



CRAWDADDY

Secret Agent Man Meets the Mystery Tramp

by Assassination Research Bureau

Some of the most intriguing and illuminating information learned about assassinations have come from the statements of former intelligence agents. In some instances, the repercussions from their disclosures have provoked actions either to silence or discredit them.

Abraham Bolden was the first black man to be a Special Agent of the U.S. Secret Service assigned to the White House detail. In the fall of 1963, Bolden was stationed in Chicago, where preparations were being made for a scheduled visit by the President on Nov. 1, to attend an Army-Air Force football game and to patch up political ties with Mayor Daley. However, in October, the Secret Service received word of an assassination plot to be carried out during JFK's forthcoming visit.

The agents in Chicago conducted an investigation. They were shown photographs and were provided with the names and descriptions of the four men who were allegedly involved. But the agents were also given some peculiar instructions: 1) There were to be no written reports; 2) Nothing was to be sent to Washington by TWX; 3) The agent-in-charge in Chicago was to report to the SS Chief by phone; and 4) No file number was to be given to this case. Their search showed that the plot was indeed authentic. Kennedy's trip was subsequently cancelled.

In the wake of the Dallas shooting, Bolden, noting the unusual proceedings in Chicago and the lack of protection afforded Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, sought to testify before the Warren Commission. His request for permission to testify was turned down by his superiors and he was told that no one from the Secret Service was to testify about the Chicago plot. In Washington, on May 17, 1964, Bolden tried to contact J. Lee Rankin, the chief counsel for the Warren Commission, but got no response. Bolden began to feel more uneasy as he observed that all his actions were being monitored by a fellow agent.

The next day, Bolden was whisked to Chicago under the pretext that he was needed there. Upon arrival, he was taken to the office of U.S. Attorney Edward Hanrahan (later of Chicago 8 and Fred Hampton fame) where he was charged with solicitation of a bribe and was held incommunicado from early afternoon until midnight.

Bolden was charged with having sold the secret government file on an indicted counterfeiter for \$50,000. He was brought to trial before Federal Judge Joseph Sam



Fred Lee Crisman of Tacoma, Wash., was a key figure in Jim Garrison's New Orleans JFK investigation, and his bizarre record suggests the murky waters any new investigation will have to wade through. This will not be another Watergate. It will not be so polite. Assassination literature is strewn with a cast of characters so gnarled and twisted that even Maurice Stans would think twice before laying a few grand on them. In 1968, Crisman was subpoenaed to appear before the New Orleans Grand Jury investigating the assassination. Several researchers noticed an astonishing resemblance between Crisman and the mysterious short tramp arrested in Dealey Plaza (the one erroneously labeled as E. Howard Hunt by assassination buffs whose hearts are in the right place even if their facts are not). According to Tacoma News Tribune reporter Edd Jeffords, who has interviewed Crisman on several occasions, "he is identical with the tramp." Crisman's name appeared in Clay Shaw's address book, and he was a "business" partner of Thomas Edward Beckham, who was subpoenaed to New Orleans because of involvements with anti-Castro Cuban exiles. In 1966, he and Crisman incorporated seven businesses in Olympia, Wash. According to police, these companies, which included Professional Research Bureau and the National Institute of Criminology, conducted no business. As a bishop in the shady Universal Life Church, Crisman was connected to a right wing, quasi-religious scene that encompassed David Ferrie and an aide to the reactionary Rev. Carl McIntyre, Edgar Eugene Bradley, who was indicted for conspiracy by Garrison. Crisman was an industrial spy for Boeing. He ran a talk show on station KAYE, espousing right wing opinions on local and national issues under the name Dr. John Gold. And the Olympia police suspected him of narcotics activities in connection with an organization called the Servants of Awareness. . . .

Perry. The two main witnesses were acknowledged counterfeiter. Despite prejudicial remarks made by the judge before the jury (he said he thought the defendant was guilty), the proceedings ended in a mistrial. Judge Perry, refusing to remove himself from the case, ordered a new trial which resulted in the conviction of Abraham Bolden. Bolden was sentenced to six years in prison.

Later, one of the witnesses, Joseph Spagnoli, was brought to trial for counterfeiting. In the course of the trial, again before Judge Perry, Spagnoli admitted under oath that he had perjured himself when he testified against Bolden. In fact, Spagnoli stated that he had done so at the request of the prosecutor, Richard Sikes. A sheet of yellow legal

paper, in the handwriting of Sikes, was submitted as evidence to verify Spagnoli's allegations.

Despite this disclosure, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals turned down Bolden's plea for a new trial and ordered him to serve his term in the Federal Penitentiary in Springfield, Missouri. On June 20, 1966, Earl Warren's Supreme Court declined to review the case.

Despite continued efforts, Bolden never received a new trial. He served 39 months in prison and was released. His family has been the target of several acts of violence. Bolden has been quoted as saying, "I have evidence that a member of the Secret Service had a part in the planning of the assassination. Someone, an agent, could be indicted for it."

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1975