

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 18 1968

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

547PM URGENT 3/18/68 OLP

TO DIRECTOR (62-109060) AND DALLAS (89-43)

FROM NEW ORLEANS (89-69)4P

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,

DALLAS, TEXAS, NOV. TWENTYTWO, SIXTYTHREE, MISCELLANEOUS

INFO CONCERNING, OO: DALLAS.

THE RED FLASH EDITION OF THE NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM FOR MARCH EIGHTEEN INSTANT CONTAINS A LEAD ARTICLE WHICH REPORTS THAT WILLIAM WEGMANN, ONE OF THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS FOR ~~CLAY SHAW~~, ACCUSED IN A CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, STATED THAT THE CURRENT HEARING ON MOVING SHAW'S TRIAL OUTSIDE NEW ORLEANS MAY BE IRRELEVANT AND THAT A NEW MOTION COULD BE FILED BEFORE THE TRIAL GETS UNDERWAY. WEGMANN INFORMED CRIMINAL DISTRICT JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY, JR. THAT UNDER RECENT U. S. SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, WHETHER SHAW COULD GET A FAIR TRIAL IN NEW ORLEANS AT THE PRESENT TIME WILL BE IRRELEVANT IF THE TRIAL IS NOT HELD UNTIL APRIL OR MAY, SIXTYEIGHT.

END PAGE ONE

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

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Abbe
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MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

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THE ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT WEGMANN CONTENDED THAT CONDITIONS MAY CHANGE SO MUCH BETWEEN NOW AND THE ACTUAL BEGINNING OF THE TRIAL THAT A NEW CHANGE OF VENUE MAY BE FILED AND THAT UNDER THE LAW THE DEFENSE MAY DO THIS UNTIL TWO DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL.

THE ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED THAT JUDGE HAGGERTY ON INSTANT DATE BEGAN CALLING MEMBERS OF THE JURY VENIRE AND ASKING THEM WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN UNDULY INFLUENCED BY THE PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSPIRACY CHARGE AGAINST SHAW. THE ARTICLE ANNOUNCED THAT HAGGERTY INTENDS TO QUESTION EIGHTY JURY VENIRE MEMBERS INCLUDING TEN FROM EACH SECTION OF CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT HAGGERTY HOPES TO FINISH THIS PHASE BY MARCH TWENTY NEXT AND THAT BOTH THE DEFENSE AND THE STATE WILL THEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL MORE WITNESSES IF THEY DESIRE. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT IF THE CHANGE OF VENUE IS DENIED THE TRIAL COULD BE STARTED BEFORE HAGGERTY IN APRIL OR MAY WHEN A NEW JURY VENIRE IS AVAILABLE. THE
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ARTICLE OBSERVED THAT THE SAME PROSPECTIVE JURORS CANNOT TAKE PART IN THE HEARING AND THE TRIAL.

THE ARTICLE STATED THAT AFTER HAGGERTY ASSEMBLED THE JURY VENIRE HE INFORMED THEM THAT THEY WERE NOT CALLED AS JURORS IN THE TRIAL OF CLAY SHAW BUT RATHER THEY WERE THERE FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER SHAW COULD GET A FAIR TRIAL IN NEW ORLEANS. HAGGERTY CONTINUED THAT THERE IS NOT BEING MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO TRY THE WARREN COMMISSION, THE CIA OR THE FBI. HAGGERTY THEN ANNOUNCED A PLAN FOR THE QUESTIONING OF THE VENIRE MEMBERS WHICH CALLED FOR THIRTY PERSONS TO APPEAR INSTANT DATE, THIRTY MORE ON MARCH NINETEEN NEXT AND TWENTY MORE ON MARCH TWENTY NEXT. HAGGERTY, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, AFTER A CONFERENCE WITH PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD APPROVE AN ALTERNATE PLAN TO CALL FOR FORTY WITNESSES TO APPEAR INSTANT DATE AND FORTY MORE WITNESSES TO APPEAR MARCH NINETEEN NEXT. HAGGERTY ALSO

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INSTRUCTED THE WITNESSES NOT TO READ ABOUT THE CASE OR
WATCH TELEVISION REPORTS OF THE CASE.

AS THE QUESTIONING OF THE VENIREMEN PROCEEDED, HAGGERTY
INFORMED THEM THAT THE ONLY QUESTION WAS "WOULD YOU BE ABLE
TO GIVE CLAY SHAW A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL."

THE FINAL EDITION OF THE NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM FOR
MARCH EIGHTEEN INSTANT REPORTED THAT BY EARLY AFTERNOON
THREE OF THE JURY VENIREMEN STATED THAT THEY COULD NOT GIVE
CLAY SHAW A FAIR TRIAL AND THAT TEN VENIREMEN STATED THEY
COULD GIVE SHAW A FAIR TRIAL. ONE VENIREMAN STATED THAT
HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION. THIS WITNESS WAS
EXCUSED BY THE JUDGE.

memo
NO LHM BEING SUBMITTED.

END

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CC- MR. SULLIVAN