



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

September 22, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to my letter dated August 11, 1964, concerning a scheme to sell reproductions of the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's death certificate.

Enclosed for your information are two copies of a self-explanatory communication from our San Diego Office dated September 16, 1964, relating to the above matter.

A copy of the enclosed communication has been made available to the United States Secret Service in Washington, D. C., in view of that agency's possible interest in this information.

No further action is being taken in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover", is written over the typed name.

Enclosures (2)

San Diego, California
September 16, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

On August 7, 1964, information was furnished to a San Diego source that one FRANK (last name and address unknown) had advised of one A. SCHNEIDER (phonetic) (address unknown) who allegedly possessed a stolen death certificate made out for the late President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. SCHNEIDER reportedly asked for assistance in locating a quality copying machine and advised of his intention to sell reproductions of the described death certificate and realize a substantial profit therefrom.

On August 11, 1964, the original source for this information identified FRANK as identical with FRANK H. CHERNY, 1623 Santa Anita Drive, San Diego, California.

On September 15, 1964, FRANK H. CHERNY advised that approximately three months ago he was contacted by LEON SNYDER, manager of an apartment at 6102 San Pedro Avenue, San Diego. SNYDER related he was in possession of a photostat of the death certificate made out for the late President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. SNYDER inquired if he, CHERNY, would assist in making reproductions of such death certificate and thereafter promote the sale of such reproductions. CHERNY advised SNYDER he would "hot touch it with a ten-foot pole," and suggested that SNYDER give careful consideration to the matter before taking such steps. SNYDER did not tell CHERNY the manner by which he had obtained possession of such document.

On September 15, 1964, LEON SNYDER admitted possession of a photostat of a death certificate for the late President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY. He advised he

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

received it from a friend in California whom he did not wish to identify. This friend, several months ago, had been on a trip in the East and in either North or South Carolina he had contacted an unidentified acquaintance who furnished him with one such photostat. Upon his return to California he had given SNYDER a reproduction of such document.

SNYDER related they had discussed the possibility of making reproductions of the death certificate with the idea of selling them to persons desiring such reproductions. SNYDER consulted his attorney and was advised he was legally on safe ground, but that in his opinion it would be in poor taste. SNYDER's unidentified friend wrote to the authorities in Dallas, Texas, to ask if reproductions of the late President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY's death certificate were available to the public. He was advised that no reproductions were being furnished to the public. In view of these facts SNYDER and his friend dismissed further plans for the contemplated sale of such reproductions.