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In March of 1971, I made a presentation on the photographic evidence of the JFK assassination at the University of Victoria on Victoria Island in British Columbia, Canada. Since I had to pass through Seattle, Washington on the way to Victoria, I contacted an assassination researcher friend named Jim Gochenour, to arrange a meeting with him on my way out. Jim told me on the phone he had something very important that he wanted to tell me and could not discuss it on the phone. On March 29 I met him and one of his close assassination research friends at the Seattle airport, where they blew my mind with the story that follows.

I should preface this story by telling you that Jim was then a student at the University of Washington, and so was his friend. There were many assassination research groups at that time on university campuses, and Washington had a good sized one. My presentations were made to many university groups in those years, and I got to know people like Jim very well. Jim was living in a rooming house on the campus, that was either owned or managed by Carver Gatén. Gatén was on the administrative staff of the University, and I believe had something official to do with student housing.

Gochenour told me the following story, which was backed up 100% by his friend who had been privy to the entire episode.

Carver Gatén had been visiting with a group of students at Jim's house one night, and had a little bit to drink. He told all of them this story.

Gatén had been an FBI agent in Kansas City at the same time that James Hosty was stationed there. You may remember that J. Edgar Hoover transferred Hosty to Kansas City after the assassination as a punishment. K.C. was like Siberia for FBI agents. Gatén said that he and Hosty were fast friends in K.C. and that Hosty unburdened himself to Gatén. Hosty told Gatén that Oswald was a paid informant for the FBI, and that Oswald reported to Hosty in Dallas as his control agent. He said Oswald had been reporting regularly to Hosty, every two weeks or so, on the activities of the group that were planning to assassinate the President. He had missed his regular reporting date by some days, and Hosty went to where Marina and Oswald were staying to check up on him. Hosty did not know about Oswald's other room in Oak Cliff, at that time. After the assassination, Hosty was told to get rid of any records pertaining to Oswald. His boss, Shanklin, told him to destroy the message that Oswald had left for him. We can surmise that it was not a threat to blow up the police station, or the FBI office, but rather that it pertained to Oswald's latest information on the assassination plans.

After Gochenour told me this story, which, as I said earlier, was backed up by several people who heard Gatén tell it, I promised to try and do something about it. I returned and told Bud Fensterwald about it. There was no official body to talk to, then, unless one wanted to trust the FBI or some other government agency. Bud could do nothing and no one could until the creation of the HSCA five years later. No one had asked Hosty about it, or Gatén. The first thing I told Richard A. Sprague when he hired me as consultant to the HSCA was this story. He assigned Bob Tanenbaum and Cliff Fenton to follow it up. I gave them all of the information from Jim Gochenour and his phone number. By that time he was in Minnesota, his original home. Tanenbaum called him and Jim repeated the exact same story to Bob. Bob then called Gatén who was still at the university, and Gatén denied the whole thing, saying he did not know Gochenour.

The HSCA were then in the throes of fighting to get back their subpoena power, and to get enough funding to be able to send investigators into the field. They did have enough money to pay expenses for witnesses to travel to Washington, so they brought Gochenour back, and took his deposition, under oath. If they had been able to continue, they would have taken depositions from the rest of the people who had been there that night. Then they would have subpoenaed Gatén, and sweated the truth out of him. Hosty would have been next, probably with some form of immunity and protection, to keep him from being killed. As it turned out, the CIA got rid of both Sprague and Tanenbaum. Blakey never called Gochenour, Gatén or any of Gochenour's friends who knew the story. That is where the matter rests today. A very sad chapter.

Dick