

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

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

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

DATE: July 3, 1967

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan
- 1 - Mr. Goble

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Bishop	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

By letter 6-29-67 Assistant Attorney General Fred Vinson, Jr., requested the Bureau interview Dean Andrews who allegedly claimed that one Gene Davis was identical with Clem or Clay Bertrand.

Vinson requested the Bureau to locate and interview one Phyllis Nachman, the twin sister of deceased Phil Schultz. According to Davis, Schultz may have used the name of either Clay or Clem Bertrand.

With respect to Assistant Attorney General Vinson's request, the Director noted, "It is a wonder they don't ask us to interview Phil Schultz, deceased!" This memorandum considers the very good reasons for the Bureau to decline to interview Andrews.

BACKGROUND:

Dean Andrews, an attorney, was first interviewed by the Bureau on 11-25-63. At that time he was hospitalized with pneumonia. Andrews claimed that in June, 1963, he first met Lee Harvey Oswald and talked with him on two or three occasions in connection with Oswald's request for legal assistance to reverse his bad conduct discharge from the Marine Corps. Oswald also discussed the immigration and citizenship status of his wife. It was Andrew's recollection that Oswald was accompanied on these occasions by a Clay Bertrand. On 11-23-63 while he was asleep and under sedation in the hospital, Andrews recalled that the telephone rang and the caller identified himself as Clay Bertrand and asked Andrews if he was interested in representing Oswald. Andrews claimed he told Bertrand he would call back, but he never did.

The Bureau conducted extensive investigation to locate Bertrand, but we were unsuccessful. Andrews was interviewed by the Bureau on six occasions immediately following the President's assassination and was interviewed by the Secret Service on three occasions. Numerous other individuals were interviewed but no one could confirm the story of Dean Andrews, and the identification of Clay Bertrand remained unknown. The Warren Commission took testimony from Andrews and merely noted it in their final report.

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Enclosure
Sent 7-5-67
JUL 11 1967

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Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
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On 3-1-67 New Orleans District Attorney Garrison arrested Clay Shaw, a prominent New Orleans businessman and homosexual, charging him with conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. It was alleged that Clay Shaw was Clay Bertrand.

Thereafter, Dean Andrews, who was then an Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish, was brought before the Grand Jury, following which he was indicted for perjury. Presumably, Andrews failed to identify Clay Shaw as Clay Bertrand.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

On 6-19-67 the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) produced a one-hour television program on the Garrison investigation. During the program, the narrator reported that Clay or Clem Bertrand does exist and that this was a pseudonym used by a homosexual in New Orleans. The narrator claimed that the real name had been given to the Department of Justice.

On the same day, 6-19-67, Mr. Vinson advised that a confidential source not connected with NBC had informed that the homosexual located by NBC in New Orleans who used the pseudonym "Clem Bertrand" was Gene Davis, also known as Eugene Davis.

By letter 6-22-67 Mr. Vinson reported the receipt of confidential information that Gene Davis operates a bar in New Orleans known as Wanda's.

Mr. Vinson indicated this information was reportedly furnished by Dean Andrews. He requested the Bureau to locate and interview Gene Davis. On 6-23-67 Gene Davis was interviewed by Bureau Agents and he claimed that he had never used the pseudonym of Clem or Clay Bertrand and he had never been contacted by a representative of NBC. According to news sources appearing on 6-29-67, Eugene Davis signed an affidavit in District Attorney Garrison's office denying that he was the mysterious "Clay Bertrand." The same news sources stated that on 6-28-67 Dean Andrews claimed that Davis is the Clay Bertrand who called him in 1963 and suggested Andrews attempt to represent assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at Dallas.

OBSERVATIONS:

From the very inception of the Garrison investigation, the Director has instructed that the Bureau should stay out of it. Strong efforts have been made to involve the Bureau in the Garrison probe and these efforts have been consistently resisted. The

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wisdom of the Director's decision has been increasingly evident in the current developments, culminating with the public resignation of Garrison's chief investigator, William Gurvich, who has publicly stated that the charges against Clay Shaw should be dropped.

The request of Mr. Vinson to now interview Dean Andrews in the face of his indictment by the Orleans Grand Jury and his public statements against Gene Davis would put this Bureau squarely in the middle of the Garrison investigation.

Prior to undertaking the interview requested by Mr. Vinson, it is believed that we should refer his request to the Attorney General noting our reluctance to become involved in the Garrison investigation. Since the Department has someone in contact with Dean Andrews [redacted] we should suggest to the Attorney General that he might want to consider having a departmental attorney or the person previously in contact with Dean Andrews interview the latter.

When we questioned Gene Davis, he recalled hearing talk from other homosexuals who frequented his bar that a Phil Schultz, deceased, had used the name of Clay or Clem Bertrand prior to his death. Davis claimed that Schultz had a twin sister named Phyllis Nachman (phonetic) living in Monique, Wisconsin. Although Davis' information is hearsay, the same strong objections that exist to an interview of Andrews do not exist to the Department's request that we locate and interview Phyllis Nachman.

ACTION:

There is attached a letter to the Attorney General noting Mr. Vinson's request and advising him of our objections to the Bureau interviewing Dean Andrews as outlined above. This same letter points out that we will endeavor to locate and interview Phyllis Nachman.

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