

James W. Galleher
CD 1107: 1104-7

1/25/69
Harold Weisberg

The enclosed, above-cited FBI reports are in some respects equivocal, but whether or not they are a faithful reproduction of what Galleher said, they are inconsistent with his recent representation of it, particularly with regard to the dates. Rather than the Labor Day weekend there is specific identification of the Veterans-Day weekend. The check of the harbor master and the Heidelberg should reveal which weekend Galleher was there.

In this connection I refer to Paul Hoch's earlier letter to Bethell and his current rephrasing, addressed to Sciambra. It does not eliminate the possibility Oswald was in Baton Rouge or could have been that day, but it does diminish the likelihood.

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This investigation is predicated upon information furnished by JAMES W. GALLAHER to the effect that a statement had been made at the Capitol House Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, between November 10-12, 1963, that "If we can't put a man in by ballot, we'll get rid of this one with a 30-30."

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During the latter part of November, 1963, James W. Gallaher, who is employed as an engineer on the SS Point Montara, of Wilmington, Delaware, advised William J. Boudr Vice Consul, Department of State, Hamilton, Bermuda, of the following information:

While the SS Point Montara was docked at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, over the Veteran's Day weekend, 1963, James W. Gallaher resided at the Heidelberg Hotel in Baton Rouge. One day, either November 10, 11, or 12, 1963, Gall went across the street to a hotel called the Capitol House to purchase some reading matter. While looking through magazines at the hotel lobby stand, he overheard four men speaking at the nearby coffee counter. One of these men said distinctly, "If we can't put a man in by ballot, we'll get rid of this one with a 30-30." The four men were well-dressed, seemingly politicians or businessmen. Mr. Gallaher stated that he could identify one of these men who was wearing a Stetson hat at the time. He said that this declaration drew his attention to the conversation but then he could recall nothing more of it. Upon hearing of the assassination of President while in Bermuda, he recalled the above information and decided he should report it.

On December 31, 1963, individuals who are employed at the Jack Tar Capitol House Hotel, Baton Rouge, and who requested that their identities not be divulged, and who had furnished insufficient information in the past to determine reliability, were interviewed concerning the statement allegedly made by an unknown individual in the Coffee Shop of the hotel on either November 10, 11, or 12, 1963. All of the persons interviewed advised that they did not overhear any such remarks but that a number of politicians do gather in the lobby and the coffee shop of the hotel and did make statements in opposition to the Kennedy Administration.

The persons interviewed pointed out that the weekend of November 9-12, 1963, was immediately following the

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first Democratic Primary in which deLesseps S. Morrison and John McKeithen were the two candidates for Governor for the State of Louisiana, who were successful in reaching the second Democratic primary. These individuals pointed out that if such a remark had been made by anyone in the coffee shop it could have related to the Governor's race or any other local election.

Photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald were exhibited to each of the persons interviewed, and each recognized this photograph as being that of Oswald because of recent publicity, but all stated Oswald had never, to their knowledge, been at the Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge.

It was determined from the interviews of individuals that the following persons wear Stetson Hats:

Senator A. O. Rappelet, Assumption, Terrebonne and LaFourche Parishes, registered at the Capitol House Hotel, November 12, 1963;

Representative Jessie McLane, St. Tammany Parish, registered at the Capitol House Hotel for November 9, 11, and 12, 1963;

Senator A. C. Gilbert, Catahoula, Franklin, and Richland Parishes, not registered during pertinent period;

Representative J. E. Jumonville, Iberville Parish, not registered during period;

Senator Sylvan Freidman, Natchitoches Parish, not registered during pertinent period;

Senator Henry N. Kimball, Iberville Parish, not registered during pertinent period;

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Senator Cecil Blair, Rapides Parish, not registered during pertinent period;

Representative T. J. Struther, Allen Parish, not registered during pertinent period.

It was determined that although several of the above persons were not registered during the pertinent period at the Capitol House Hotel, they could have been at the hotel during the day without being registered at the hotel. It was further determined that any of the individuals could have made a statement in opposition to the Kennedy Administration, but none of these persons would have considered utilizing violence in supporting their opposition to the Kennedy Administration.