

THREATS AGAINST PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND FEDERAL REACTION

The following incidents are mentioned in the files of the Warren Commission. It is noted that present laws relating to such threats were, I believe, not passed until after the Kennedy assassination.

1. J.A. Milteer

Milteer, a member of the National States Rights Party (NSRP), talked to an informant of the Miami police on 11/9/63; the conversation was taped. According to a recent report (by Bill Barry of the Miami News, after the Miami police released the tape; see Forgive My Grief, Vol. II, pp. 38-49), Milteer named one man "who is as likely to get him (JFK) as anybody ... he tried to get Martin Luther King ... he followed him for miles and miles, and couldn't get close enough to him." This information was immediately provided to the FBI and Secret Service; it is reported that the SS took extra security precautions when Kennedy visited Miami on November 18. Interviewed by the FBI on 11/27, Milteer denied making any threats. I do not know if any further action was taken against him.

Additional sources: Warren Commission Document (CD) 1347, pp. 119-126. (Some of these pages are withheld at the National Archives, but from the name index it appears that Milteer named some of the people involved in the Birmingham church bombing of September 1963.) Also, CD 20, pp. 24-26; Oswald in New Orleans,

2. David Ferrie

According to Jim Garrison, Ferrie conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination of President Kennedy. In my opinion, no evidence convincingly linking Ferrie with the assassination has been produced; it is possible but not proved that he knew Oswald. His activities in anti-Castro military ~~groups~~ groups, including those supported by the Federal Government, is well established.

After the assassination, he was picked up as a suspect by Garrison and consequently interviewed by the FBI. (See CD 75, pp. 199-200) I do not know why he was asked about statements he may have made against JFK (see second ~~xx~~ paragraph of interview report), on which subject the FBI apparently accepted his explanation that "He ought to be shot" was "an off-hand or colloquial expression." It was later reported that he had been critical of Kennedy for lack of air cover at the Bay of Pigs (in which Ferrie may have participated) and that in July 1961 he made a speech to a New Orleans patriotic group that was cut off because it was found too offensive. (See, for example, Oswald in N.O., pp. 163-206, esp. pp. 191, 197.) As far as I know, no action was ever taken against Ferrie because of his threatening remarks.

3. H-- B--

After the assassination, there was a rumor that four men had been arrested in Chicago on 11/2/63 and charged with carrying a concealed weapon; in some versions of the rumor one of the men was Oswald. This incident may be related to allegations by Abraham Bolden that SS security precautions were inadequate, or to the reported cancellation of a trip by JFK to Chicago. (Bolden, who was the first Negro SS agent, was dismissed from the Service and jailed on what many feel were trumped-up charges. He wanted to testify to the Warren Commission but did not do so.)

This rumor seems to be based on the arrest of one man for a traffic violation when he had a hunting knife on the front seat of his car. After the assassination, he was found guilty on the weapons charge, but the finding was later withdrawn. The possibly relevant part of the FBI report on this is that "during the interrogation of B--- by Chicago Police Officers, B--- revealed that he was very much against the present administration." From my experience reading FBI reports, this could be a gross understatement.

I believe that Harold Weisberg has more information on this matter.