Sherman Skolnick, Chicago legal researcher who charges that documents in the National Archives will prove Lee Harvey Oswald didn't act alone in killing Kennedy.

By EVART ALIMINE

A black former Secret Service agent was railroaded to jail because he tried to tell the Warren Commission some uncomfortable truths about the assassination of President Kennedy.

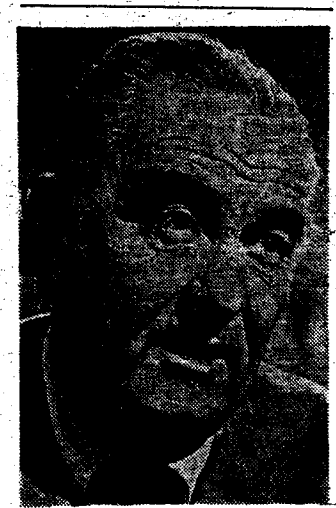
The agent was Abraham Bolden, now on parole after serving 39 months in prison on apparently trumped-up charges involving the selling of information to counterfeiters.

Bolden had wanted to tell the Warren Commission in 1964 that he knew of a plot to kill the President not in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, but in Chicago during a football game on Nov. 2 of that year.

The story surfaced recently when Sherman Skolnick, a private legal researcher whose investigations of corruption already have led to the resignation of two Illinois judges, sued the National Archives in Washington, charging it with withholding documents pointing to the Chicago plot on JFK's life.

Except for ever-so-brief mention, the story has not appeared in the daily press.

Skolnick, a cripple confined to a wheelchair, says he has evidence leading to a Chicago plot against Kennedy which goes unmentioned in the now-battered Warren Report.



Legal whiz Skolnick is trying to get Lyndon Johnson to testify about certain misgivings the ex-president harbors about the Warren Report, hoping to throw more light on the possibility of Oswald having one or more accomplices.

He charges that Kennedy was supposed to be assassinated in Chicago but the plot was shifted to Dallas when the President cancelled his trip to Illinois because of a cold.

The plot is linked not only to Lee Harvey Oswald but a man named Thomas Arthur Vallee, now 37, whereabouts unknown, described as closely resembling Oswald.

Several other private researchers into the Kennedy assassination have uncovered evidence of a "second Oswald" seen here and there in the U.S. while the real Oswald was known to be in Mexico.

Skolnick says he has uncovered a mass of evidence, leading not only to certainty of a Chicago plot but a confusing mass of leads pointing to apparent complicity of the FBI, the Secret Service, Chicago judges and the man who in 1969 led the raid that killed Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago.

On Nov. 2, 1963, Thomas Vallee was stopped and charged with a minor traffic violation one hour before JFK's proposed arrival in Chicago (he never showed up).

The FBI immediately entered the case and in its report linked Vallee with an aborted assassination plot. Three FBI documents pertaining to this now are locked in the National Archives.

The documents reveal that the witness against Vallee was David Groth, who at the time was not referred to as a policeman, nor was he the man who arrested Vallee.

Last December, this same Groth, now a sergeant in the Illinois State's Attorney's Police, led the assault on Panther Hampton's apartment, where a small arsenal was uncovered.

That raid led not only to Hampton's and Clark's death by gun-

LINK '2nd OSWALD' TO JFK MURDER

Edward Hanrahan, then a U.S. Attorney, helped send Bolden up the river on allegedly trumped-up charges.

Black Panther Fred Hampton — was his death in 1969 linked to JFK's six years earlier?

Former Secret Service Agent Abraham Bolden has been officially silenced in his attempts to tell what he knows about the plot to kill JFK.

fire, but a rebuke of both the State's Attorney's police and segments of the Chicago Police Department when a federal grand jury failed to indict the surviving Panthers who were in the apartment.

The raid was organized by State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan, who defended the actions of his raiders right up to the moment the grand jury slapped them down.

In 1964, Hanrahan was U.S. Attorney for Northern Illinois.

It was to Hanrahan's office that Agent Bolden was escorted on May 18, 1964, the day after Bolden tried to talk with the Chief Counsel of the Warren Commission, J. Lee Rankin. Bolden was thwarted by his Secret Service bosses.

Ordered back to Chicago on a pretext, Bolden was told by Hanrahan that he, Bolden, was under indictment for selling evidence to counterfeiters.

In his first trial, Bolden got a hung jury; but in his second trial, two counterfeiters who were police informers were "found" who testified against him. Bolden got a six-year sentence.

But in their own trial, the counterfeiters admitted they lied against Bolden.

When Skolnick's charges broke some weeks ago, Bolden — now out on parole — was called in by his probation advisor and told to keep his mouth shut or go back to prison.

Skolnick says that Bolden knew about the Chicago plot on JFK, and that one of the hidden documents proves the Secret Service had Thomas Vallee under surveillance before Nov. 2, 1963, knew that he was linked to Lee Harvey Oswald and at least two other men.

Skolnick also says that Vallee's car, bearing New York license plate 311 ORF, was "linked or registered to Lee Harvey Oswald."

Attempts by a Chicago TV station to trace the plates turned up an FBI "freeze" on this vital information. Others who have tried to learn about these license plates have had sudden threatening visits from the FBI, according to Skolnick.

Bolden has cropped up in the JFK murder enigma before. News stories shortly after the assassination carried his charges that certain Secret Service men in charge of Kennedy's safety were drunk in Chicago.

But what he evidently wanted to tell the Warren Commission was that some agents were racists who hated the President because of his strong stand in favor of civil rights.

The fact that the same controversial office holders were involved in the official gagging of Agent Bolden, and the raid which six years later took the lives of two Black Panther leaders, suggests to Skolnick that strong racism in high places is in the saddle.

The full story is not yet out, and may never be. Many other attempts to pry some of the truth out of government officials and the National Archives have proved futile.

But with even Lyndon Johnson now saying that the Warren Commission didn't do a complete job investigating his predecessor's death, maybe the truth about the assassination will finally leak out a little at a time.

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