

10/1/01

cc: Congressional Records, FO request appellee - Carroll Jennings 4/7/9

The attached Brennan to Sullivan (FOIA) 2/21/07 memo is a third-hand report of a phone conversation I had with Malcolm Kilduff, who had been a White House press secretary under J.F.K. This record, which bears an interesting mark, the copy from the file that cannot be read and any other copies and any records of any distribution and/or distribution copies or versions should have been provided in response to my FO request but none was.

From what I have observed of FOI practice, and particularly considerings the highly-advise array of top FBI brass to whom this was written, the information in such form would have been communicated to at least Willis and New Orleans, neither of which offices provided any relevant record under FOA.

That such inconsequential information, if true, was worth the time of so many top officials, is not easy to believe. This leads me to wonder if there was any other record of any kind relating to the call from the secret service.

All that is attributed to me is "that the New Orleans reports are true" and that I offered "Kilduff" access to my own "information along their lines." Which report out of New Orleans? Along what line? There was no dearth of contradictory reports from New Orleans and no shortage of inconsistent lines. This kind of news does not appear to represent the best FBI reporting and I do not see how my Mayor of New York could have known what was being talked about - if I had said that, nor do I see how any one could have failed to take inquiry to learn what I might have said that "nothing does not say."

This also was two months prior to my first trip to New Orleans.

I had but one conversation with Kilpatrick that I recall. It related to the Manchester book from which the Kennedy family had not yet disengaged itself. Although Mr. J. Kennedy appears to have commanded Kilpatrick's respect the actual purpose of my call to Kilpatrick was to encourage him to use any influence he had to lend to the disengagement of the President's family from the work. After I explained my reasons Kilpatrick was silent for a moment then told me he would go to New York in a few days, that nobody would know where he would be staying, and how I could reach him. My response was that I had no purpose other than the one I had accomplished, of giving him this Manchester information, and would have no need to get in touch with him. (When Bruce Salinger wrote an article to Charles Roberts propaganda Salinger was hardly the one to ignore.)

Possibly Kilpatrick asked no questions about his origins but I had no Garrison pipeline. Without doubt I offered him access to other information, related to the Manchester book, on which I had done much research and was to do more. So, I'm surprised that nothing about the actual conversation or its purpose is in this memo and am further inclined to believe there should be other versions and/or memo.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

OM : D. J. Brennan, Jr.

JECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

1 - Loach  
1 - Mr. Rosen

DATE: 2/21/67

1 - Mr. Wick  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Branigan  
1 - Liaison  
1 - Mr. Bartlett

Assistant to the Director Burrill Peterson, U. S. Secret Service, telephoned Liaison Supervisor Bartlett on 2/21/67 and made reference to the recent articles in the press coming out of New Orleans, Louisiana, alleging new information would be forthcoming concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Peterson said that Secret Service Director James J. Rowley received a telephone call on 2/20/67 from Malcolm Kilduff, who was Assistant Press Secretary to the President and was the Acting Press Secretary at Dallas, Texas, on 11/22/63. (Kilduff is now a partner in the public relations firm of Horton & Kilduff, Washington, D. C.). Kilduff reported that he had received a telephone call from Harold Weisberg, Damascus, Maryland, the author of "Whitewash I" and "Whitewash II," two books on the assassination critical of the Warren Commission Report. Weisberg told Kilduff that the New Orleans reports are true and that he was in possession of information along this line if Kilduff desired to review it. Kilduff made no commitment to Weisberg.

Mr. Peterson said Secret Service planned no action, and Kilduff was taking no action and that he was passing on this information to the Bureau for any action we desired.

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For information.

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