

Gary Mack
KKAS-TV
P.O. Box 1780
Fort Worth, TX 76101

10/20/84

Dear Gary,

The FBI's 8/17 and 10/4 letters appear to be normal. There is a questionable sentence but I doubt it has significance. This is the statement that all the DL records are preprocessed and at FBIHQ. The possibility of significance is if the DL copy or copies of the Moorman pix were not sent to FBIHQ.

Your letter to the former Mary Moorman is quite good. I look forward to the rest of what we discussed on this.

For my own purposes I'm separating the copies of the records the FBI sent you for filing by subject, with a copy of this, the Jean Hill stuff with Moorman. I read it some hours ago but recall nothing new in the Moorman records.

All are FBIHQ records. 105-82555-2028 refers to several items by their numbers in previous correspondence. When we spoke you thought they'd excised what relates to Item 13 because of the white space. I think not, that it would have been backed out if excised, and that they started on the next page because they were close to the bottom of that page.

I find it interesting that DL did not in any of these records disclose to FBIHQ that it had made any copy, even after HQ raised the question. I do not believe that once the question was raised it kept any secrets from FBIHQ, so I presume there are other records, even if the matter was handled by phone.

After going over these records I see no explanation for the selection of irrelevant records included in what was sent you. I presume it was some kind of accident, perhaps parts of several other requests.

When you told me about the 1965 Philip Geraci records I wondered about the FBI's interest as of then but the records are self-explanatory and also accurate. Albeit incomplete. An explanation is in order.

That Geraci and the other boys planned those right-wing extremist operations is correct and they were properly reported to the FBI by Jeff Parish and to others by the FBI. I conducted a fairly complete investigation of Geraci for other reasons, interviewed his father, his mother twice and him the second time I spoke to the mother, in the presence (indeed, home) of the family lawyer at my arranging. That the FBI carried its work no farther, or its interest, appears to be a little unusual and I'm inclined to believe that it did, whether or not those additional records are omitted by accident. There was another young person involved, a girl who was both a source-informer for me and a narcfink. She is not mentioned. It is she who met Geraci when he returned to N.O., and then something out of the ordinary happened. He went to see Bringuier, who instead of informing his parents or the police, arranged for him to stay at a dive known as The Silver Dollar, and there he was the victim of a gangbang. (I think the boy was gay and that he was honest with me.) This and another Bringuier factor may account for the incompleteness of what was sent you. The other factor is that Bringuier was, as I told you, a liar to have an alibi for something else. Bringuier placed the date of Oswald's visit to him at 8/5/63 (also in other records 8/2) and thus, because of the raid on Ricardo Davis' so-called camp on the other side of Lake Pontchartrain Bringuier was suspicious. The initial FBI reports quote Geraci as placing the date as perhaps in July. (The raid was 7/31.) They also quote Geraci as saying this was his first visit to Bringuier. His first visit was much earlier. I have copies of receipts Bringuier gave him that are, as I recall, in June, provided by father and mother from a shoe-box of such stuff.

Philip was in Vietnam when I saw the parents, and both were cooperative. I taped the interview and played the tape back to them for any comment. None.

The mother's recollection was quite clear. Philip and Vance Blalock were both in the CAP and wanted things for their uniform, perhaps overseas caps. The mother had a dental appointment not far from or in the French Quarter, it was right after the end of the school term, and she drove the boys to the Quarter for them to get what they wanted. That was the first time Philip was there. (He was to see Bringuiar fairly often afterward.) So the actual time was not long after LHO got to NO and coincided roughly with his getting his literature and picketing the Wasp.

With regard to the older gay "Mario," the father told me more, where he picked boys up, of complaining to school authorities, and the other descriptions, from him, the girl and I'm not now sure, Philip, it may have been Mario Bermudez, a Shaw crony. I emphasize may because it also may not have been and there is no certainty.

NO put two different file numbers on its copies of the first two records, 105-2467 on the 5/5/65 teletype and 100-2467 on the 5/6/65 airtel. 105 = Foreign Counterintelligence and 100 = Subversive Matter. The airtel also is on a printed form, with boxes to be checked. "Bombing Matters" is checked, "Racial Matters" isn't. But "Bombing Matters" is not ordinarily filed in 100 or 105. Ordinarily 174, and the original at FBIHQ was filed in 174-1-13327. (Somehow the 2467 seems familiar but I cannot place it.)

What appears to be unusual and I think indicates an omitted record or records is not correcting the contradiction in N.O. file numbers. Either N.O., FBIHQ or both would have done this.

I have a copy of the Jeff. Paris's juvenile report and as I recall it the name of the sergeant is spelled "Bourne." I think it is very unlikely that he did not provide his later info, which involved Bringuiar and the gangbang (as I recall given as a single rather than a gang) and the girl's role and what then happened to Philip (mental hospitalization) to the FBI. Not included in what you got.

Also odd is the fact that one of the 1965 records bears a visible FBIHQ file #. It is both Not Recorded and serialized on the TT of 5/5, not normal, and only the serial numbers appear on the others. Most likely Oswald, 105-82555, but could be JFK, 62-109060.

Idiosyncratic odd is the fact that the Lowell Brandle records which follow also follow in alphabetical serialization of 5414, Geraci ending with G and Brandle beginning with C. (This might be from later insertion into a file or from a purpose other than filing serialization.) A new FBIHQ file # is given these records. Two of the FBIHQ #s at the end of F are known to me, 104401 has John Birch Society records and 107261 Minuteman records. 62 Miscellaneous, non-subversive. This story, of the reporter trying to get a rifle when he used the name "Hidell," is well known. (I can't make out the San Antonio record, also F, and I'm placing this in my Klein's file.) * (see p. 3)

The remaining records relate to Moorman and Hill, from 105-82555. In a sense a little provocative but not inconsistent is Hill's statement that she "saw the ~~top~~ hair on the back of" JFK's head "fly ~~off~~." Not the top of the head. That a piece of scalp went more or less up is not new. No FBI followup on this indicated here. (Serial 2677.) On p. 3 Hill says that a federal agent asked her how she felt when a bullet hit near her feet. This suggests that if you can locate her you show her the picture I suggested you ask Schott to look at, the one with an agent with Buddy Walthers, picking something up not far from where Hill had been. 105-82555-3464, that no exhibit numbers were assigned by DL to the four Polaroids of Tip it's wounds because DL did not know if HQ would be giving them to the Commission reflects the general field office knowledge that the FBI was not giving everything to the

In

Commission and is unusual in that the FBI required its own identification numbers for its own purposes and investigation. It knew the Tippit killing was included in the Commission's mandate, too.

But in not giving these to the Commission, if in the end it didn't, the FBI was exercising a kind of control over the Commission. (My file, FBI Commission relations. Also Tippit killing.)

Please excuse my haste in this. I've been away for two days, which is very unusual and as tiring, and I'm trying to catch up. If you have any questions, please ask.

Good luck on the rest of the project,

W. J. Harris

94- "Research Matters" but is actually used for propaganda, lobbying, the media and publishing and FBI contacts, etc. *They avoid the charging it.*

FAC TAMP

URGENT 5/5/65 MJR

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, TAMPA (62-538)

ORDER OF RIFLES FROM KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS, INC., CHICAGO, ILL., FOUR TWENTY NINE SIXTY FIVE. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING.

RE CGTEL TO BUREAU AND TP FIVE FIVE SIXTY FIVE AND BUTEL CALL TODAY.

DISCREET PROTEXT CALLS DEVELOPED LOWELL BRANDLE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AS FEATURE WRITER FOR ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA. BRANDLE AND WIFE, TAINA, RESIDE SIX FOUR ZERO FOUR PELICAN DRIVE SOUTH, ST. PETERSBURG AND NO ONE ELSE LIVING THAT ADDRESS. NO REFERENCE TO ANY HIDEELL IN LOCAL DIRECTORIES. NO DEROGATORY REFERENCES TAMPA INDICES.

BUREAU REFER TO TAMPA LETTER TO BUREAU ELEVEN FIVE SIXTY FOUR CAPTIONED JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, BUFILE SIXTY TWO DASH ONE ZERO FOUR FOUR ZERO ONE, TAMPA FILE ONE HUNDRED DASH NINETY ONE, WHICH ENCLOSED ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ARTICLE DATED TEN TWENTY NINE SIXTY FOUR BY LOWELL BRANDLE HEADED QUOTE ST. PETERSBURG BIRCHERS TOLD TO ARM BELVES, BUY GUNS FOR CHILDREN UNQUOTE. BRANDLE IS CRITICAL OF JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY IN HIS WRITING.

AIRMAIL COPY TO CHICAGO.

END.

WA---ONS

FBI WASH DC

TO

reference to 5/1/65

NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 13 1965

62-110171-2

5414C

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 7, 1965

FROM: A. Rosen

- 1- Mr. DeLoach
- 1- Mr. Sullivan
- 1- Mr. Conrad
- 1- Mr. Belmont
- 1- Mr. Rosen
- 1- Mr. Malley
- 1- Mr. Shroder
- 1- Mr. Raupach

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. DeLoach _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Bishop _____
 Mr. Casper _____
 Mr. Callahan _____
 Mr. Conrad _____
 Mr. Felt _____
 Mr. Gale _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Sullivan _____
 Mr. Tavel _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holmes _____
 Mr. Gandy _____

ORDER OF RIFLE FROM
 KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS, INC.,
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
 APRIL 29, 1965
 MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

PURPOSE:

This concerns the individual who attempted to purchase a rifle from Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, utilizing the name "A. J. Hidell," return address 6404 Pelican Drive, South, St. Petersburg, Florida. Tampa determined that the only resident at this address is Lowell Brandle, feature writer for "The St. Petersburg Times." It is a well known fact Lee Harvey Oswald purchased the assassination rifle from Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., under the name "A. Hidell." Attached is a teletype to Tampa instructing that Brandle be thoroughly interviewed.

BACKGROUND:

Chicago Division by teletype 5/5/65 advised information was received from Mr. William J. Waldman, Vice-President of Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., that order for a 30.06 Enfield "Sporter" rifle with a variable three to seven power scope had been received from an individual utilizing the name "A. J. Hidell", 6404 Pelican Drive, South, St. Petersburg, Florida. Mr. Waldman determined through a "source" of his that one Lowell Brandle resided at this address who was a reporter for "The St. Petersburg Times." He said due to the "bizarre implications" Klein's definitely was not filling the order and felt the FBI should be advised.

Tampa has determined Lowell Brandle is a feature writer for "The St. Petersburg Times" and resides at 6404 Pelican Drive, South, St. Petersburg, Florida, with his wife. In addition, there were no references in the St. Petersburg City Directories for "Hidell." Tampa and Bureau indices reveal no derogatory information concerning Brandle and he has previously written several favorable articles about the Bureau and in addition has written articles in which he was

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Enclosure

CONTINUED - OVER

11J174-1

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MAY 11 1965

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: ORDER OF RIFLE FROM HELMIN'S SPORTING GOODS, INC.

critical of the John Birch Society, one of which was dated 10/29/64, wherein he states in effect the Birchers were told to arm themselves and buy guns for children. The editor of "The St. Petersburg Times" is Mr. Courtland Anderson. It is noted we had cordial relations with this newspaper until October 14, 1964, when the paper printed in an editorial critical parts of the infamous book "The FBI Nobody Knows" written by Fred J. Cook. In the March 26, 1965 issue of this paper they took another "pot shot" at the Bureau by publishing an article captioned "Distorted Crime Rate Figures." In response to this article a letter was directed to the editor, Mr. Anderson, dated 4/2/65, which set the facts, as relating to this article, straight.

Consideration was given to the fact whether the ordering of this weapon under a fictitious name was a violation of the Postal Laws. Liaison Section contacted the Post Office Department and Mr. Saul Mendel, Assistant General Counsel, Post Office Department, advised that based on available facts he did not believe a violation of Postal Laws was involved in this instance.

Further, it is noted the ordering of this weapon which was not shipped does not constitute a violation of either the National Firearms Act or the Federal Firearms Act. The National Firearms Act deals generally with a weapon with a barrel of less than 18 inches in length or a machine gun and such weapon has been unlawfully transported, possessed or imported and the identification marks obliterated or changed. The Federal Firearms Act concerns the possession of a weapon or transportation thereof by a person who has been convicted of a felony.

ACTION:

In view of circumstances surrounding this matter it is believed we should interview Brandle to determine if he did order the rifle and, if so, his purpose in using the name "A. J. Hidell." Attached for approval is an airtel to Tampa instructing Brandle be immediately interviewed. Results of interview will be furnished to U. S. Secret Service, which agency has been advised of the information developed in this case. Department being advised.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
-2-
577
[Illegible signatures and initials]

May 7, 1965

ROUTED TO

AIRTEL

URGENT

- 1- Mr. DeLoach
- 1- Mr. Sullivan
- 1- Mr. Conrad
- 1- Mr. Belmont
- 1- Mr. Rosen
- 1- Mr. Malley
- 1- Mr. Shroder
- 1- Mr. Raupach

TO SAC, CHICAGO (62-636)

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

ORDER OF RIFLES FROM BROWN'S SPORTING GOODS, INC., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 21 TWENTY NINE, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE, MISCELLANEOUS AND HUNTING WEAPON CONCEALMENT.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE MAY SIX LAST.

ORDER OF RIFLES FROM BROWN'S SPORTING GOODS, INC., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 21 TWENTY NINE, NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE, MISCELLANEOUS AND HUNTING WEAPON CONCEALMENT.

ORDER AND TRANSMITTAL TO CHICAGO. THE RIFLES UNDER THIS ORDER WITH A. J. HUNTING WEAPON CONCEALMENT'S SPORTING GOODS, INC. RE THE RIFLES, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. YOU ARE AWARE THAT CHICAGO IS BEING HUNG AND THE RIFLES ARE BEING QUESTIONED.

CHICAGO IS BEING HUNG AND THE RIFLES ARE BEING QUESTIONED. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE RIFLES IN THE PAST AND CURRENT BUREAU RECORDS ARE IN YOUR POSSESSION. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE THERE IS STRONG INDICATION THAT THE RIFLES ARE BEING HUNG AND SHOULD BE SEEN WITH CARE.

CHICAGO IS BEING HUNG AND THE RIFLES ARE BEING QUESTIONED. INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE RIFLES IN THE PAST AND CURRENT BUREAU RECORDS ARE IN YOUR POSSESSION. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE THERE IS STRONG INDICATION THAT THE RIFLES ARE BEING HUNG AND SHOULD BE SEEN WITH CARE.

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MAY 10 1965

56 MAY 24 1965

See Note Page 2

5414E

11J174-2

NOTE:
FROM: SAC, TAMPA
SUBJECT: BRANDLE FROM THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, INC.

URGENT. RESULTS IN TAMPA SUBMITTED. PLEASE ADVISE FOR
RECOMMENDATION TO SECRET SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, TAMPA AND CHICAGO.
CHICAGO SHOULD BE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED. AIRMAIL COPIES
SENT TO CHICAGO. EXPEDITE.

NOTE:

See Rosen to Belmont Memo 5/7/65, KMR:mas.

Information concerning Brandle contained in Bufiles
62-104401-2320; 62-107261-613; and 94-34091-21, 26 in later
file also contains information re "The St. Petersburg Times."

JOHN BERCH SOCIETY

WHITE MEN

YANE

FBI

Date: May 11, 1965

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-37970)
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-6-10070)
RE: AARON PAUL WHEATSE, aka.
DISSEMBLING
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ReBulet to Albany 5/27/65.

Captioned individual was arrested by the San Antonio, Texas, Police Department on the night of May 10, 1965, on a charge of vagrancy. At the time of his arrest he advised he was born December 8, 1911, in Pittsburg, Illinois, and stated his FBI number is [REDACTED]

During the interview he informed the Patrolman who arrested him that he had predicted the date of former President KENNEDY's death and furnished the date to the FBI in Washington thirty days before it occurred.

Subject also had among his effects the White House telephone number, 455-1414, and a diary regarding his activities.

The above information was orally furnished to Special Agent in Charge LUIS BENAVIDES of the Secret Service, San Antonio, Texas, for information purposes and he stated that he believed this individual is identical with the person who had left a napkin inside the office of Secret Service, San Antonio, April 8, 1964, with information re the assassination of former President Kennedy.

- 1 - Bureau
- 1 - cc. El Paso (Info.)
- 1 - cc. Dallas (Info.)
- 1 - cc. Houston (Info.)
- 1 - San Antonio

NOT RECORDED
129 MAY 13 1965

56 MAY 24 1965 Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

5414F

ORIGINAL FILED IN 61-77-71

SA 62-3-10070

A detailed LHM will be submitted.

A copy of this airtel is being submitted to the Dallas, Houston and El Paso offices for information purposes since the subject appears to be operating in this area.

F B I

Date: 5/11/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (62-6318)
SUBJECT: ORDER OF RIFLE FROM
KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS,
INCORPORATED, CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS, 4/29/65
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Chicago teletype dated 5/5/65, Chicago airtel dated 5/6/65, and Bureau airtel dated 5/7/65.

Submitted herewith for the Bureau is the original and two copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth information concerning captioned matter.

Submitted herewith is 1 copy of described LHM for the information of the Tampa Division.

By separate communication 1 copy of described LHM has been furnished the U.S. Secret Service at Chicago, Illinois.

The Chicago Division will continue to follow this matter until completion of interview requested by Bureau in referenced communication of 5/7/65. As further information regarding this matter develops, the Chicago Office will immediately furnish it to the Bureau and interested offices.

Via Chicago airtel dated 5/8/65 the Bureau was furnished with the original envelope, handwritten order and handwritten affidavit as furnished by MITCHELL J. SCIBOR,

- 1 - Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)
- 1 - Tampa (62-6318) (Enc. 1) (RM) (Info)
- 1 - Chicago

RJD:mav
(5)

NOT RECORDED
199 MAY 24 1965

70 MAY 26 1965

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

SUNLEAF DIVISION
5414G

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1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - 16 - 17 - 18 - 19 - 20 - 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 - 25 - 26 - 27 - 28 - 29 - 30 - 31 - 32 - 33 - 34 - 35 - 36 - 37 - 38 - 39 - 40 - 41 - 42 - 43 - 44 - 45 - 46 - 47 - 48 - 49 - 50 - 51 - 52 - 53 - 54 - 55 - 56 - 57 - 58 - 59 - 60 - 61 - 62 - 63 - 64 - 65 - 66 - 67 - 68 - 69 - 70 - 71 - 72 - 73 - 74 - 75 - 76 - 77 - 78 - 79 - 80 - 81 - 82 - 83 - 84 - 85 - 86 - 87 - 88 - 89 - 90 - 91 - 92 - 93 - 94 - 95 - 96 - 97 - 98 - 99 - 100

44-1110

... of ... Incorporated, Chicago, Illinois, on
... done in the event the Bureau desired to request
... examination of mentioned documents. 4



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Chicago, Illinois
May 11, 1963

ORDER OF RIFLE FROM
KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS,
INCORPORATED, CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS, APRIL 29, 1963
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

On May 3, 1963, Mr. William J. Waldman, Vice President, Klein's Sporting Goods, Incorporated, 1519 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised the Chicago Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), that his firm was in receipt of a firearms order postmarked April 28, 1963, from one "A. J. Hidell", 6404 Pelican Drive South, St. Petersburg, Florida. Also enclosed was a money order in the amount of \$33.28. A handwritten affidavit apparently from A. J. Hidell was also enclosed with the firearms order in which Hidell advised he was of age, was not an alien, fugitive, drug addict, ex-convict or under indictment.

Mr. Waldman advised that the firearms order apparently had been placed as a result of Klein's Sporting Goods, Incorporated, advertisement appearing in a national magazine. Upon receipt of the order, one of Klein's order clerks noticed the name of "A. J. Hidell" and because the Klein's firm had sold the rifle used in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy under that name, the matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Waldman. Because of the unusual aspect of this order, Mr. Waldman stated, he telephonically contacted a "source" of his in St. Petersburg, Florida. He subsequently learned that no one by the name of Hidell was known to reside at the Pelican Drive address. Mr. Waldman's "source" identified a resident at 6101 Pelican Drive South, St. Petersburg, Florida, as one Lowell Brandis, an employee of the "St. Petersburg Times".

Mr. Waldman advised that Klein's definitely would not fill the order in question. He added that because of the bizarre implications of the order, he felt the matter should be brought to the attention of the FBI.

5414H

RE: ORDER OF RIFLE FROM
KLEIN'S SPORTING GOODS,
INCORPORATED, CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS, APRIL 29, 1935

On May 8, 1935, the original envelope, handwritten order and handwritten affidavit as described by Mr. Waldman, were furnished to the Chicago Division, FBI, by Mr. Mitchell J. Seibor, Mail Order Manager, Klein's Sporting Goods, Incorporated.

Examination of the envelope in question determined that it was postmarked St. Petersburg, Florida, April 29, 1935. It was addressed to "Klein's Sporting Goods, Department 654, 227 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60608". The envelope bears the return address "A. J. Midell, 6404 Pelican Dr. S., St. Petersburg, Florida".

The original order as furnished by Mr. Seibor, reads as follows:

"enclosed is a money order for \$33.28, which includes the price of the Snfield rifle with scope, (\$31.78), C23-3213, and the \$1.50 postage."

The affidavit accompanying this order is as follows:

"6404 Pelican Dr. S
St. Petersburg, Fla.
April 29, 1935

"Dear Sir:

"I am over 21. I am not an alien, a fugitive or drug addict. I am not an exconvict and I'm not under indictment."

"A J Midell"

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.