

Date 11/27/63

RALPH LEON YATES, 13564 Brockgreen, Dallas, Texas, voluntarily appeared at the Dallas FBI Office, accompanied by his uncle, Mr. J. O. SMITH, 13770 Sprucewood, Dallas, Texas, and furnished the following information:

YATES stated that he is employed as a refrigeration service-man for the Texas Dutcher Supply Company, Dallas, Texas, and in connection with this employment was driving a pickup truck on E. L. Thornton Expressway at approximately 10:30 AM on either November 20 or 21, 1963. He stated he noticed a man hitchhiking at approximately the Beckley Street entrance to the E. L. Thornton Expressway, and he had stopped and picked up the man.

YATES said after seeing photographs and television pictures of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, he is of the opinion that this man was identical with OSWALD.

He continued that when the man walked up to get into the pickup truck, he was carrying a package wrapped in brown wrapping paper about 4 feet to 4½ feet long. He said he told this man he could put the package in the back of the truck, but the man said that the package contained curtain rods and he would carry it with him in the cab of the truck.

YATES stated as they drove along, the man had asked him if he knew a certain party, whose name YATES cannot recall now, and he had indicated to this man he did not. He said the man then asked if he had ever been to the Carousel Club and YATES had replied that he had serviced refrigerators in the past in a number of clubs and that possibly he had been to this one, but he did not recall.

YATES said that he had said to the man that there was going to be a lot of excitement in Dallas soon, referring to the President's visit, and the man had asked YATES what he meant. He said he replied that the President was coming to Dallas, but that he personally felt that the President should not come in view of the ABERNETHY STEVENSON incident which had occurred previously.

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on 11/26/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
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 by Special Agent BRN S. HARRISON /rmb Date dictated 11/26/63

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YATES stated the man then asked YATES if he thought a person could assassinate the President. YATES replied that he guessed such a thing could be possible. The man then asked YATES if it could be done from the top of a building or out of a window, high up, and YATES said he guessed this was possible if one had a good rifle with a scope and was a good shot.

YATES advised about this time the man pulled out a picture which showed a man with a rifle and asked YATES if he thought the President could be killed with a gun like that one. YATES said he was driving and did not look at the picture but indicated to the man that he guessed so.

YATES said that the man then asked if he knew the President's route for the parade in Dallas and YATES replied that he did not know the route but that it had been in the paper. He said the man then said that he had misunderstood him and that actually he had asked YATES if he thought that the President would change his route. YATES said he replied that he doubted it unless they might for safety reasons.

He said as they approached downtown Dallas, the man indicated that he was going on Houston Street and that although he was going to Irving, he told the man he would drive off the expressway and to Houston Street and let him out there, then would go back to the expressway. YATES said he went off the Expressway on Commerce Street, turned off of Commerce on Houston, drove north on Houston and let the man off on the corner of Elm and Houston Streets.

He said he saw the man cross Elm Street, but does not know where he went from there. He said that as the man got out of the truck, he recalled him saying something about the Triple Underpass, but cannot recall exactly what was said.

YATES stated that he had mentioned this incident to another employee at the Texas Butcher Supply Company, one DEMPSEY JONES, prior to the time that the President was assassinated.

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YATES stated that the man he thought was identical with LEE HARVEY OSWALD whom he had picked up was a white male, approximately 5'9" tall, slender, with dark eyebrows and hair. He could furnish no additional identifying data.

YATES stated he is married and has five children and that he would appreciate not receiving any type publicity from the fact he was furnishing this information.

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5/11/79