



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Los Angeles, California  
June 20, 1969

[REDACTED]  
On May 5, 1969, [REDACTED] Hollywood,  
California, and [REDACTED] also affiliated with [REDACTED]  
furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] explained he had been conducting an investi-  
gation in connection with [REDACTED]. He mentioned the names of [REDACTED]. He explained  
all of these men occupy a business address at [REDACTED] Beverly Hills, California, Room [REDACTED]. He  
stated that Arnoff was involved in the recent investigation  
conducted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's  
Office pertaining to [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also mentioned the name of one Eugene Brading,  
also known as Gene Brading and Jim Braden. According to  
[REDACTED] Brading on September 3, 1967, advised the Department  
of Motor Vehicles in California that he had legally changed  
his name to Jim Braden. Braden, according to [REDACTED] is  
personally known to Sheriff William Decker of Dallas, Texas, APPROX  
and was formerly run out of Dallas by Decker in 1952. [REDACTED]  
claimed that the last arrest on record for Braden was in  
1964 at which time he was charged with shoplifting.

[REDACTED] explained that Braden was present in Dallas,  
Texas on the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassi-  
nated, and was present in either the Texas Book Depository  
building, or a building across the street from it.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] went on to explain that one [REDACTED] was a friend and associate of Braden in Texas, and associated with the Magnolia Petroleum Company, and is now in Denver, Colorado. Both Braden and [REDACTED] were referred to by [REDACTED] as the "Lovebird Swindlers", and are known as such to Sheriff Decker of Texas.

[REDACTED] cited a situation whereby one Mrs. [REDACTED] a wealthy New Mexico widow, married [REDACTED] according to [REDACTED] married Mrs. [REDACTED] to get to get immense fortune. Braden and [REDACTED] were subsequently arrested by the FBI in New York City, where they were in the process of preparing another marriage scam. Both were returned to El Paso, Texas, where they stood trial in Federal Court, were found guilty, and sentenced to serve 12 years in the penitentiary. The case was appealed during which time both Braden and [REDACTED] were free on appeal bond, and during the investigation and or prosecution of these two men, Mrs. [REDACTED] divorced [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] the case was subsequently reviewed by the United States Supreme Court, and the conviction of Fereria reversed, presumably because of his marital status to Mrs. [REDACTED]. The conviction of Braden was allowed to stand, and he subsequently served a prison sentence in several federal institutions.

In approximately 1952, [REDACTED] married a Mrs. [REDACTED] who was the widow of the former president of the Magnolia Petroleum Company in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Braden was his best man at the wedding, following which all three went to Dallas, Texas, where they occupied a residence on Turtle Creek Road, in the University Park area of Dallas. According to [REDACTED] Braden is known to Forrest Keene, Chief of Police of the University Park, Texas Police Department.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In their investigation, [REDACTED] stated he and [REDACTED] have determined that Jim Braden is alleged to be running a gambling operation in Beverly Hills, California, presumably at [REDACTED] which is the office of [REDACTED]. They have determined that Braden renewed his California Driver's license in Oceanside, California in 1966. They have also determined that there is in existence the name of a company known as Empire Oil, which name was used by the Magnolia Petroleum Company, and the address given was [REDACTED] Room [REDACTED] again the offices of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] stated the files of Dun and Bradstreet reflect that Jim Braden is engaged in oil property leasing, and or managing, business, is married, and is in his mid 40's.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

With respect to the recent prosecutive activities conducted by District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans, Louisiana, [REDACTED] suggested that Garrison failed in his prosecutive efforts because the Eugene Bradley of North Hollywood, whom Garrison suspected was in reality Jim Braden, mentioned above, who has also used the alias of Gene Bradley.

[REDACTED] explained that on the day of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, in Dallas, Braden was present in that city, was interviewed by a Deputy Sheriff of the Dallas Sheriff's Office, at which time he advised that he had been in the Texas Book Depository building or some other building, attempting to make a telephone call.

[REDACTED]

Upon learning of the foregoing, [REDACTED] telephonically contacted Sheriff Bill Decker of Dallas, approximately one week ago, at which time Decker expressed surprise to be advised that Braden had been in Dallas on the day of the assassination. [REDACTED] desired to know if Jim Braden and Eugene Hale Brading were known to authorities to be one in the same person. No comment was made regarding that specific question.

On May 6, 1969, [REDACTED] had advised that the Eugene Hale Brading to whom he referred to on May 5, 1969, has FBI Number 799 431.

In addition to the foregoing, [REDACTED] was advised that his continuing investigation into the activities of Brading, who is now better known as Jim Braden, has developed that Empire Oil Company owns 50 percent of another firm known as Bonanza International. The base company is Empire Crude Oil Company and it is with this organization that Braden is currently affiliated.

He stated that the Empire Company apparently has an office at 3925 Oneida Street in Denver, Colorado. [REDACTED] explained his investigation is continuing since he is still of the opinion that Braden is the individual whom District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans, Louisiana, was referring to in his recent prosecution of Clay Shaw rather than Eugene Bradley of North Hollywood whom Garrison had insisted was the person he was looking for. [REDACTED] again reiterated his contention that Jim Braden was in some way involved in the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas in 1963.

On May 12, 1969, [REDACTED] again telephonically advised, on an extremely confidential basis, that he has spoken with [REDACTED] an investigator for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] subsequently contacted [redacted] and advised  
that he had interviewed [redacted]

On May 5, 1969, [redacted] furnished information which  
he alleged came from a source whom he described as [redacted]  
that information was to the effect that [redacted]

[redacted] again chose to discuss the Dallas, Texas,  
assassination of the late President Kennedy and stated with  
respect to Jim Braden that he, [redacted] had learned that Braden  
had an appointment with Lamar Hunt in Dallas on November 20,  
1963, and was scheduled to leave Dallas on November 21, 1963.

[redacted] also stated he learned from his [redacted]  
[redacted] that there is a midwest publishing house which  
prints the literature paid for and put out by H.L. Hunt of  
Hunt Foods.


[redacted] explained that in December 1968, former FBI Agent William Turner approached him in Los Angeles and attempted to sell to [redacted] the "Zapruter film". [redacted] at that time was skeptical and checked with the legal staff at [redacted] Los Angeles, California. One of the attorney's for [redacted] is also a lawyer for Life magazine and advised [redacted] that the "Zapruter film" is a copyright document owned by Life magazine publication and that Turner very possibly did not have legal possession which would permit [redacted] Los Angeles, to exhibit it. [redacted] learned later that [redacted] ran the "Zapruter film", but it was not adaptable for TV.

At about that time, Turner advised [redacted] that he had sent one Jim Rose (a Turner associate) to [redacted] Beverly Hills, California, in an attempt to locate Braden. While there, Rose was allegedly told that Braden was not in town and was not expected back for a month. Rose obtained the names of the occupants of the building from the building directory which includes [redacted] and [redacted], three of the individuals previously mentioned by [redacted] on May 5, 1969.

[redacted] explained that Turner's price for the sale of the "Zapruter film" to him was to be installed as an investigator for [redacted] [redacted] explained that [redacted] had eliminated their investigative staff approximately two years ago and no longer has such an organization. [redacted] did not negotiate with Turner for the film based upon legal advice from the studio's attorney.

He stated that Turner also advised that Braden had been in Dallas, Texas, and had moved to Los Angeles from that city shortly after the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy.

[redacted] claims to have been in contact with Robert Finch, current Secretary of Health and Welfare. Concerning his beliefs regarding Braden, he explained that Finch is extremely concerned with the various militant groups functioning throughout the United States since Hew is responsible for the funding money for the programs under the auspices of the Federal Government.

 The "Zapruter film" referred to herein is the movie film taken of the presidential motorcade in Dallas in December 1963, by Abraham Zapruter which was reportedly sold to Life magazine.