UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: January 31, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: DON B. REYNOLDS
INFORMATION REGARDING CASE
INVOLVING ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

On 1-22-64, Mr. Walter Jenkins at the White House furnished information that Don Reynolds, an unscrupulous insurance agent in Silver Spring, Maryland, is alleged to have made the following statements: That President Johnson was soon to be impeached and that the Director had collected sufficient data to prove Johnson was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. That Governor Connally of Texas had been an accomplice of President Johnson in the assassination and that Clint Murchison had kept Oswald in a Dallas hotel for several days prior to the assassination. The Director instructed that Reynolds be interviewed at once and "make him put up or shut up."

On 1-24-64, Reynolds was finally located and interviewed by Agents of the Washington Field Office in the presence of his attorney in Silver Spring, Maryland. He admitted knowing the FBI had been seeking to interview him the previous day but wanted to wait until his attorney was present. Reynolds was confronted with the allegations attributed to him and he gave the following answers:

He denied having told anyone that President Johnson was going to be impeached. He stated he may have said a hundred years ago we had a President Johnson who missed impeachment by one vote. Reynolds stated, to the best of his knowledge and recollection, he has never made the statement to anyone that the FBI has information, evidence or data in its possession which would prove President Johnson was implicated in the assassination of President Kennedy.

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Reynolds, when asked if he had any facts to support his observations and opinions previously furnished concerning the death of President Kennedy, stated he did not and that his opinions were based on inferences

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan

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which he drew from conversations and hearsay and that he had nothing further to add concerning the assassination.

During this interview, Reynolds said he has no substantiation whatsoever but he had been told while Governor Connally of Texas was in Washington, D. C., and Lee Harvey Oswald was residing in the YMCA in Dallas, Texas, Oswald was supposed to have received long-distance calls. Reynolds stated he was not told these long-distance calls were from Connally or from Washington, D. C., but the implication left with him was that Oswald might have had calls from Connally.

This information was immediately furnished to our Dallas Office so it could be checked out. Dallas advises that investigation at the YMCA where Oswald is known to have stayed on the night of October 3-4, 1963, reveals no telephones in the rooms and no records were kept of long-distance calls made to the YMCA, and further, guests were not permitted to make long-distance calls out.

On 1/27/64, Mr. Jenkins at the White House was furnished a copy of the results of Reynolds' interview.

Inasmuch as Reynolds, on interview, stated he does not know who furnished the information to him relating to Governor Connally calling Oswald and he is in possession of no facts whatsoever to support this, no effort has been made to determine the whereabouts of Governor Connally during the period of October 3-4, 1963.

The interview of Reynolds points up the fact he is an opinionated rumor-monger who apparently gets satisfaction out of spreading deliberate exaggerated stories.

ACTION:

In view of Reynolds' uncontrollable tongue, we will alert the President's Commission to the allegations attributed to Reynolds, furnish it with a copy of his interview, and also advise that we have not ascertained the whereabouts of Governor Connally on October 3-4, 1963. If you approve, the attached letter will be sent to Mr. Rankin.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. McGrath
1 - Mr. Rogge

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan

January 31, 1964

UNREC

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I have just recently received unconfirmed information alleging Don B. Reynolds, a Silver Spring, Maryland, insurance agent, had made various statements relating to the assassination of the late President Kennedy. One of the statements attributed to him alleges that President Lyndon B. Johnson, as well as Governor Connally of Texas, was implicated in the assassination. Another statement is that I have gathered sufficient evidence to substantiate this charge. Immediately upon receipt of this information, I instructed Reynolds be located and interviewed to straighten this matter out.

Enclosed are two copies of the interview of Reynolds conducted on 1-24-64, by Agents of this Bureau. You will note Reynolds in essence denies the statements attributed to him. You can also be assured that I have not received any information to implicate President Johnson or Governor Connally in the assassination.

In Reynolds' interview, he furnished an additional allegation indicating that while Governor Connally was in Washington, D. C., and Lee Harvey Oswald was staying at the Young Men's Christian Association in Dallas, Texas, Oswald received several long-distance calls. Reynolds states he was not told these long-distance calls were from Governor Connally or Washington, D. C., but the implication left with him was that Oswald might have had calls from Connally. Our Dallas, Texas, Office has checked this

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin

matter out, and I have been advised the room in which Lee Harvey Oswald stayed at the Young Men's Christian Association on the night of October 3-4, 1963, did not have a telephone available. Further, no records are maintained by the Young Men's Christian Association on long-distance calls received and guests are not permitted to make outgoing long-distance calls.

Inasmuch as Reynolds' interview specifies he does not know who told him and he has no facts whatsoever to support the above allegation, this Bureau has made no effort to ascertain the whereabouts of Governor Connally on October 3 and 4, 1963.

The above is being furnished for your information.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)

NOTE: See Rosen to Belmont memo, same caption, same date, RDR:hw.

Rankin is not being advised that this information was initially received from the White House in view of the statement appearing in the DeLoach to Mohr memo dated 1/22/64, captioned "Don B. Reynolds, Information Regarding Case Involving Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, that Walter Jenkins of the White House has indicated that the President does not desire Pierre Salinger to know this information was furnished to anyone outside the White House.