

Dallas cop's son rolls out JFK theory

Mattox, CIA, Hollywood
answer conspiracy claim

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The Texas attorney general, a major Hollywood producer and the Central Intelligence Agency are now being written into the newest chapter in the never-ending mystery of who assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

A 29-year-old unemployed oil equipment salesman from Midland stood before scores of reporters in Dallas Monday and implicated his dead father in the assassination. Soon after, Attorney General Jim Mattox said he'd gladly review the evidence, and the CIA issued an unheard-of denial.

At the same time, the FBI, which had previously refused to comment on Ricky White's story, issued a statement in Washington saying agents had reviewed and dismissed White's story two years ago.

And, finally, those who believe White's story is true acknowledge that last weekend, several of them met in Hollywood with producer/director Oliver Stone, presumably to discuss movie rights to the White story.

The latest chapter in the Kennedy epic began at a two-hour press conference in which White said his father, Roscoe Anthony White, joined the Dallas Police Department in October 1963 with the express intent of killing Kennedy.

During the press conference called by two assassination research groups and several Midland businessmen, White and Baptist minister Jack Shaw talked about incriminating entries in Roscoe White's missing diary, decoded cables, and the relationship that Roscoe White and his wife, Geneva, had with Lee Harvey Oswald, Dallas Officer J.D. Tippit and Jack Ruby.

Based on his own memories, his father's diary and effects, and the recollections of his mother, Ricky White told reporters that his father had been one of

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three shooters on the day Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Although Officer Tippit was a friend of his father's, Ricky White says his father shot Tippit to death in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas about 45 minutes after the assassination, as he and Oswald were trying to get away. Oswald was later accused of killing Tippit.

During the press conference, White said his father was following orders to kill Kennedy and that, while he did not know who issued the orders, three messages found among his father's effects have coding that might have come from the Office of Naval Intelligence or, indirectly, the CIA.

CIA response: 'Ludicrous'

The suggestion of CIA involvement brought a sharp response Monday from agency spokesman Mark Mansfield in Washington: "These allegations — that this was done on CIA orders, that this guy worked for us and that CIA had any role in the assassination of President Kennedy — are ludicrous."

Roscoe White never worked for the CIA, Mansfield said, adding: "Normally, we never confirm nor deny employment, but these allegations are so outrageous that we felt it necessary and appropriate to respond."

Also Monday, the FBI issued a statement saying its agents had considered the Ricky White story in 1968 and had "determined that this information is not credible," Bernard Fensterwald, executive

director of the Assassination Archives and Research Center in Washington, said Monday that Mattox will be given all material that points toward Roscoe White's involvement in the assassination.

Ruby, Oswald meeting

In another curious twist to the case, Mattox said late Monday he is interested in pursuing the White story because he was once told by his mother, a waitress at Campisi's Egyptian Restaurant in Dallas, that Ruby frequented the restaurant and that she thought she saw Ruby and Oswald eating dinner there together once.

The restaurant owner, the late Joe Campisi, testified before the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978 that he didn't see Oswald in his eatery, Mattox said. Mattox said he believes he has jurisdiction in the case, and he would interview White and his associates "to see what they've got and let them explain it to me."

"The key to the thing, of course, is, if the FBI acknowledges seeing the diary," Mattox said. "The only thing to do is to get a look at the diary or acknowledgement (by the FBI) that it existed."

"This is not a solution to the John Kennedy case," Fensterwald said after Ricky White told his story. "It's information we think is important, and we think it's true. Even if what is said here today checks out, the case is not solved. We still don't know who planned it and paid for it and basically what the shooting was about. The best we can hope for is to get out of this

an idea of who the actual assassins were."

It may be difficult for Mattox or anybody else to do much with the case without the Roscoe White diary, which disappeared in 1968. The leather bound journal talked about the assassination and the aftermath, said Ricky White, adding that he and his mother read it.

Roscoe White died of injuries sustained in an explosive fire in 1971. His widow, Geneva, is critically ill and, according to family members, unable to be interviewed.

A 'silenced' wife

According to the Rev. Shaw, Geneva White could help an investigation.

Shaw says Roscoe and Geneva White confided in him in 1970-71 when they were having marital problems. And, he says, Geneva White confided in him again during the last year, telling him that she was working as a hostess in Ruby's Carousel Club when she overheard her husband and Ruby discussing "the entire plot of the assassination of the President" two months before the shooting.

After the assassination, Shaw says, Geneva White was given electric shock treatments and kept sedated so she "would be silenced." Ruby had told her "in no uncertain terms that if she opened her mouth she was dead and her children were dead." Shaw says Geneva White told him. Shaw says Geneva White told him she confronted her husband after an organized crime figure ap-

proached her in New Orleans in 1971 and told her to deliver a warning to her husband.

According to Shaw, Geneva White was shown nearly a dozen photographs and identified the man in New Orleans as Charles Nicoletti, formerly the number one hitman with the Sam Giancana Mafia family in Chicago. Nicoletti was executed gangland style in 1977, about a year after Giancana also met the same fate.

Shaw says that, when she returned to Dallas and told her husband of the ominous meeting in New Orleans, "he told her everything."

Shaw says that, as he lay in a hospital dying from burns in 1971, Roscoe White told him that he had been marked for execution by some of his underworld associates

and that he believed the fire had been deliberately started to kill him.

A Hollywood interest

Ricky White said Monday that, since he found his father's diary, he has been consumed full-time with trying to find out what role his father played in the assassination.

He said that for more than a year he has received a "monthly salary" from the Matsui Corp., which was formed by seven Midland oilmen solely to help finance Ricky's investigation into his father's involvement in the assassination. Matsui president Gary Baily said Ricky began receiving financial help from Matsui on a "day-to-day

basis" about six weeks ago after getting just expense funds for more than a year.

Baily also said Ricky White is negotiating with Hollywood producer/director Oliver Stone for movie rights to his story. Last weekend, Ricky White, his wife and Larry Howard of the JFK Assassination Information Center in Dallas met in the Los Angeles area with Oliver Stone and toured Universal Studios.

"Oliver Stone is interested, but no deal has been made," Baily said. Matsui so far has spent more than \$100,000 on the White project, Baily said. If any money is generated by the White story, about 74 percent will go to Ricky White's family. The rest would go to the Matsui Corp., Baily said.