



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

April 17, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

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

On February 12, 1969, Mr. WILLIAM C. MORTON, 172 Fernbrook Avenue, Wyncote, Pa., came to this office and advised that he had a problem and wanted to seek the assistance of this office. He advised that he had recently received a letter from his grandson, JAMES R. FRANKENBERRY, JR., who is currently an inmate of the Lewisburg Penitentiary. In this letter he urged Mr. MORTON or his wife to come visit him, and in the event he could not visit him, he was to request the FBI to visit.

Mr. MORTON said that his daughter married JAMES R. FRANKENBERRY, a highly successful advertising man in New York, many years ago, and this marriage ended in divorce.

The son, JAMES R. FRANKENBERRY, JR., developed into a problem child and had frequent contacts with the police throughout the United States. He subsequently enlisted in the Army, and Mr. MORTON believed he was discharged from the Army on psychiatric grounds. During a period of incarceration at Petersburg, Va., FRANKENBERRY was seriously injured in a boxing match, and it was necessary for his spleen to be removed. He was later transferred to the Federal Penitentiary at Danbury, Conn., where Mr. MORTON felt his grandson was still incarcerated. Mr. MORTON did not know the nature of his grandson's request but would appreciate the FBI visiting him.

Later in February 1969, Mr. MORTON again called this office and advised that he had received a letter from his daughter who reported visiting her son at Lewisburg Penitentiary and furnished a general evaluation of her son's

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mental instability. In this letter, which Mr. MORTON made available, Mrs. FRANKENBERRY indicated that her son had mentioned that he had been threatened by guards and she told him that if he is going to behave like that inside, how would he react on the outside? She said that her son had discussed seeing a Psychiatrist at the institution but did not wish to discuss the treatment. She was convinced that her son needed mental therapy. She mentioned that she learned that he is to be sent to the Federal Institution at Springfield, where he could receive this therapy. She also mentioned the fact that he has a compulsion to draw attention to himself and she had written a letter to the Warden to ask him to report to the Psychiatrist that she does not believe her son. Mrs. FRANKENBERRY included an article in her letter to her father which she had found in the "New York Times" and felt that it applied to her son. A copy of that article is attached.

**Question:** Our 22-year-old has a long history of lying in court, forging checks, and with girls. We have been out of court with him half a dozen times. He is very bright, but he never finished high school. Actually, he never finishes anything. He constantly talks about "big deals," but has never stayed on any job more than a week. He is very charming and gets what he wants from almost everyone, but at times we feel sure he does not know the difference between right and wrong. Will you please tell us what you know about this kind of problem and what can be done to help a person like this?

The behavior you describe, unfortunately, represents a rather common sickness. Its victims seem to have little ability to link cause and effect (the outcome of their acts). They are impulsive, easily influenced in destructive directions, do not generate normal anxiety in dangerous situations, have almost no tolerance for frustration or concern for the effect of their actions on others. Some therapists think that people suffering from this illness (known sometimes as sociopathy or psychopathy) have no conscience at all. Others think that they have a terrible, overburdening, castigating conscience, which they must rebel against in order to feel free.

In any case, the sociopathic person acts as if he had no feelings of guilt whatsoever, let alone any sense of responsibility for his antisocial behavior. Some psychiatrists feel that these people have an organic brain defect. This has never been substantiated, however. Others feel that the illness is due to early environmental conditions. Clearly, much more research is necessary to trace and understand the cause of this sickness. Unfortunately, as the law is usually more concerned with "justice" and "punishment" than with research and treatment, prisons are full of these people.

Treatment is at best difficult. Sociopathic people do not think they are sick and certainly don't think they need treatment. Therefore that most important ingredient, motivation, is lacking. If they are available for treatment, they are usually captive

patients in prison. Sometimes they go to psychiatrists as part of a bargain made with relatives, who won't support them unless they see a doctor. In treatment, their concern is usually with how to stay out of jail and how to become better con artists and manipulators.

Parents of children of any age with problems like this are best advised to set and keep absolute limits. They must not allow themselves to be charmed, bribed, or conned. They must be steadfast in refusing money, etc., for work not done. Without being vindictive or punishing, they must refuse to become a party to antisocial behavior. This, of course, is very difficult, and parents often need therapy themselves in order to act effectively.

Sometimes, when sociopathic charm, bullying, and manipulation do not work, the sociopathic individual becomes deeply depressed. And this is one of the rare occasions when he may be ready for constructive treatment.

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On March 11, 1969, JAMES R. FRANKENBERRY, JR., U. S. Penitentiary #35462-NE, was interviewed at his request, at which time he mentioned, among other things, that he has information that a DANIEL BARBIER was involved in the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. He said that BARBIER fired three shots at Kennedy from the Grassy Knoll area using an M-14 7.65 caliber. He said that this man has been traveling back and forth between Cuba and Sao Paulo, Brazil, for the past five years. Allegedly, BARBIER is now in East Germany being trained to kill the newly elected President of West Germany and maybe NATO officials. FRANKENBERRY further advised that he met BARBIER while serving in the U. S. Marine Corps at Fort Bragg, N. C. He does not know if that is his true name.

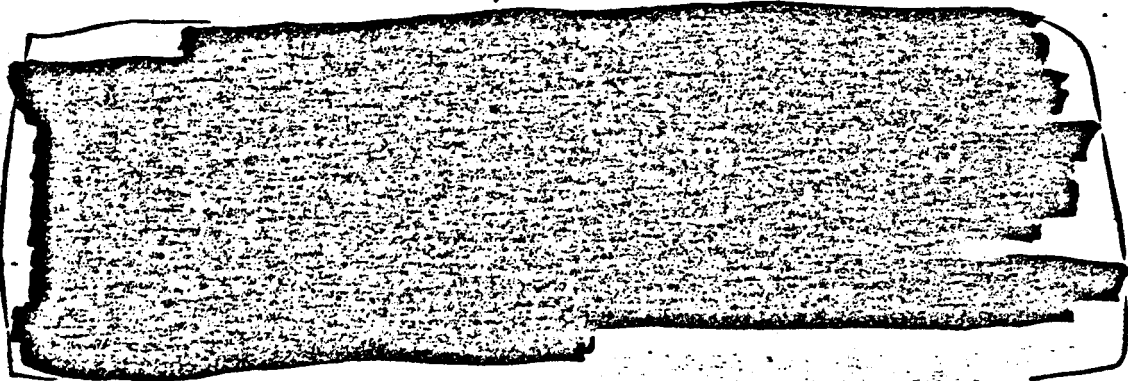
FRANKENBERRY stated he was out of prison from January 10, 1967, to February 19, 1967, having escaped from a half-way house in New York, and was working with a group of six others who in turn were related to a group called Citizens Inquiry. This group was investigating the killing of KENNEDY. He alleged that while in Houston, Texas, on February 8, 1968, he saw an 8 mm. film which had been stolen from the FBI. This film showed LEE HARVEY OSWALD running out of the Book Depository Building while shots were still being fired. According to the information at his disposal, FRANKENBERRY stated there were four men involved in the plot to kill KENNEDY. BARBIER and OSWALD were two. A third was a Police Sergeant from the Dallas Police Department, and the fourth was an unknown person. OSWALD was supposedly afraid of being caught and put three empty shell casings on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building, then waited on the first floor so he could make his escape.

The Police Sergeant was in an apartment building across the street and fired the first shot, which hit KENNEDY in the back. BARBIER fired the second shot, which hit KENNEDY in the throat, and the Sergeant fired the third shot, which hit Governor CONNELLY. The fourth and fifth shots were from BARBIER. The fourth hit KENNEDY in the back of the head and the fifth missed entirely.

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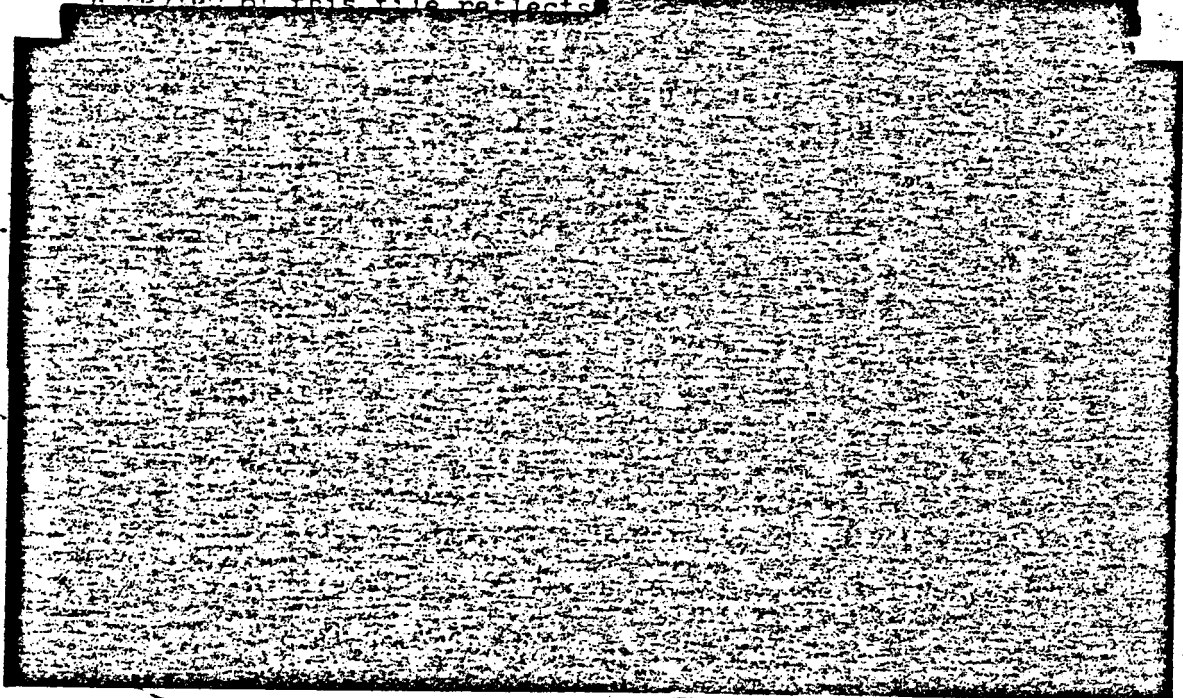
FRANKENBERRY stated that as OSWALD left the building, he was stopped and checked by the Police. By the time he got to the getaway car, BARBIER was already there. He drove OSWALD to his home and then walked to an address around the 500 block of Tenth Street. Two undercover agents dressed as Policemen came by OSWALD's house and beeped the horn twice to warn him that the Police Sergeant had instructed Officer TIPPETT to get OSWALD. The reason for this was that the Sergeant knew that OSWALD had not taken a shot at KENNEDY. FRANKENBERRY said that he assumed OSWALD was working for the FBI and that the two undercover men might have been FBI Agents.

Allegedly, OSWALD was to be at the Tenth Street address and TIPPETT went there looking for him. Finding BARBIER at this location, he asked him where OSWALD was. BARBIER told him that he was at the meeting place and TIPPETT radioed this information to someone else. He then started to get out of the car. BARBIER not knowing that OSWALD had not shot at KENNEDY, thought that TIPPETT was going to shoot either him or OSWALD and decided to shoot TIPPETT first. OSWALD in the meantime drove to the theatre rather than going to the Tenth Street address and was caught there by members of the Dallas Police Department.



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On March 11, 1969, [REDACTED] Clerk, Records  
Office, U. S. Penitentiary, made available the inmate file  
of JAMES ROBERT FRANKENBERRY, USP #35462-NE, FBI # 527 706 F.  
A review of this file reflects [REDACTED]



On March 14, 1969, [REDACTED] Staff  
Psychiatrist, U. S. Prison Hospital Service, U. S. Penitentiary,  
Lewisburg, Pa., advised he had examined FRANKENBERRY. He  
advised he considered him to be both paranoid and psychotic  
and to be schizophrenic, paranoid type. He advised FRANKENBERRY  
does not hallucinate openly, but does have feelings of  
persecution. He further stated FRANKENBERRY has a need  
to impress others, to be grandiose, to believe he is the  
only one who can clear up the mess the country is in.  
Further, he is convinced of the truth of what he says. [REDACTED]  
advised he feels FRANKENBERRY needs medication but will not  
accept any from the staff.

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On March 28, 1969, [REDACTED] was recontacted, at which time he mentioned that he had certified FRANKENBERRY was psychotic and that he plans to transfer him to the medical facility in Springfield, Mo., where there is sufficient staff available to treat him. [REDACTED] would rule out any credibility to a plot that FRANKENBERRY might report.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.