



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
March 21, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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

On March 19, 1968, U. S. Attorney Louis C. LaCour, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana advised that approximately one month ago Guy Wooten, Attorney for former Bureau clerical employee William S. Walter contacted his office and inquired if Walter would be in violation of federal law if he testified before a State Grand Jury and divulged information gained during his employment with the Bureau. LaCour stated that Assistant U. S. Attorneys Harry E. Connick and John C. Ciolino informed Wooten that research would be done on this question. Mr. LaCour stated that although Wooten has not been so informed, the research has determined that there is no criminal penalty for violation of the Code of Federal Regulations and that he, therefore, as a former Bureau employee could not be prosecuted criminally if he divulged any information obtained during Bureau employment. Mr. LaCour stated that he does not recall the exact date that Wooten appeared at his office but that he does recall it was after District Attorney James Garrison appeared on the nationally televised Johnny Carson Show and mentioned the name of Walter.

Eastern District of Louisiana

Mr. LaCour also stated that Wooten inquired if the executive privilege from testifying before legislative bodies applied to former Bureau employees. Wooten was informed that this executive privilege does apply to former Bureau employees and that Walter, therefore, could urge the privilege if he chose in the event he appears before a State Grand Jury.

Mr. LaCour stated that Wooten and Walter per previously made appointment appeared in his office on the afternoon of March 15, 1968 and that also present to talk with Wooten and Walter in addition to Mr. LaCour were Assistant U. S. Attorneys Connick and Gene S. Palmisano.

62-104000-6277

ENCLOSURE

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Assistant U. S. Attorney Harry F. Connick advised as follows:

On Friday, March 15, 1968, sometime between 4:00 and 4:30 PM he went to U. S. Attorney McCour's Office where there were already present Assistant U. S. Attorney Gene S. Palmisano, Guy Wooten, Attorney for William S. Walter and William S. Walter. A discussion was already being held when Mr. Connick arrived at the office. Mr. Connick recalls that Walter stated he had been employed by the FBI, New Orleans in 1963, and that he worked a 12:00 midnight to 8:00 AM shift on November 17, 1963. Walter was the only employee working on this shift. While on duty on this date, Walter stated he received a wire communication addressed to the Special Agent in Charge, New Orleans, and also directed to other cities which Walter may have mentioned but the names of which are not recalled by Mr. Connick. Walter stated that the wire communication advised that there would possibly be an attempt on the life of President Kennedy in connection with his forthcoming visit to Texas. Mr. Connick stated that Walter may have mentioned the city Dallas but that he does not recall. Walter informed that he used the teletype machine to acknowledge receipt of this communication by placing his initials on the communication and that the teletype operators in the Bureau offices in the other cities also gave the same acknowledgement. Mr. Connick stated that Walter advised that he probably notified Special Agent in Charge Harry G. Maynor of the receipt of this teletype since this was normal procedure.

Walter further advised that after he resigned from the FBI he attended Tulane University in New Orleans as a student and that there was an occasion when Mark Lane gave an address on campus on the subject of the Kennedy assassination. Walter described a question and answer session following Lane's speech in the Tulane Student Union where about six hundred students were present and that Lane made some statement which prompted a student standing next to Walter to ask Walter if Walter had not been employed by the FBI at the time of the Kennedy assassination. This remark was overheard by a woman standing nearby who approached Walter, identifying herself as Mrs. Mark Lane and asked Walter if he might desire to speak to Mark Lane. Walter replied that he had no reason to talk with Lane.

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Walter related that he subsequently received a telephone call sometime in 1968 from an individual in District Attorney Garrison's Office and that this individual, believed by Walter to be an investigator by the name of Bertel, shortly thereafter met Walter at the corner of Claiborne and Carrollton Street. Walter related that other representatives from the District Attorney's Office arrived and that Mark Lane and his wife also appeared on the scene. Lane talked with Walter about his FBI employment, asking him if he was employed by the FBI in New Orleans in November, 1963. Walter replied that he was so employed. Lane suggested that Walter get in Lane's car where they could talk and that Walter observed that Lane probably had a tape recorder in the car. Lane replied that he did have a tape recorder in the car. Walter then excused himself and departed the area. Walter shortly thereafter left town and subsequently received a letter and a telephone call from Lane requesting that Walter contact Lane and that Walter at this point enlisted the services of Attorney Guy Wooten who telephonically contacted Mark Lane and suggested that Lane stop contacting Walter because Walter did not know anything that would assist Lane.

Walter stated that he does not have a copy of the wire communication in question, that he did not give a copy to Lane and that he does not know who would have such a copy.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Palmisano advised that he was present in U. S. Attorney LaCour's Office on the late afternoon of March 15, 1968, at which time there was also present U. S. Attorney LaCour, Assistant U. S. Attorney Connick and Attorney Guy Wooten and his client William Walter.

Wooten made an opening statement that Walter does not want to become involved in the Garrison inquiry and would like to stay out of it. U. S. Attorney LaCour requested that Walter start from the beginning.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Palmisano's recollection Walter stated that he resigned his FBI clerical position in New Orleans in 1966.

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Walter stated that he was on duty alone from 12:00 midnight to 8:00 AM on November 17, 1963 and that he recalls receiving a teletype which stated there would be an attempt on the life of President Kennedy in connection with his trip to Texas. Walter further stated that while he definitely remembers the receipt of such a teletype he does not have an independent recollection as to the action he took, but that he would normally telephonically contact the SAC and inform him of its contents. Mr. LaCour inquired if Walter would also advise the ASAC and Walter replied not unless it was a matter involving civil rights.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Palmisano stated he asked Walter where the teletype came from and that Walter replied it came from Washington. Mr. Palmisano stated that he does not recall if Walter made any specific mention regarding Dallas, but that he would definitely state that Walter used the word Texas. Mr. Palmisano asked Walter what action he would have taken after he talked with the SAC and that Walter replied that while he had no independent recollection he would normally have alerted Agents to contact informants to corroborate the allegation.

Walter then described his attendance at Tulane University during a campus speech made by Mark Lane and that Lane made some reference that the FBI has been checking out everything that Lane has been stating.

A nearby student friend asked Walter if it was Walter's job to check out Lane for the FBI and that Walter explained that he was a former FBI employee. A woman nearby then identified herself to Walter as Mrs. Mark Lane and suggested that Walter might talk with Mark Lane. Walter declined and Mrs. Lane stated that Mark Lane would like to talk with Walter because there is being made by Lane a concerted effort to contact former FBI employees.

Walter then described his absence from town and that upon his return to New Orleans he was informed by his landlord that one Bertel had been making an effort to contact Walter. The landlord gave Bertel's telephone number to Walter. The name Bertel according to Walter meant nothing to him and he called the number and was informed by Bertel that Bertel wanted to talk

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with Walter concerning information Walter had told to either Mark Lane or Mark Lane's wife. Walter met Bertel near the Tulane campus within a few minutes and that Bertel drove up accompanied by an unidentified investigator from the District Attorney's Office. Walter advised Bertel and his companion that he had no information of value and that immediately thereafter a third car, believed to be from the District Attorney's Office arrived and in a separate vehicle there arrived Mark Lane and his wife.

Lane apologized to Walter for the presence of so many individuals and stated that he had merely asked the District Attorney's Office to help him locate Walter and that he, Lane was not employed by the District Attorney's Office. Lane made a concerted effort to have Walter get into Lane's car and that Walter stated that Lane probably had a tape recorder in the car. Lane replied that he did have a tape recorder in the car but that he had none on his person. Lane opened up his coat to demonstrate that he did not possess a tape recorder on his body.

Walter informed Lane that he had no information concerning the teletype that Lane had indicated an interest in but stated that he actually lied to Lane in this respect because he had been carefully instructed by the FBI upon his departure from the Bureau not to divulge any information learned during his Bureau employment.

U. S. Attorney LaCour stated that Walter in the presence of Assistant U. S. Attorneys Connick, Palmisano, Attorney Wooten and himself that he did remember that he received a conference-type teletype during the hours that he worked from 12:00 midnight to 8:00 AM on November 17, 1963. Further, that Walter stated he recalled the teletype in effect announced there was to be an assassination attempt on the President in connection with his trip to Texas. Further, that Walter recalled making telephonic contact with SAC Waynor in order to inform him of the contents of the teletype. In response to the question as to what Walter did next, Walter stated he did not recall but that he would normally contact the SAC under these circumstances.

U. S. Attorney LaCour has no information to the effect that Walter is under subpoena by the District Attorney's Office,

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Orleans Parish, but that Wooten had held a telephone conversation with Garrison, date not known, and that Garrison indicated it is his intention to subpoena Walter.

LaCour stated that neither he, Connick nor Palmisano took any notes during the conference with Walter and Wooten and that this was because they wanted to let Walter talk. Further, LaCour stated that he did not question Walter about the information he had furnished to the Jacksonville Office of the FBI on February 1, 1968 or the New Orleans Office of the FBI on February 2, 1968.

The files of the New Orleans Division do not contain any teletype or communication of any nature such as that referred to by Walter.

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