

M E M O R A N D U M

January 26, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: STEPHEN JAFFE, Investigator

RE: Interview with:
RICHARD SPRAGUE - 1/24/68 - Chicago, Illinois
* * * * * ***** * * * * *

During my interview with RICHARD SPRAGUE, he related to me the results of his investigation on a recent trip he made to Dallas, Texas. He described several photographs which he had been able to view, and to obtain, and said that he would write a letter describing his information and accompanying photographs to Mr. Garrison as soon as he returned to New York, which would be on Monday, January 29, 1968. Mr. SPRAGUE asked if I would relay the following details of some of the information which he had obtained to Mr. Garrison immediately. Those details and that information are included in the memorandum as follows:

Mr. SPRAGUE said that from HOLLAND MccOMBS he received the information that MELVIN BELLI tried to sell a photograph to Life Magazine. These were photographs taken in the jail and included all of the people who were in the jail with JACK RUBY at the time he was taken into custody. SPRAGUE goes on to state that BELLI had hinted at a photograph like the one which TOM HOWARD had discussed. The photograph HOWARD had discussed was a photograph of President Kennedy's head wounds taken at Parkland Hospital. Further information about this matter will be relayed to the office by SPRAGUE.

SPRAGUE stated that in a telephone interview with one JIM DARNELL on January 24, 1968, DARNELL gave him the following information:

At the time of the assassination, DARNELL worked for Station W B, A P in Dallas. DARNELL was in camera car 3 in the motorcade. When the shots were fired, DARNELL's car was in the middle of the block between Maine and Elm on Houston. He was taking footage in a movie camera at that time. At the time of the shots, he jumped out of the car and ran across Dealey Plaza from Houston taking footage of the people lying on the ground as he ran. This sequence says SPRAGUE, would be before the sequence of movie film taken by photographer COUCH because DARNELL jumped out of the camera car #3 before it reached the corner of Elm and Houston. DARNELL then, along with ROGER CRAIG, ran into the parking lot behind the picket fence and then back towards the front of the Texas School Book Depository, all the time taking movie footage of the events and the people whom he saw. DARNELL

then went to the Old County Courthouse Building where W B A P had a press room. He took footage of the witnesses in that press room.

DELL FOSTER, another Fort Worth Star Telegram reporter, came over and talked to DARNELL about CRAIG. The Fort Worth Star Telegram ran a story on what DARNELL had seen on the next day, November 23, 1963. DARNELL told SPRAGUE that he had gotten footage of a man who was being arrested, described the man as being middle-aged, a little bit husky. He said that the police put him into a squad car on the Southwest corner of Houston and Elm Streets, and turned him loose after a few minutes. He further described the man who was taken into custody as being a white man, not dark complexioned. SPRAGUE stated that at the time of the assassination a man named DOYLE VINSON was the supervisor of the TV News Room for W B A P in Dallas. SPRAGUE stated that presently the News Director for W B A P is a man named RUSS THORNTON. SPRAGUE feels that this film should be in the library at W B A P and should be available for viewing.

Mr. SPRAGUE interviewed a photographer named DON COOK. His phone number in Dallas is 747-2202. SPRAGUE said that COOK worked for Channel 11 in Fort Worth, K T V T, at the time of the assassination.

COOK told SPRAGUE that at the time of the motorcade's turn from Maine onto Houston COOK was in the Sheriff's office taking film of the motorcade out the window. When the shots rang out, COOK ran out of the Sheriff's office and took film as he went. The significant part of the film which was taken by COOK is in footage he made behind the picket fence in the parking lot shortly after the shots were fired. SPRAGUE further stated that when COOK went to the station, the Fort Worth Channel 11 Station of K T V T, one week after the assassination to inquire about his own footage, the station told him that that footage had disappeared.