

February 20, 1967

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. J. R. Malley
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

Dear Mr. Watson:

The Sunday editions of two Washington, D. C., newspapers for February 19, 1967, carried articles indicating that District Attorney Jim Garrison in New Orleans, Louisiana, is conducting an investigation of the assassination of the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Allegedly Garrison claims that the Warren Commission Report is inaccurate in stating Leo Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Enclosed is a memorandum which sets forth a concise summary of the results of our investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald from April, 1963, when he returned to New Orleans from Dallas, Texas, until September, 1963, when he traveled to Mexico City, Mexico. Also set forth is information in our files concerning District Attorney Garrison and data concerning Miguel Torres and David William Ferrie who are mentioned in these newspaper articles.

I thought this information would be of interest to the President. Additional pertinent information concerning this matter that comes to our attention will be immediately furnished to you.

ENCLOSURE This data is also being furnished to the Acting Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

- 62-109060
- 1 - 105-82553
(Lee Harvey Oswald)
- ① - 62-109090
(Warren Commission Report)

62-109090 -

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Enclosure,

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

62-109090-111

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Honorable Marvin Watson

NOTE:

See memorandum W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan dated 2/19/67; captioned "The Assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy; November 22, 1963; Dallas, Texas;" prepared by REL:KMR:sal.

1 - DeLoach 1 - J.R. Malley
1 - Wick 1 - Branigan
1 - Rosen 1 - Raupach
1 - Sullivan 1 - Lenihan

February 20, 1967

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

The Sunday editions of the "Washington Post" and the "Washington Evening Star" dated February 19, 1967, contained articles reporting that District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans, Louisiana, was conducting an investigation of the assassination of the late President Kennedy and was claiming that the Warren Commission Report is inaccurate in stating that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination. Garrison did not furnish details of his investigation to the press, but stated that arrests will be made, charges will be filed, and convictions will be obtained.

The newspaper articles indicated that Miguel Torres, a 26-year-old Cuban who formerly lived only a block from Oswald's last known New Orleans address, is known to be connected with the investigation conducted by the District Attorney's office. The "Washington Evening Star" article also reported that David William Ferrie, a part-time private investigator and operator of a New Orleans flying service, informed the press that the District Attorney's office informed him it had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

James C. Garrison, District Attorney in New Orleans, Louisiana, is a former Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He entered on duty with this Bureau on March 5, 1951, and resigned on July 24, 1951, to enter military service. His services with this Bureau were satisfactory.

Garrison was elected District Attorney, Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, and took office in May, 1962. On November 1 and 2, 1962, the New Orleans "Times-Picayune" carried statements by Garrison charging that the parish criminal-court judges were clogging up the city jail and delaying justice by taking excessive vacation periods. Following such charges, the judges involved instituted a defamation

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1 - 105-92555 (Oswald)

ENCLOSURE: 62-109090 -
SEE NOTE, PAGE 8

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charge against Garrison. The trial received nation-wide publicity and Garrison was found guilty on February 6, 1963, of the charges and was fined \$1,000. Garrison appealed his conviction and on November 24, 1964, the United States Supreme Court reversed the conviction of Garrison. The United States Supreme Court held that the element of deliberate malice was lacking in the statements attributed to Garrison regarding the trial judges involved.

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past has informed this Bureau that Garrison is politically ambitious. Our New Orleans Office has advised that rumors have been circulating in the city of New Orleans indicating Garrison may be a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of the State of Louisiana in the next election to be held in December, 1967. [REDACTED]

Following the assassination of President Kennedy, this Bureau conducted an extensive investigation in New Orleans, Louisiana, concerning Oswald's residence there from April, 1963, to September 25, 1963, when he left New Orleans to travel to Mexico City, Mexico. Following his move to New Orleans from Dallas, Texas, in April, 1963, Oswald, responding to a newspaper advertisement, obtained a position with William B. Reilly Company, Incorporated, an enterprise engaged in the roasting, grinding, canning, bagging, and selling of coffee. Oswald's task was the lubrication of the company's machinery. Oswald obtained an apartment at 4905 Magazine Street and made arrangements for his wife, Marina, and his child to join him in New Orleans. On July 19, 1963, Oswald was dismissed by the Reilly Company because of inefficiency and inattention to his work.

On July 25, 1963, Oswald received another personal setback when he was notified that, in response to the request for review which he had made in 1962, his undesirable discharge from the United States Marine Corps had been affirmed. It was during the same period that Oswald began to evidence thoughts of returning to the Soviet Union or going to Cuba. On July 24, 1963, Oswald applied for a new passport, which he received on the following day.

In late May and early June, 1963, Oswald apparently had begun to formulate plans for creating a New Orleans branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Using a false

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name, Oswald ordered a number of printed circulars, demanding "hands off Cuba" in large letters, and application forms and membership cards for the proposed chapter. On August 5, 1963, he visited a store managed by Carlos Bringuier, a Cuban refugee and avid opponent of Castro and the New Orleans delegate of the Cuban student directorate. Oswald indicated an interest in joining the struggle against Castro.

On August 9, 1963, Bringuier saw Oswald pass out Fair Play for Cuba Committee leaflets. Bringuier and Oswald got into a dispute which resulted in their arrests for disturbing the peace. Oswald pleaded guilty to the charges against him and paid a \$10 fine.

On August 17, 1963, Oswald appeared on a radio program in New Orleans representing himself to be a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. On August 21, 1963, Oswald engaged in a debate on another radio program at which time he defended the Castro regime and discussed Marxism.

During this period, Oswald wrote several letters to V. T. Lee, the National Director of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Oswald informed Lee in exaggerated terms of his activities in New Orleans. He also wrote to the Communist Party in New York City and informed Communist Party officials of his activities. On September 25, 1963, Oswald left New Orleans by bus en route to Mexico City.

During the course of our investigation of Oswald's activities in New Orleans, we received no evidence that Oswald was in personal contact with pro-Castro Cubans nor any indication that he might be involved in an assassination plot with others to kill President Kennedy.

In the "Washington Post" article, mentioned above, it is reported that Miguel Torres is known to be connected with the investigation being conducted by the District Attorney in New Orleans. On October 25, 1962, this Bureau received a complaint that Miguel Torres, along with his father, mother, and two brothers, was pro-Castro in his belief. It was also alleged that the Torres family had a short-wave radio in their home for the purpose of receiving Cuban broadcasts. We initiated investigation of Miguel Torres and other members of his family on the basis of such allegations but found no information to corroborate such allegations. Our investigation

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did disclose that Miguel Torres had a criminal record. He was arrested February 1, 1959, on an armed robbery charge and was sentenced on October 2, 1959, for a period of ten years in the State Penitentiary. On February 2, 1961, he was discharged from the Louisiana State Penitentiary. He was arrested again on September 5, 1964, by the New Orleans Police Department on burglary charges and was sentenced to nine years in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. In September, 1964, he was also arrested by the Bureau of Narcotics for violation of the Federal Narcotics Law. He was sentenced on January 6, 1965, to three years in a Federal Penitentiary with the sentence to begin after completion of the nine-year sentence in the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

During the course of our investigation of the assassination, we developed no information indicating acquaintanceship or contact between Lee Harvey Oswald and Miguel Torres.

In the "Washington Evening Star" article, mentioned above, it was reported that David William Ferrie, part-time private investigator and operator of a New Orleans flying service, stated the New Orleans District Attorney's office informed him it had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy." Immediately following the assassination of the late President Kennedy, this Bureau received an allegation that Lee Harvey Oswald may have been acquainted with David William Ferrie through a Civil Air Patrol group in New Orleans. The source of such allegation stated that Ferrie was an amateur hypnotist and the source felt that Ferrie may have hypnotized Oswald and planted a post-hypnotic suggestion that Oswald kill President Kennedy. We also received allegations that Ferrie, a qualified pilot, was to fly Oswald from Dallas following his assassination of President Kennedy.

We conducted extensive inquiries concerning the allegations surrounding Ferrie, including interviews of Ferrie. We developed no evidence that Ferrie knew Oswald or that Ferrie was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.

On February 19, 1967, our New Orleans Office advised that the New Orleans "Times-Picayune" newspaper for February 19, 1967, carried an article which indicated that Ferrie stated the investigation of the assassination carried on by District Attorney Garrison is a "big joke." Ferrie reportedly told

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a New Orleans reporter that he had been pegged as the get-away pilot in an elaborate plot to kill President Kennedy. Ferrie has contacted our New Orleans Office and has stated he plans to take civil action against those accusing him of being involved in a plot to kill President Kennedy.

NOTE:

See memorandum Branigan to Sullivan dated 2-19-67, captioned same, prepared by REL/KMR:sal. L