

To: Archives  
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M E M O R A N D U M

January 17, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney  
FROM: RICHARD V. BURNES, Assistant District Attorney  
IN RE: INVESTIGATION OF LEAD "4"---RELATIONSHIP OF CLAY SHAW AND DAVID FERRIE

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Lead "4" indicates that our office has information that one PATRICK BURKE an attorney is aware of the relationship between SHAW and FERRIE. On January 9, 1968, at about 2:30 P.M. I spoke to PATRICK BURKE an attorney in New Orleans on the telephone. He stated he neither knows CLAY SHAW nor DAVID FERRIE nor any reason why our office would have information that he is aware of such a relationship between the two subjects.

A transcript of our telephone conversation has been prepared and will be attached to this memorandum.

I have known PATRICK BURKE since 1959 at which time we both entered Tulane Law School in the Freshman Class. I have never known anything that would cast suspicion upon his credibility.

Further investigation will be made if the informant can be contacted.

RICHARD V. BURNES

The following is a telephone interview between Assistant District Attorney Richard V. Burnes and Attorney at Law Patrick Burke. This interview was conducted on January 9, 1968

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RB This is Richard Burnes in the District Attorney's Office. Would you see if Mr. Patrick Burke is available to talk with me.

Opt I don't believe he's in, just a moment please. He's not in. May I take a message.

RB Would you have him call me please at 822-2414.

Opt Would you give me your name again please?

RB Richard Burnes B U R N E S

Opt Thank you

RB When do you expect him in?

Opt He should be in shortly. He went to lunch.

RB All right, thank you good-bye

RB I hate to keep you waiting, but I was out of my office, I was near the coffee pot when you called. Listen you might be able to help me out with something.

PB Okay

RB Weren't you in the C.A.P., the Civil Air Patrol?

PB No, no, I was Merchant Marine type.

RB Uh huh

PB Seagoing

RB I knew you had some military background, and I thought you were in the Civil Air Patrol, and I'm checking in the background of DAVE FERRIE and I understand that you knew him or something.

PB No, no not me.

RB You didn't know him in any way at all?

PB No, uh uh, CAP? I don't even know anybody in the C.A.P. as a matter of fact.

RB Uh huh, well I didn't have any information that you were in the C.A.P., but I did hear that you knew DAVE FERRIE and I figured you probably knew him from the Civil Air Patrol.

PB Oh no uh gee I've never heard of FERRIE until I read his name in the papers as a matter of fact.

RB Uh huh. What about SHAW, did you know SHAW or anything?

PB No uh uh, uh uh

RB Pat, I've got some information that came to me, and I don't know exactly what my source is but you knew SHAW and FERRIE and some relationship between the two of them.

PB Oh really!

RB Yeah, that's right.

PB No kidding

RB That's what I'm trying to check out with you.

PB No, I assure you uh god I didn't hear of those people until I read their names in the paper when this came up.

RB Uh huh, well this could have happened from something you might have said in just casual conversation. Could you think of anything that might have led someone to think this?

PB Gosh no, I wouldn't think so, uh uh. Quite frankly I haven't even been following this matter after it broke sometime ago.

RB Uh huh

PB And actually there has been no scuttlebutt even you know that I participated in about this.

RB Uh huh

PB So I don't think it could have been anything that anybody could have picked up.

RB Right, do you know a HUGH CRAIN?

PB HUGH CRAIN? No uh uh

RB That's H-U-G-H CRAIN C-R-A-I-N

PB NO

RB From Baton Rouge

PB No uh uh

RB And there's no way that uh--can you think of any time that you were around with a group where they were talking about DAVE FERRIE or CLAY SHAW in other words what I'd like to do is to trace this thing back to its source because that way I'm either investigating bad information or something that might have been said casually, you know, and I wanted to find out.

PB Gosh no, you know this subject has probably been kicked around by everybody in town but this is outside of my realm of law. I'm strictly an admiralty.

RB Right, I knew that.

PB And know nothing about criminal law so really I haven't been too even interested in the whole matter, quite frankly.

RB Uh huh. Well you know things like this happen. For instance a wife of one of the announcers made some statement and she actually made it. We traced it all the way back to her and it was just a casual conversation, but we did actually trace it back to the time that it was said to someone else, you know who accepted it as true and then passed it on to us, see and that's what I'm digging out now. But you don't know a HUGH CRAIN, that's H-U-G-H CRAIN C-R-A-I-N.

PB No, I sure don't course you know I was raised, you might know I was raised in Lake Charles and uh I don't know maybe back in my schoolhood days I don't know but the name doesn't ring a bell with me at all, uh uh.

RB Let's see before Tulane, where did you go before the Law School?

PB Well of course I was at the Merchant Marine Academy in New York before you know

RB Uh huh

PB Then I went to sea for three years

RB Uh huh

PB And prior to that I was well raised in Lake Charles.

RB Uh huh, do you know anybody that might do this as a practical joke?

PB Gosh no I don't.

RB If someone was to ask me a question like that, I'd have a list so long that

PB No, you really catch me by surprise. I thought maybe you were playing a practical joke on me.

RB No, positively not. My little note here says information indicates that one Patrick Burke, an attorney, is aware of the relationship between SHAW and FERRIE although Burke appears to be a New Orleans Attorney and this information appears to have come from Baton Rouge and they referred me to a memorandum.

PB Um hum, um hum

RB So that uh...



PB I don't even know anybody in Baton Rouge frankly, outside the law field, you know, people, lawyers I deal with over there.

RB Uh hum. Now there's no other Patrick Burkes that are attorneys. There's a couple other Burkes.

PB Well there's a couple other--there's one other Pat Burke that ran for an office that was getting me confused uh I was getting confused with all the time on telephone calls.

RB This is not the same one that's a brother of the guy that ran for the Mayor, is he?

PB God, I don't know now. You mean Paul V. Burke.

RB Yeah

PB I don't know, there're a lot of Burkes in New Orleans and there is one other Pat Burke, but I don't think he's a lawyer. Of course if he ran for political office, he might be a lawyer.

RB Do you recall--you're the only Burke listed as Pat Burke listed in the telephone directory--do you recall this other Pat Burke do you happen to know when he ran or what he ran for. It might be...

PB It was about uh let's see I saw a bumper sticker this was about oh three months ago.

RB Um hum. Now wait a minute I've got the Burkes in the phone directory now, let's see r,p,q, r,s

PB And there was a fireman by the name of Burke, Pat Burke, an elderly gentleman.

RB There's a fireman by that name and let's see. All right here's a Patrick B. Burke at 9012 Inez Drive, Jefferson Parish, phone 737-6407. Do you know who he is?

PB No, uh uh. I don't know any other Burkes other than JIMMY BURKE here.

RB Let's see there's a PATRICK J. BURKE, 1549 Constance. You don't know him?

PB No.

RB And there's a PATRICK L. BURKE.

PB Okay, that would be me now.

RB All right that's both listed as attorney--there's a PATRICK W. BURKE.

PB No

RB Sr., well it might be that they uh that they meant one of these other PATRICK BURKES.

PB I don't know Dick as I say if uh I haven't even been interested in the proceedings. I've been tied up in my own little field over here.

RB Yeah, I imagine it keeps you pretty busy.

PB But those names mean absolutely nothing to me.

RB Uh huh. Do you know anybody close to you that was discussing uh I'm not trying to dig some information out of someone, but I'm trying to find out how this got initiated so that I can...

PB trace it down, I understand.

RB Right, in other words get it right back to the fountainhead and either say that uh this is what caused a misreport or just, you know.

PB The people I run around with socially are all my partners and uh like myself we're really not interested in this in this proceeding at all I mean we talk about our own law, legal problems, you know.

RB Would anyone play any pranks on you that would uh telephone pranks or anything?

PB No, not that I know of Dick.

RB Um hum

PB Except I did get a little prank that I thought was quite funny not too long ago in the mail about whether or not I'd take the place of some herman who was sitting as an idiot for some evangelist I think or something of that nature.

RB Uh huh, did you ever find out who did it?

PB No, I never did, uh uh.

RB Now would admiralty practice unless you're representing claimants you wouldn't have many people that would go out with uh vindictiveness enough to do something.

PB Well no because my clients are all insurance (inaudible) I'm strictly defense.

RB Yeah

PB And all my contacts are all London really.

RB Right so you wouldn't have this kind of thing.

PB No uh uh

RB Well you've helped me a lot. Now I'm going to get this memorandum from HUGH CRAIN that I'm referring to here and I'm going to go over it and it may have some information in there that we can check out or you can recognize or something so I can trace this down and uh they may be even mistaken about the PATRICK BURKE. Oh, here's another thing, have you ever been mistaken for another BURKE who's an attorney not in Orleans?

PB No

RB In other words have you ever gotten any letters or any calls or any...

PB Oh yeah, I've been getting letters up here as an attorney for PAT BURKE and I'm getting calls all the time wanting me to represent a divorcee or something of that nature, you know.

RB No, what I mean is that belongs to another attorney named BURKE, PAT BURKE, for instance I'm always asked if I'm related to one of the Burnes that are practicing law, and I'm always telling them no.

PB Um hum, no, I can't say that I have, Dick.

RB Uh huh. Well, this helps me out, Pat, and if I find out that anything further on the memorandum, I'll give you a call back.

PB Feel free to do so.

RB Okay, thank you very much.

PB Okay.

RB Good-bye

PB Bye