

RIGHTISTS' BLAME IN KILLING DENIED

Kennedy Critic Sees Move
to Shift Responsibility

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MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Dec. 7—

The man whose name was signed to an advertisement critical of President Kennedy, appearing in a Dallas newspaper the morning of the day the President was assassinated, is a 26-year-old unemployed salesman, Bernard Weissman.

In an interview today, Mr. Weissman described himself as a "patriot" and a "conservative."

He said that he had been impressed by the thinking of Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, but belonged to no political organizations, right-wing or otherwise.

A tall, neatly dressed young man with dark curly hair, Mr. Weissman spoke confidently. His conversation was sprinkled with such phrases as "internal Communist menace" and "betrayal of national sovereignty."

Never Met Oswald

"I was truly shocked at the President's death," Mr. Weissman declared. "But I was even more shocked by the fact that many people kept blaming the conservatives even when it had been established that a Communist was the assassin."

He said he had never met either Lee H. Oswald, who is accused of murdering the President, or Jack Ruby, Oswald's killer.

Mr. Weissman said that the money to pay for the advertisement, which cost \$1,464, had been collected among "people of conservative persuasion" in Dallas. He declined to identify them, except to say that several might have been members of the John Birch Society.

The advertisement, with the headline "Welcome Mr. Kennedy," occupied a full page of The Dallas Morning News on Nov. 22. It addressed 11 questions to the President, including this one:

"Why have you ordered or permitted your brother Bobby, the Attorney General, to go soft on Communists while permitting him to persecute loyal Americans who criticize you, your Administration, and your leadership?"

Until today, Mr. Weissman had told his story to only a few friends and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He was interviewed at his father's apartment on South Columbus Avenue, just over the Westchester County line from

the Bronx.

The father, Harry Weissman, is an electrician; his wife died several years ago.

"I've been interested in politics since I was 15 years old," Bernard Weissman said. "But like most Americans, I did nothing about it. Then, two years ago, I was drafted, and things began to change."

Trained as a military policeman, he was assigned to the 508th M.P. Battalion at McGraw Kaserne in Munich, Germany. He was a private first class.

"A bunch of us got together and found that we thought alike," Mr. Weissman recalled. "We all thought the United States was acting like a weak sister, not the strongest nation in the world. We thought it was disgusting and we decided

to try to do something about it when we got out."

"I never knew I was a conservative until I got to Germany," he said.

Mr. Weissman agreed to meet two of the men in Dallas after they were discharged. One was William Burley, also a military policeman; the other was Larrie B. Schmidt, a public relations officer.

Liked Warm Climate

"We chose Dallas," he said, "because we thought the business opportunities were good there—we had to make some money—because it was warm, and because it had a reputation for conservatism."

Mr. Weissman returned to the United States in August and moved in with his father. He had been separated from his wife, Jane, several months before.

He got a job selling books. He describes himself as "a professional salesman" after being graduated from high school and before going into the service; he sold costume jewelry, encyclopedias, typewriters and correspondence courses.

"As I read the papers," Mr. Weissman said, "I got more and more upset. Especially by the test ban treaty, which I considered another example of jeopardizing the national security for the sake of being called Mr. Nice Guy."

Then at the end of October, Adlai Stevenson was hit by a picket in Dallas. Larrie was there, and he called me and told me about it. He said the liberal newspapers were smearing him, calling him a radical rightist. He said he needed help."

Mr. Weissman and Mr. Burley, who had joined him in Mount Vernon, decided to go to Dallas. With about \$300 between them, they drove there and on Nov. 5 rented an unfurnished apartment on Reiger Street.

Both took jobs as salesmen for Carpet Engineers, Inc., a rug company. Mr. Schmidt, by then a Dallas insurance man and a member of Young Americans for Freedom, a conservative group, introduced them to his friends.

"We knew the President was coming, and we wanted to do something," Mr. Weissman said. "We knew a protest demonstration was out, after what had happened to Stevenson, so we hit upon the idea of the ad."

Mr. Weissman declined to name any of the other people involved. There's going to be a terrible witch-hunt in Dallas," he declared, "and I don't want to involve them. It would just make trouble."