

DL 100-10461

RJB/jtf

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The President's Commission on the Assassination of President KENNEDY by letter dated August 28, 1964, requested investigation be conducted in order to determine the reputation for veracity of SYLVIA ODIO. Miss ODIO has previously furnished information to the President's Commission regarding a visit to her apartment around the latter part of September, 1963, of three individuals, one of whom she believes to have been LEE HARVEY OSWALD and two other men whom she does not know but who identified themselves to her as members of the Cuban underground movement.

In its efforts to resolve this question of the true identity of the American individual, who had visited her apartment on the night in question and whom Miss ODIO believes was OSWALD, the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has researched its files in an effort to identify any particular individual who might have been in the Dallas area during the period in question in an effort to determine whether it was possibly someone other than OSWALD who appeared with the two men at Miss ODIO's apartment.

The records of the Dallas Office of the FBI reflect that one LORAN EUGENE HALL was arrested by the Dallas Police Department on October 17, 1963, on a charge of investigation for violation of the Dangerous Drug Law. HALL was arrested in the company of WILLIAM HOUSTON SEYMOUR. Subsequent investigation determined that LORAN EUGENE HALL has been active in the anti-CASTRO movement and in 1963 had travelled between Miami, Florida, and Los Angeles, California, making speeches and soliciting funds to finance Cuban exile raids.

In mid-1963, HALL left the Los Angeles area and became active in the organization known as the "Committee to Free Cuba", which is described as a group attempting to raise funds to channel to any legitimate organization attempting to overthrow FIDEL CASTRO.

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The FBI interpreted the belated request of the Commission to be for an inquiry into Sylvia Odio's "reputation for veracity" rather than of the affair of The False Oswald. The investigation was too late for the Commission's consideration. The FBI reports reached it after the Report was issued. However, in even this evasive language, we learn that the FBI Dallas office had the arrest records on Hall and Seymour. It would also seem that the Dallas police and DA should have had information bearing on Mrs. Odio's statements. There are indications the FBI had information other than included in the reports in File 1553, which follows. The FBI "researched its files", apparently for the first time, 10 months after the assassination, which is one way to learn how, why and by whom the President was murdered.

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On November 11, 1963, Dallas T-1, who is acquainted with various individuals active in anti-CASTRO activities in the Miami area, advised that HALL and WILLIAM HOUSTON SEYMOUR visited Dallas, Texas, in October, 1963, to collect financial donations under the guise of representing an anti-CASTRO organization.

An associate of HALL's is LAWRENCE HOWARD, a soldier of fortune, who also uses the nicknames of "LARRY" and "MEXICAN". HOWARD is described as an individual of Mexican-American descent who, during the summer of 1963, went with HALL to California.

It is noted that SYLVIA ODIO has advised that she believes that the two "Cubans", who accompanied the individual she believes to have been OSWALD to her apartment in September, 1963, were not actually Cubans, but possibly Mexicans.

ODIO has previously noted that the individual she believes was OSWALD spoke only a few words in Spanish to her.

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Note that 11 days prior to the assassination, the FBI knew about the activities of Hall and Seymour, knew they were in Dallas at approximately the time given by Mrs. Odio, and did nothing about it. It also knew of their arrest. Despite the contrary pretense on the next page, it also knew before this was written that police pictures had been taken. It is a fairly safe presumption that the CIA also knew about Hall, Seymour and their arrest. There is no reference to this in the Report. Howard also is correctly identified. If the FBI was lacking in suspicion, this report notes that Howard "uses" the nickname "Mexican" and that Mrs. Odio identified the two men with "Oswald" as Mexicans. Yet nothing was done about this for 10 months, when the FBI evaded and misrepresented, as File 1553 shows.

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent RICHARD J. BURNETT:

An inquiry was made at the Records Bureau of the Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas, on September 15, 1964, to obtain photographs of LORAN EUGENE HALL and WILLIAM HOUSTON SEYMOUR, who were reportedly arrested by the Dallas Police Department on charges of investigation for violation of the Dangerous Drug Law.

Miss JUDY HAHN, Clerk, Records Bureau, Dallas Police Department, advised on that date that her records do not indicate that either HALL or SEYMOUR were photographed by this department at the time of their arrest on October 17, 1963. Miss HAHN checked with the Identification Division of the Dallas Police Department and was advised that they have no record of either HALL or SEYMOUR having been photographed by this department in the past.

On September 21, 1963, LLOYD SANDERS, Identification Division, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Dallas, Texas, advised that his files contain no reference to either HALL or SEYMOUR.

On September 18, 1964, Mrs. MARJORIE RIGBY, Assistant Manager, Crestwood Apartments, 1080 Magellan Circle, Dallas, advised that her records do not indicate that anyone with the surname of "FERRER", "FERROR" or similarly spelled surname was residing in this apartment development during September, 1963. Mrs. RIGBY stated that the rental records of this development are not kept by apartment numbers or street address, but simply by the name of the renter. She stated that a person by the surname of "FERRER", or similar name, could well have been living with some other tenant, and such information would not have been known to her office.

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The Dallas police do have all these records on the arrest, as the subsequent reports show. Note the care of the FBI to guarantee to the degree it could that it would not get the existing evidence: it asked a clerk not whether the police had the pictures but whether her records so indicated, when the FBI was on a first-name basis with all the top police brass; it sought nothing else from the police; what it should have asked of the police, who had the data, it asked instead of the sheriff's office, which did not; and it did not ask Henry Wade, District Attorney and former FBI man, who knew all about it. This is not the normal level of FBI performance, but it is the way it investigated, if that is the word, the murder of President John Kennedy.

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HENRY WADE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DALLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202

January 16, 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

re: Loran Eugene Hall
&
William Houston Seymour

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I received your letter of January 12, 1967, in regard to the above subjects.


I have no recollection of ever having talked to either man. There are no records in my office of any charges having been filed against either. Having no records in my department, I would therefore, have nothing in regard to their arrests.

I had one of my Investigators check the records division of the Dallas Police Department and he was told that Loran Eugene Hall, a white male, date of birth January 4, 1930 and William Houston Seymour a white male date of birth January 12, 1937, were both arrested by the Dallas Police Department on October 17, 1963 and were released by that department with no charges having been filed.

Any information or records that you would desire would have to come from the Dallas Police Department.

If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely yours,


HENRY WADE
Criminal District Attorney
Dallas Police Department

HW/ms/mp

District Attorney Wade would certainly have confirmed to the FBI what he did to me. The police do have the records, as the FBI knew. The obvious explanation is that the FBI did not want the records. I followed Wade's advice and wrote the police. The reply is like no other I have ever received: a rubber stamp.

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Hyattstown, Maryland 20734

January 21, 1967

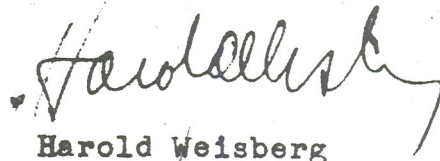
Chief of Police
Dallas Police Department
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

On or about October 17, 1963, Loran Eugene Hall and William Houston Seymour were arrested in Dallas on a dangerous drug charge. They were thereafter photographed, both "mug" and Polaroid pictures being taken. Bail was posted and ultimately the charges were dropped.

I am writing to ask for copies of all the records, including pictures, in this case. If you will be kind enough to tell me the cost, I will send you a check by return mail.

Yours truly,



Harold Weisberg

The files of the Dallas Police Department are confidential and cannot be released except to law enforcement agencies.

Chas. Batchelor
Chief of Police



G. M. Doughty, Captain

Identification Bureau

JAN 26 1967

At least we know these files would have been available to the FBI, if the assurance of Captain Doughty is needed. It is obvious that police do make information on arrests public, particularly the Dallas police, if the Report is to be believed.

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