

EA53BN

KNIGHT SAID HE STAYED WITH THE NEW ORLEANS MAN AS A GUIDE. HE SAID THE MAN INTERVIEWED ABOUT 30 PERSONS AT AIRPORTS AND WAS "VERY THOROUGH," AND TOOK VARIOUS PICTURES OF THE DIFFERENT FIELDS.

KNIGHT ADDED THAT, OF THE PEOPLE QUESTIONED, ONLY PIKE AND LENZ INDICATED THAT THEY RECOGNIZED FERRIE FROM THE PICTURES.

"I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE," LENZ SAID. "YOU DON'T FORGET A FACE LIKE THAT."

FERRIE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN "ODD-LOOKING" MAN WHO WORE AN ILL-FITTING HAIRPIECE AND FALSE EYEBROWS AS A RESULT OF HAVING BEEN BURNED IN AN AIRFIELD EXPLOSION.

OFFICIALS AT REDBIRD, WHITE ROCK AND HIGHLAND PARK AIRPORTS CONFIRMED THAT THE NEW ORLEANS INVESTIGATOR HAD VISITED THEIR FIELDS IN LATE JANUARY AND QUESTIONED EMPLOYEES.

"HE REALLY WENT OVER THIS PLACE WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB," SAID WAYNE MCWHIRTER, MANAGER OF WHITE ROCK AIRPORT.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS DISCLOSED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE DALLAS BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS HAS DENIED ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC OF ROUTINE PUBLIC RECORDS CONCERNING THE DEATHS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, OSWALD, AND JACK RUBY. RUBY SHOT OSWALD TO DEATH NOV. 24, 1963, IN THE DALLAS POLICE STATION AND HIMSELF DIED OF CANCER IN DALLAS JAN. 3 OF THIS YEAR.

DR. J. E. PEAVY, STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER, SAID THAT THE RECORDS HAVE BEEN INACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC SINCE ABOUT A MONTH AFTER EACH MAN DIED. THE VITAL STATISTICS BUREAU COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

"IF A PERSON HAS A LEGITIMATE REASON, HE CAN SEE THE DOCUMENTS," PEAVY TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TODAY. "IT'S PRESUMED THAT NEWSMEN WOULD HAVE LEGITIMATE REASONS."

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PEAVY ADDED THAT THE RECORDS OF KENNEDY, OSWALD AND RUBY ARE NOT

HANDLED MUCH DIFFERENTLY FROM ALL SUCH RECORDS.

"NONE OF OUR RECORDS ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC," HE SAID. "A PERSON HAS TO SHOW CAUSE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE'S CHECKING ON."

BUT HE SAID THE RESTRICTIONS ON THESE THREE ARE TIGHTER THAN ON THE REST, "SO THAT THE UNSCRUPULOUS WON'T BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THESE RECORDS FOR PERSONAL GAIN."

~~PEAVY SAID THE SECRET SERVICE ASKED HIM TO TIGHTEN THE RESTRICTIONS~~ ON THE KENNEDY, OSWALD AND RUBY DOCUMENTS AFTER SEVERAL CERTIFIED COPIES WERE FOUND TO BE IN CIRCULATION.

"WE THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER OF GOOD TASTE," HE SAID.

PEAVY SAID THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ARE ON FILE IN AUSTIN, THE STATE CAPITAL, AND DUPLICATES ARE ON FILE IN THE DALLAS BRANCH OFFICE.

~~DALLAS CITY ATTY. ALEX BICKLEY SAID THE BAN PROHIBITS THE COPYING OF THE DOCUMENTS ON FILE IN DALLAS.~~

~~"THERE HAVE BEEN LETTERS, TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY~~ FROM FORTUNE HUNTERS, INVESTIGATORS AND THOSE LITTLE PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO MAKE A BUCK OFF HIS (PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S) DEATH," BICKLEY SAID.

THE TIMES HERALD SAID THE BAN IS BEING INTERPRETED BY CLERKS IN THE DALLAS OFFICE TO COVER PERSONS NOW DEAD BUT ONLY INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF THE ASSASSINATION.

PEAVY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS OFFICE HAD REQUESTED THAT ONLY THE DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO KENNEDY, OSWALD AND RUBY BE RESTRICTED.

HE CAUTIONED THAT, WHILE NEWSMEN AND OTHERS WITH LEGITIMATE REASONS COULD SEE THE RECORDS, "I DOUBT THAT WE WOULD RELEASE A CERTIFIED COPY WITHOUT A COURT ORDER."

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(EDS: A52, START 5TH GRAF, READ IT:

FRED LENZ, A MECHANIC, ETC. (INSERTING NAME).