

42 62-109060-5894

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
December 11, 1967

REC-32

EX-103

Mrs. Mildred Stegall
The White House
Washington, D. C.

BY LIAISON

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Lenihan

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

News media for December 6, 1967, reported that Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment," and Richard Burnes, Assistant District Attorney in New Orleans, interviewed Abraham Bolden in the Federal Penitentiary at Springfield, Missouri, on December 5, 1967. Mark Lane informed newsmen that Bolden had told him that the Secret Service knew of a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy in Chicago prior to the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas.

According to Lane, Bolden claimed that a trip by President Kennedy to Chicago sometime prior to the assassination had been canceled by the Secret Service because of indications that plans had been laid to kill President Kennedy in Chicago. Lane further alleged that Bolden stated that the Secret Service was aware of the identities of the would-be assassins in Chicago. Lane informed newsmen that Bolden would be subpoenaed to appear as a witness before the New Orleans Grand Jury which is probing the assassination.

According to press accounts, Lane is now working as an assistant to James C. Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney. News media identified Abraham Bolden as the first Negro who was appointed to the White House Detail of the Secret Service.

For your information, Abraham Bolden was assigned to the Secret Service office in Chicago, Illinois, in 1964. The Secret Service developed information that Bolden was attempting to sell Secret Service data to a Chicago hoodlum.

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
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Mrs. Mildred Stegall

The Secret Service arrested Bolden on May 9, 1964, and he was tried and convicted for this offense. He received a six-year prison sentence which he is now serving.

Bolden held a television and press conference at his home on May 20, 1964, at which time he was out on bond. Bolden denied the charges against him and alleged he was being "framed" because he planned to testify before the "Warren Commission" concerning laxity of Presidential guards in 1961 which involved drinking, absence from posts and misuse of Government automobiles.

During our investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, we received a request from the Warren Commission on May 22, 1964, to interview Abraham Bolden concerning his knowledge of derelictions on the part of Secret Service Agents in connection with President Kennedy's visit to Dallas or any other derelictions of which Bolden was aware. Arrangements were made for such interview and Bolden and his attorney, George Howard, appeared at our Chicago Office on May 25, 1964. Mr. Howard informed our Agents that Bolden would make no statement at that time. Mr. Howard indicated that Bolden was still an Agent of the Secret Service and did not desire to make any statement which might affect his case. Mr. Howard did state that his client, Mr. Bolden, possessed no specific information whatsoever concerning the actual assassination of President Kennedy. Mr. Bolden informed our Agents that the statements made by Mr. Howard were correct.

We contacted the Secret Service on December 6, 1967, regarding Mark Lane's reported allegation that the Secret Service possessed information of an attempted assassination plot against President Kennedy in Chicago and had canceled the trip to Chicago by President Kennedy because of such a plot. Mr. John Warner, Acting Assistant to the Director, Secret Service, informed this Bureau's liaison representative that this allegation was completely false. Mr. Warner added that the Secret Service had received no information from anyone suggesting an assassination plot against President Kennedy in Chicago.

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

I thought this information would be of interest to the President. Additional pertinent information concerning this matter that comes to our attention will be immediately furnished to you.

This information has also been furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

Data set forth herein was previously summarized in memorandum Branigan to Sullivan dated 12/7/67, and was disseminated to the Attorney General by letter dated 12/8/67. The Director has instructed that we also send a memorandum to the White House in this matter.