

12-13-73

EUGENE HALE BRADING; SUSPECT

Written and copyrighted by Earl Golz, Dallas

Continued from last week

Ruby told Warren Commission investigators he drove a young woman, Connie Trammell, to the Mercantile Securities Building here for a job interview with Hunt the morning of Nov. 21. He said he attended to some tax matters with his attorney in the same building while Miss Trammell went up to the Hunt offices.

The Warren Report also relates that Ruby met the evening of Nov. 21 with friends from Chicago in the Bon Vivant Club of the same Cabana Hotel where Brading and Brown were staying. The Brading-Brown suite faced what would have been Kennedy's parade route up Stemmons Freeway the next day, had the President not been killed.

Hotel records show that 39 local telephone calls were made from the hotel suite Nov. 21-22. Two long distance calls were recorded - one to a Mobile, Ala., oil well driller and a one-minute person-to-person call the night of Nov. 21 to an unpublished number in Houston. Most likely these were not Brading's calls, says an associate, because he never makes calls from anything but a pay phone, no matter how lavishly he is living otherwise.

Hotel records also show Brown checked out of the hotel at 2:01 p.m. on Nov. 22, while Brading was waiting to be interrogated in the sheriff's office.

Federal parole records do not determine the whereabouts of Brading from the afternoon of Nov. 22 to the afternoon of Nov. 26, when he checked with the Houston U. S. Probation Office.

In the interim, Oswald was apprehended after allegedly shooting to death Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit, and Ruby shot Oswald to death in the basement of the Dallas Police Department.

Brading's parole officer in Los Angeles, Sam Barrett, had told him he had permission to travel for 10 days in Texas, leaving Nov. 20, on oil business. He was to go directly to Dallas and remain there until Nov. 25, when he was to go to

Houston and then to Opelousas, La., according to Barrett's instructions. Barrett said the Dallas probation office reported that Brading had "promised to notify us of his departure from Dallas unless this should occur over the weekend (Nov. 23-24). We told him if this should occur then he might check in with Mr. Lawrence Miggins in Houston on Monday, Nov. 25."

Barrett said Brading in November, 1963, "had expressed a kind of contempt" for Brown over a losing financial transaction with him and "wanted as little to do with him as possible." The parole officer said he was surprised to learn they traveled together to Dallas on Nov. 21 and shared the same hotel suite. He also noted, however, that traveling with Brown may have been cause for revoking Brading's parole.

An FBI agent who handles post-assassination developments was most intrigued that Brown checked out for Brading and himself while Brading was still waiting to be interrogated in the sheriff's office.

If Brading and his compatriots were involved in a shady deal in Dallas, unconnected with the assassination, they may have wanted to flee the area with all the lawmen converging on Dallas, the agent said. On the other hand, he could imagine them sitting tight in Dallas until their planned departure on Nov. 24 because any shady deal would probably go undetected with the police totally preoccupied with the assassination.

The FBI's mission, the agent said, was to "disprove any connection at all with the assassination" with people they interviewed. Brading was no exception, he said. "We found absolutely nothing whatsoever that connects this guy with the assassination."

Parole officer Barrett said he also was surprised to learn that Donald D. Ford, a vice-president of J. Paul Getty's Tidewater Oil Co. offices in Houston did not remember nor had records of any contact with Brading when Brading traveled to Houston on September 15, 1963.

(Continued)