

Juvenile Bureau
Feb 18, 1962
Item B-7904-62

TO : Joseph I. Giarrusso
Superintendent of Police

FROM : Major Adolph Mayerhafer
Supervisor of Juvenile Bureau

SUBJECT : Investigation of Extortion, allegedly committed by David
W. Ferrie WM Age 41 of 331 Atherton Drive.

Patn Roland Fournier and Charles Jonau of the Juvenile Bureau report of having investigated a matter involving extortion, allegedly committed by David W. Ferrie WM Age 41 of 331 Atherton Drive, on Feb 16, 1962 at 10:00AM. Patn Fournier, the writer of this report, in company with Patn Jonau additionally report of having conducted investigations involving David Ferrie in the past 4 months, which began on August 16, 1961. Officers Fournier and Jonau will be referred to as investigating officers during the remainder of this report.

Investigating officers conducted investigations in August and September of 1961, which lead to the arrest of David Ferrie, which investigations resulted in charges of contributing to the delinquency, indecent behavior with juveniles, Crime Against Nature, and Public Intimidation. Charges against Ferrie, were accepted in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. In the impending cases against Ferrie, one Eric Michael Crouchet WM Age 16 of 5505 Marais St., is a witness.

On the morning of Feb 16, 1962, investigating officer Fournier received a phone call from the father of Eric Crouchet, who complained that a friend of his, John T. Cater WM Age 41 of 5454 Dauphine St., had been intimidated and that Ferrie had made arrangements for a meeting with Cater after telling Cater that he (Ferrie) had a proposition to discuss. Mr Crouchet explained to investigating officers that Cater was frightened and that Cater contacted him, informing him (Crouchet) that Ferrie wanted to meet. Crouchet told officers that he instructed Cater to go along with Ferrie, with the idea of notifying authorities. Cater and Ferrie made arrangements to meet at Canal and Baronne St., at 10:00AM on Feb 16, 1962 in front of the Walgreen's Drug Store. Mr. Crouchet asked investigating officers if they would attempt to witness this meeting. At 9:50AM on Feb 16, 1962, officers took up a position at Lord's Department store for women on Canal and Baronne, across the street from the Walgreen's drug store. Immediately upon arrival, officers noticed David Ferrie standing in front of the drug store with dark glasses on. Officers observed that Ferrie kept walking in and out of the drug store for about 10 minutes and he came outside and disappeared from officers view, after he began walking up Canal St., in the direction of Claiborne Ave. Investigating officers did not attempt to pick up Ferrie again, as Ferrie is thoroughly acquainted with them. Officers waited until approximately 12:00 noon on Feb 16, 1962 and went to the home of Mr. Crouchet, where Mr. Cater found. Cater had arrived shortly before the arrival of officers. Mr. Crouchet explained that Mr. Cater was a friend of his and had been for 3 years. Officers observed that Cater was very nervous at the time. Cater stated that Ferrie had met him at the designated time and location and they had driven off in a car, operated by a subject, know to him only as "Butch". Cater told officers that they drove him up Tulane Ave., into the Carrollton section to a Royal Castle Restaurant. During the ride, they discussed the cases pending against Ferrie. Cater explained to officers that Ferrie asked him to get Mike Crouchet to change his mind about testifying against him.

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Cater told officers that Ferrie threatened that if Crouchet gave testimony against him (Ferie), that he (Ferie) would get him (Cater) involved in a sex ring. Cater stated that Ferrie told him that he had affidavits by many boys who accuse Cater of having sex parties at his house. For further details, see the attached statement made by Cater, taken at the Juvenile Bureau by investigating officers.

Cater stated additionally that the meeting took place in a Chevrolet convertible, but he did not know the make of the car. He stated that he thought the car belonged to the subject known as Butch. Cater said also, that he had never known or seen Capt Dave Ferrie in all his life and that he didn't understand how Ferrie had obtained his name and phone number at work.

Investigating officers consulted with Assistant District Attorney Richard Seither in this matter, and he advised officers to question Ferrie and present a report to the District Attorney's office. Investigating officers went to the home of David Ferrie at 331 Atherton Drive, at 3:30PM on Feb 16, 1962 in company with Sgt. Joseph Behrens of the Jefferson parish sheriff's office. On arrival of officers at the home of Ferrie, it was observed that several boys were standing around the front lawn of Ferrie's residence. Ferrie came to the door and invited officers to enter. Upon entering, officers recognized Lawrence Marsh WM Age 19 of 4404 Majestic Oaks St. in Gretna, La., known to the officers as "Butch", in previous investigations. Ferrie was placed under arrest. Ferrie admitted being downtown at Canal and Baronne at 10:00AM on 2-16-62, but refused to say why he had gone to this location. He stated only that he had gone to meet somebody. Lawrence Marsch stated that he had driven Ferrie in his Chevrolet convertible to meet someone, downtown at 10:00AM 2-16-62, but would not say any thing more about the meeting. Officers observed the Chevrolet convertible La-62 license 107-828, parked in the front yard of Ferrie's residence. Ferrie was booked at the east bank jail and was immediately taken to the First District Station by investigating officers and booked with RS 14 Article 66 relative to extortion. He refused to answer questions on advise of his attorney.

John Cater is a male nurse, who lives alone. He has been married and is divorced. He has a teen age son who is in the military service. Mr. Crouchet stated that Mr. Cater has been more than a good friend for over 3 years. Cater stated that he has no police record and has never been arrested. He was asked by officers if Ferrie could prove the accusations and he stated that Ferrie positively could not.

On Sunday Feb 18, 1962, Cater came to the Juvenile Bureau and informed investigating officers that he had received a phone call from two boys, one of whom stated that he was calling from Ferrie's residence. The phone call, according to Cater, was made at about 4:00PM on Feb 16, 1962, a short while after Ferrie was arrested. Cater told officers that the boys asked him if he had made a statement against Ferrie and asked him why he made it. The boys told him that Ferrie was only trying to help all boys who are involved in the impending cases in Orleans and Jefferson parish courts, and that Ferrie was also trying to help him (Cater). The telephone conversation ended and Cater identified one of the boys as Alvin Bobach (Phonetically spelled), a boy whom he had met previously at a skating rink.

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Investigating officers feel that Cater is being used by Ferrie in order that Ferrie can gain an acquittal in his impending cases in the courts of Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

Investigating officers would also point out that Cater once hung around a skating rink and knew many young boys, which include Bobach and Marsch, whom Cater knew only as "Butch". Thus, Cater would be a good target for Ferrie's threats and intimidation. Officers checked the Police Bureau of Identification and found that they have no record on John Cater.

The District Attorney will be consulted..

Patn Roland Fournier

Patn Charles Jonau

Approved....

Adolph A. Mayerhofer
Major Adolph A. Mayerhofer
Supervisor of Juvenile Bureau

rpf

TO Ronald Hubner

FROM Chas. Carson

DATE July 16, 1963

RE: David W. Ferrie

The records of that one case in Jefferson Parish were refused. They were viewed however, and the pertinent contents were the same statements sent to Miami yesterday in New Orleans case H-8507-61.

Enclosed are the police report and the statement of John T. Cater which make up the record in B-7904-62.

Juvenile Bureau
Feb 16, 1962

Statement of John T. Cater WM Age 41, residing 5454 Dauphine St.,
relative to an investigation of intimidation and threats.

STATEMENT

I, John Cater, without threats or promises, make the following statement and will answer all questions asked of me.

I was working at 2016 State St., in a private home on Thursday night Feb 15, 1962, and I received a phone call at about 8:30PM, from a man who asked me "do you know who this is" I told him that I had a good idea and he said "I'd like to meet you tomorrow", "I have a proposition". I suspected that it was David Ferrie on the phone, because I had heard about him and the trouble he was causing between ~~Mike Crouch~~ Mike Crouch and other boys. I was nervous about him calling at my work and I didn't know what to do, so I just told him that I would meet him. He asked me where was a good place to meet and I told him Walgreen's on Canal Street, because I was familiar with the location as I past this place every day. I picked this place because it was safe and I didn't want to be along with this man. He hung up after a short conversation. I tried to get Mr. Crouchet that same night but changed my mind because I didn't want to disturb them. I called Mr. Crouchet this morning about 8:00AM to tell him what had happened. Mr. Crouchet told me to go ahead and meet Ferrie and said that he would notify the police.

I met Ferrie this morning at the designated time and place at 10:00AM. He told me he had a car, and that "Butch" was with him and we would take a ride. We got in the car, which ~~was~~ park by the curb on Canal directly in front of the center theatre. It looked like a Chevrolet convertible to me and Butch was driving it. Ferrie wanted to drive around the block because he was expecting some kid to meet him there. The kid didn't show up, so then we drove up Tulane Avenue into the Carrollton section and we started talking while driving. We drove to some Royal Castle restaurant, but I don't remember where it was because I was nervous and unfamiliar with the neighborhood. Ferrie talked about his case and explained to me that if Mike Crouchet would not testify, no one would get into trouble. He stated that he had affidavits against me and ~~Mike~~ Crouchet and the hockey players at the skating rink. He stated that it would be very serious for us, if the Crouchet boy testified against him. He asked me to get Mike to change his mind, not talk, and testify against him. He stated that he was doing this only to help all the boys who are involved, because he was interested in boys. Ferrie stated to me that he had affidavits from boys who had been to my house on several occasions on sex parties. He stated that he was going to get Mike and his brother Courtland involved in a sex ring, and was making implications to make me believe that he had affidavits against me for having sex parties at my house. He told me that I was closer to the Crouchet family to anybody and he told me that I should have influence over them. I was wondering at the time how Ferrie came to know that I was good friends with the Crouchet family. He gave me his phone number which was a Vernon number, which I have at home. He told me to call him and let him know the results of what I could do for him. Butch heard the entire conversation between Ferrie and me. He even butted in and stated that he had been to my house too. I can say definitely that Butch had never been to my house. I don't even know his real name. We did most of the talking while riding in the car. We did not do much talking after we went in to get a cup of coffee.

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After the discussion, Butch and Ferrie drove me to Flood and Burgundy St. It was about 12:00 Noon. I walked over to Mr. Crouchet's house and shortly after the police arrived.

Q. How long have you known the Crouchet family?

A. About 3 years. I visit them regularly and they visit me.

Q. Had you known Ferrie before this incident?

A. Never saw him before in my life.

Q. Had you ever known the boy named Butch?

A. No, only by sight. I have seen him at a skating rink in the past.

Q. Is there anything more you would like to add?

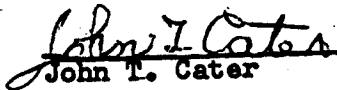
A. At about 4:00PM on Feb 16, 1962, I received a phone call at my house from Alvin Bobach. I boy I know from the skating rink. I asked him where I was and he stated that he was at Dave Ferrie's house. He stated that he had someone on the line who wanted to talk to me. Some other boys, whom I don't know and who didn't identify himself, spoke with me and asked if I had made a statement to the police. I told him know. He told me that Dave Ferrie was trying to help me and the other boys. He told me that the police had been to Ferrie's house and picked him up. He asked me if I had ever heard the police threat to kill Ferrie, get even with him or make remarks about him. The conversation ended when I told them that I wasn't interested.

Q. Do you have any idea how Ferrie got your name and phone number at work?

A. No.

Q. Is this statement true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes


John T. Cater

Statement taken in the presence of Patn Roland Fournier and Charles J. nau typewritten and completed at 9:00AM Feb 18, 1962 by Patn Fournier. It was necessary in this matter to begin the statement on Feb 16, 1962 and to complete it on Sunday Feb 18, 1962.