. Rightmyer called back within 30 minutes and told me that a Lieutenant Kline of the New Orleans Police Department had advised that Ferrie died of natural causes. I told Rightmyer that this answer was not satisfactory and he should make more inquiries to determine what "natural causes" meant. He stated he would do this immediately.

SAC Rightmyer also told me that Ferrie was a known homosexual and had been charged with homosexuality on a number of prior occasions. He stated that Lt. Kline had further told him that a young boy had allegedly found Ferrie dead. He stated this young boy was at that time being questioned by District Attorney Garrison's office.

SAC Rightmyer called back again in 15 minutes to advise that a reliable contact (the head of the Associated Press in New Orleans), had told him that Ferrie had died of

Handwritten notes and signatures:
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Rosen
B.C.D.
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a ruptured blood vessel in the brain. Rightmyer stated this contact had obtained such information from the coroner's office. Rightmyer also stated he wanted to make it quite clear that the coroner's report had not been completed, inasmuch as the toxicological examination for poisons would take two or three days. He stated it was quite apparent, however, that Ferrie had died of a ruptured blood vessel. I told Rightmyer to keep the Bureau constantly advised of the situation; however, under no circumstances should he initiate an open investigation into this matter.

I called the Acting AG back and advised him of the above facts. I stated that District Attorney Garrison had now put out a report indicating that Ferrie's death was obviously a suicide. I mentioned that apparently this would be contradictory to the report that would be forthcoming from the coroner.

The Acting AG expressed appreciation, but stated he felt that the FBI should contact Garrison simply for the purpose of going on record that the FBI and the Department were ready, willing, and able to accept any information Garrison might desire to turn over. I told the Acting AG I felt this would be a very bad move and was most inadvisable. I stated that Garrison was seeking any means by which he could back out of the mess he had gotten himself into. I stated if the FBI contacted Garrison he would immediately attempt to dump everything on us, and then later withdraw from the investigation, claiming that it was now the FBI's responsibility. I told the Acting AG that there were no facts produced by Garrison or anyone else which would cause a reopening of the investigation and, as a matter of fact, we had no basis for being in such an investigation.

The Acting AG stated that obviously I felt very strongly about these points. I told him I did feel strongly about this matter. He then stated that we should be most alert and not let anyone place us in the position of refusing information voluntarily given to us. I stated that we had not refused

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any such information, but that neither had we openly requested any information from Garrison or any of his sources. The Acting AG asked that he be kept constantly advised of this matter. He again expressed appreciation for the above-mentioned facts.

The Director was advised of the above facts telephonically. He reiterated previous instructions that we not enter this investigation.

ACTION -

For record purposes.

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