

N. 41

MEMORANDUM

1 May 1, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

2
3 TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

4 FROM: STEPHEN JAFFE, investigator

5 RE: LORAN HALL, Reinterviews following Memo of: March 20, 1968
6 (See Also: Interview transcript of HALL and
HAROLD WEISBERG, taped Feb. 8-11, 1968)

7 *****
INC. CHANTON WHEAT INFO
FROM HALL

8 INTERVIEW (Telephone) March 29, 1968

9 By way of correction of Memorandum dated March 20, 1968
10 where HALL discussed his release from jail in Dallas on about
11 October 19, 1963, it should be noted that HALL related to me
12 "they were released" (meaning "we" for himself and SEYMOUR) from
13 custody together. In the subsequent telephone conversation HALL
14 explained that he and SEYMOUR arrived about 8 PM on October 16,
15 1963 (SEYMOUR sent a Western Union money order to LAWRENCE HOWARD
16 JR. from Dallas, Texas to Miami, Florida dated October 16, 1963,
17 a copy of which will be sent to your office this week). HALL
18 stated that he and SEYMOUR were arrested at about 9 AM "the
19 next morning" (October 17, 1963). HALL continued to say that
20 SEYMOUR was released the day before he was and was waiting in
21 the room at the YMCA when HALL arrived. He said that they remained
22 at the YMCA, as they were told to do by "the lawyer" until the
23 time of their departure from Dallas.

24 INTERVIEW April 1, 1968, 9:30 PM

25
26 On this date I met and interviewed LORAN HALL at the
27 Los Angeles Playboy Club on Sunset Blvd. He stated that he had
28 been in telephone contact with JERRY COHEN, of the Los Angeles
29 Times, DICK BILLINGS of Life Magazine, and with ART KEVIN of
30 KHJ-Radio News in Los Angeles.

31 HALL said that he and COHEN had been able to find out
32 that C. GEORGE WHEAT, formerly of Los Angeles (1963), had been

1 convicted for murder in the state of Louisiana and received
2 a sentence of 20 years. Later, HALL stated, WHEAT (he also
3 referred to him as CLINT WHEAT) received a "complete pardon."
4 He did not recall the date of the conviction or the details of
5 the conviction. HALL stated that WHEAT moved to Los Angeles with
6 his wife and worked as a "Cat Operator" (sic). This is some kind
7 of excavation tractor machinery. During this employment HALL
8 stated that WHEAT was injured and subsequently received a dis-
9 ability settlement of \$12,000. HALL stated that WHEAT then sold
10 his property in December of 1963 or January of 1964 and moved
11 to Oregon. HALL had tried to locate WHEAT recently but could not
12 find him. The "property" that WHEAT sold was evidently his house
13 at 233 S. Lafayette Park Place.

14 HALL further related some information which he had learned
15 from a source he could not divulge (which I later learned was ART
16 KEVIN) This information pertained to a "cover-name" which had been
17 used by EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY, ("KELLY"), and a witness which his
18 "source" had located who could recall seeing CLAY SHAW entering
19 the home of BRADLEY in Van Nuys, Calif. I mention this hearsay
20 only to point out some of the piecemeal knowledge which HALL has,
21 some of which is incorrect or partially correct. HALL stated in
22 a later interview that he is writing a book on the Assassination
23 and has been offered \$25,000 for his writings by The National
24 Enquirer Newspaper.

25 HALL mentioned that a tape recording of a witness (female)
26 existed, that he had heard the tape, and that this woman indicated
27 that LAWRENCE HOWARD JR. had worked for the same moving company
28 in the San Fernando Valley, which EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY had
29 owned. He could offer no information to corroborate this and
30 would not divulge the source of the tape recording. HALL stated
31 that the woman said her son had worked for Movers Incorporated
32 with HOWARD transporting file cabinets.

1 I asked HALL if he could recall a particular hotel in
2 Miami where Anti-Castro training groups stayed and held meetings.
3 When I described the hotel which JIM ROSE described to me (see
4 Memorandum dated March 20, 1968, re: JIM ROSE) HALL identified
5 it as the Biscayne Hotel, on Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida.
6 HALL feels that he was "set up" (for an attempt on his life) by
7 one GENERAL CONTAVE, at that hotel.

8 HALL stated that the "friend" of his present at the time
9 of his arrest in Florida at "Jewish Creek", as described the
10 memorandum of March 20, 1968, was ENRIQUE MOLINA.

11 HALL stated that two brothers, who owned a boat dock in
12 Miami in 1963 and other docks in Santa Domingo, told him that a
13 man from Washington D.C., "a CIA man", was trying to set him up.
14 That night, he said, the incident occurred at the Biscayne Hotel.
15 HALL described the two brothers as being in their late 50's (age).

16
17 INTERVIEW April 4, 1968, 1:00 PM

18 On this date I met and interviewed LORAN HALL and inter-
19 viewed him at the Hamburger Hamlet Restaurant, Beverly Hills,
20 Calif.

21 HALL stated that with the help of the Los Angeles Police
22 Department Subversive Division, he was investigating the people
23 he was associated with during 1963. He was seeking information
24 about JOHN LORENZ (HALL called him "LORENZO") and two "buddies"
25 of his in regard to meetings during the later part of 1963, prior
26 to the Assassination, at which he and the other three men were
27 present. HALL gave the following description of LORENZ:

28 29-30 years of age
29 150 lbs.
30 5' 10" tall
Dark hair, thin faced
Occupation: house painter

1 HALL described LORENZ's two buddies as follows:

2	#1	(name unknown)	#2	(name unknown)
3		approx. middle 20's (age)		late 20's or early 30's
4		Stocky		Stocky and muscular
		Blond hair		Extremely dark complected

5 HALL stated that in September of 1963 he was present at
6 a meeting in Dallas, Texas, which was for the purpose of acquir-
7 ing funds for raids to be carried out against Cuba. He said that
8 this meeting was held at the home of LESTER LOGUE (later, on May
9 4, 1968 HALL told me that he had never divulged the true location
10 of this meeting but that he would tell Mr. Garrison; this was the
11 date of his departure for New Orleans.) HALL said that \$20,000
12 was being sought to provide equipment needed for the raids. He
13 would not disclose the names of those present at that time but he
14 said that there were five possible contributors. One man there,
15 whose name HALL could not remember, was described as a multi-
16 millionaire who was one of the biggest truck line owners in Texas.
17 HALL said that he thought this man had just become the biggest
18 truck line owner in Texas because one present at the meeting told
19 that man that since he'd just purchased a large trucking firm he
20 should contribute to the "pot." HALL stated that this man has a
21 partner in his company ownership. This man told the meeting that
22 he'd "donate to a \$50,000 pot for you to wipe out KENNEDY." "Yeh,
23 but then we'd have that goddamn Johnson," HALL replied. The man
24 then answered him, "Yeh, but at least he'd take care of us Texans."

25 HALL described a man in Texas which he feels might have
26 been a "second Oswald," in the context of impersonation as in
27 RICHARD POPKIN's book by the same name. This man was WILEY YATES,
28 who HALL said bears a strong resemblance to LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He
29 further stated that YATES is "a real radical, paranoid, right
30 winger, he owns a rifle with a scope, he had stacks of anti-
31 KENNEDY literature in his garage, boxes full of old explosives,"
32 and when HALL had visited him at his home in Dallas, Texas for

1 approximately four days in May of 1963 YATES had taken him to
2 a gun shop that he frequented. HALL could not remember the name
3 of the gun shop. HALL stated that "WALLY" worked as an "Oxygen"
4 man at a hospital near GENERAL WALKER'S." This was in 1963.
5 HALL stated that a friend of his in Dallas, LARRY GROVES, employed
6 by the Dallas Times-Herald Newspaper could determine where YATES
7 is working at present. (SEE ALSO: Interview of February 8-11, 1968
8 with HAROLD WEISBERG.)

9 HALL stated that he was interested in examining photographs
10 of all related events to the Assassination, or of persons allegedly
11 connected with that Assassination and that he had ordered some
12 photographs from TOM DUNCAN, in Atlanta. (See: DUNCAN reference
13 in first memo with JIM ROSE, dated Jan. 26, 1968).

14 HALL asked if Mr. Garrison knew anything about a man named
15 ED COLLINS who had been an expert marksman and scuba diver and
16 who had evidently drowned in "8 inches of water." I told him that
17 we were interested in any information that he could furnish about
18 this person and he said that he would tell what he knew of him
19 to Mr. Garrison, in New Orleans.

20
21 INTERVIEW April 25, 1968 (Telephone)
22

23 On this date LORAN HALL telephoned me at my home for the
24 primary purpose, he said, of making definite the arrangements for
25 his travel to New Orleans to testify. He wanted to make the trip
26 on May 5, 1968. In the conversation HALL stated that he had met
27 that day with LAWRENCE SCHILLER and had discussed EDGAR EUGENE
28 BRADLEY. HALL said that SCHILLER felt BRADLEY was indicating his
29 own guilt because of several contradictory statements he had made
30 in public appearances since his arrest. HALL was shown transcripts
31 of these contradictory statements by SCHILLER and other documents
32 some of which HALL said were "FBI reports on BRADLEY." HALL

1 stated that SCHILLER showed him Federal Aviation Agency reports
2 that listed BRADLEY as a licensed helicopter pilot. HALL stated
3 that according to his contacts at the LAPD, they had begun a full
4 investigation of EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY, and that they would allow
5 him access to information disclosed in their investigation. HALL
6 stated that he was going to see EDWIN A. MEESE, Legal Affairs
7 Secretary for the State of California (Governor RONALD REAGEN),
8 at 10 AM , Tuesday, April 30, 1968 (which he has since completed).
9 (For information on this meeting of HALL and MEESE refer to memo
10 dictated on May 1, 1968 to the office) HALL said that he wanted
11 to protect himself from perjury charges in California because he
12 had testified at his own extradition hearing that he had not known
13 EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY. He further stated that he now wanted to dis-
14 close his meeting with BRADLEY (at WHEAT's house) and hoped that
15 he'd given enough material regarding BRADLEY'S background to MEESE
16 so that MEESE would understand BRADLEY'S association with members
17 of radical organizations. He hoped that this would lead to BRADLEY'S
18 extradition.

19
20 INTERVIEW April 27, 1968 (Telephone)

21 On this date I had a telephone conversation with LORAN
22 HALL where he stated that the LAPD Subversive Division had advised
23 him that COLONEL WILLIAM P. GALE had been killed, in a manner
24 unknown as yet, on or about the date of April 20, 1968. He
25 had no further information but would meet me on Monday, April 29,
26 1968.

27
28 INTERVIEW April 29, 1968 1 PM

29 On this date I met HALL in downtown Los Angeles at the
30 Los Angeles Times Building and we went to a nearby coffee shop
31 for the interview. HALL advised that he had received incorrect
32 information about the death of COL. GALE and that it was, in fact,

1 WILLIAM GARLAND, a right-wing, radical, who had been killed
2 in an accident in Los Angeles on April 4, 1968. WILLIAM GARLAND,
3 HALL said, was associated with EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY, CLINT WHEAT,
4 and a man named GILBERT in 1963. HALL stated that GILBERT had
5 been arrested on a charge for illegal possession of explosives
6 in 1965 and is now in jail.

7 HALL stated that on Sunday, April 28, 1968, while driving
8 on the freeway in his car his steering mechanism fell apart nearly
9 causing him to have a serious accident. He had his car towed to a
10 nearby garage where the attendant told him that some of the bolts
11 securing the steering column had been broken off deliberately with
12 some kind of wrench.

13 HALL stated that his own sources (later named as DICK
14 BILLINGS of Life Magazine) had told him valuable information
15 regarding HOWARD K. DAVIS. The information said that DAVIS was
16 in NEW ORLEANS in order to acquire a boat from LARRY LA BORDE
17 in 1963. LA BORDE told DICK BILLINGS that DAVIS made a telephone
18 call to DAVID FERRIE while at his house.

19 HALL then described in almost surprising detail what his
20 theories were about the Assassination of President KENNEDY and
21 how it was enacted. He further stated that he was writing a book
22 on the Assassination, had nearly completed the manuscript and was
23 considering an offer of \$25,000 from the National Inquirer Publi-
24 cation.

25 HALL stated that along with JERRY COHEN he had visited
26 the Van Nuys home of Mr. and Mrs. AYETELOT. He said that after
27 she met them at the door with a gun they both left without dis-
28 cussion. They had learned of the possibility of MRS ATTELOT
29 having information regarding EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY from LAPD
30 Subversive Division and from COHEN's own investigation. HALL
31 stated that he had learned that BRADLEY is "scared to death of
32 the AYETELOTS, DENNIS MOWER (a known Minuteman, once arrested in

1 Los Angeles for illegal possession of weapons; and a former
2 bodyguard for a local minister, WESLEY SWIFT).

3 According to HALL, BRADLEY also fears a man named THORNHILL.
4 HALL stated that he had telephoned the home of DR. STANLEY
5 DRENNEN in search of JOHN LORENZ. MRS. DRENNEN, who answered,
6 said that she had recently seen LORENZ but would not answer
7 any more questions for HALL.

8
9 HALL stated that a man he had first suspected of possible
10 connection with the rumored death of COL. GALE, which later proved
11 false, was TROY HOUGHTON, a local Minuteman who disappeared after
12 a trip to Springfield, Missouri. HALL did not state when that
13 disappearance occurred. According to HALL, HOUGHTON is the
14 director of the West Coast chapter of the MINUTEMEN. Hall also
15 had knowledge that HOUGHTON had spent some time in Canada.

16 The reason HALL mentioned Canada, he explained, was in
17 connection with the guy who had been associated with GARLAND,
18 named GILBERT. This man is KIETH DWAYNE GILBERT, a Minuteman,
19 who, in 1965, was wanted for the theft of 1400 pounds of explosives
20 found in his home. HALL said that he had seen a photograph of
21 GILBERT four days before GILBERT went to Canada. GILBERT returned
22 six months later. A photograph taken of him then, which HALL also
23 saw (at the LAPD SUBVERSIVE DIV.) showed GILBERT to have had a
24 drastic physical change in his appearance. It was as if he had
25 had plastic surgery and had changed his hair and total manner,
26 HALL said. HALL speculated that HOUGHTON might be somewhere in
27 Los Angeles after having been disguised by a similar transformation
28 process in Canada.

29 HALL asked me if our office was interested in a man named
30 DUARTE, whom he described as having been a Mexican-Cuban who
31 claimed he was a Comandante in the Revolution in Cuba.

32 HALL also asked if we knew of a man named CARLTON
WESTON JOHNSON, who made frequent trips to YUMA, ARIZONA in 1965.

1 He said that JOHNSON was described as 47 years old, balding
2 and the owner of a 1960 Nash Rambler- beige, which HALL said
3 might have been used in Dallas in the Assassination conspiracy.

4 Finally, HALL offered further information on HOWARD K.
5 DAVIS which he'd learned from DICK BILLINGS, that DAVIS was
6 flying for AIR AMERICA CO. (which HALL said was CIA) in LAOS,
7 CAMBODIA, AND VIET NAM. DAVIS was GERRY PATRICK HEMMING'S boss
8 in 1963.

9 HALL said that on November 22, 1963 GERRY PATRICK HEMMING
10 was in Miami, Florida in a newspaper office (The Miami Herald)
11 and stated that because he was there they could see that he,
12 PATRICK, was not involved in the Assassination. At that time
13 PATRICK advised them that there was a man in Dallas named HALL
14 who had a rifle with a scope, and it should be checked. HALL
15 said that he had also learned that SID MARX, of Gardena, California
16 made a call to LESTER LOGUE in Dallas (Nov. 22, 1963) regarding
17 the possibilty of HALL'S implication in the Assassination.
18

19 PRESS CONFERENCE May 2, 1968 (Taped)
20

21 I have instructed ART KEVIN, KHJ- NEWS, to forward a copy
22 of the taperecording of the press conference of LORAN HALL, at
23 10 AM at the Los Angeles Press Club to your office. KEVIN has
24 already done so when this reaches you.

25 Also present at the conference were GERRY PATRICK HEMMING,
26 and ROY HARGRAVES, both former members of "PATRICK'S RAIDERS"
27 in 1963 in Miami, Florida. HALL stated that they threatened him
28 before the conference telling him not to disclose their names
29 or their activities in the Florida Keys or in Anti-Castro activ-
30 ities in 1963. HALL rejected the threat but did not disclose this
31 information at the conference. (For information about GERRY PATRICK
32 HEMMING see memorandum of May 4, 1968)