

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
 1 - Mr. N. P. Callahan

DATE: February 1, 1968

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

On January 31-February 1, 1968, Johnny Carson had as his guest on his television show New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison. On this show Garrison made numerous allegations concerning the assassination, one of which alleged William Walter, former security clerk in the New Orleans Office, had furnished information to Mark Lane indicating FBI had previous knowledge on November 17, 1963, that an assassination attempt would be made on President Kennedy in Dallas. This allegation has been dealt with by separate communication earlier today.

During the approximate one-hour Carson show Garrison rehashed many of the allegations he has made at press conferences during recent months. He alleged the President of the United States is suppressing the true evidence involved in the assassination through an Executive Order whereby certain Warren Commission documents are maintained by National Archives for 75 years without access to the public. He claimed that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is directly involved in the assassination and speculated that CIA was also involved in the murder of Dallas patrolman J. D. Tippit. He also claimed that Oswald did not fire a shot on November 22, 1963, and that the conspiratorial aspects of the assassination are being concealed from the public by the United States Government.

During the program, Garrison alleged that the FBI had interviewed a Julia Ann Mercer immediately following the assassination and that Mercer claimed to have seen a man approximately an hour or so before the assassination who carried a rifle from a truck. Garrison further alleged that the day following the assassination the FBI exhibited to Mercer several photographs, one of which was a photograph of Jack Ruby. Garrison claimed that Mercer identified the photograph of Jack Ruby to the FBI as the driver of the truck

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Wm S. Walters

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Memorandum to *C* I. C. Sullivan *Q*
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
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from which the man with the rifle emerged approximately one hour before the assassination.

The facts of the matter are that the Dallas Office did interview Mercer November 22, 1963, when she volunteered information that she had seen a truck with an "air conditioning" sign parked near the assassination site, approximately 10:50 a.m. that day. Mercer claimed a man left the truck carrying what appeared to be a gun case. Mercer was again interviewed by our Dallas Office November 25, 1963, and was exhibited photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald to determine if the man carrying the object from the truck may have been Oswald. Mercer informed our Agents the individual in question did not resemble Oswald.

Mercer was again interviewed by our Dallas Office November 27, 1963, (five days after the assassination and three days after Ruby killed Oswald) at which time she was shown a group of photographs including a photograph of Jack Ruby. Mercer stated that the driver of the truck she had observed on November 22, 1963, had a rather large round face similar to Ruby's but she could not identify Ruby as the driver.

During our investigation of the assassination, we determined Jack Ruby was in the offices of the "Dallas Morning News" placing advertisements for his two nightclubs at approximately 11 a.m., 11/22/63. This was corroborated by several people who saw and talked with him at the time.

As noted above, the facts completely contradict the wild allegations made by Garrison concerning the Mercer information. It is to be further noted that during the entire Carson program Garrison introduced no credible evidence of any kind involving the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

ACTION:

For information. A concise summary of data set forth herein is being sent to the White House and the Attorney General by separate communication.

ack *h* *✓* *P* *mm*