Memorandum

To: J. Lee Martin, General Counsel

Subject: Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy

From: James J. Rowley, Chief

Date: Oct 6, 1964

Treasury Department

SUBJECT: 'Minute Men'

There is forwarded herewith information concerning Donnell D. Wittier and the 'Minute Men' which was received by this office from the Director of Law Enforcement Coordination in the Treasury Department.
CITY OF DALLAS
TEXAS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

April 17, 1964

The Honorable Waggoner Carr
Attorney General
State of Texas
Austin, Texas

Subject: Check of Garages and Service Stations Patronized by Jack Ruby

Dear Sir:

Several days ago I was contacted by Mr. Vince Drain, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, regarding a check of garages and service stations patronized by Jack Ruby.

On April 5, Lieutenant E. L. Cunningham contacted four such places which, from papers found in Ruby's car, indicated he might have patronized. A copy of Lieutenant Cunningham's report is enclosed.

Donnell D. Whittier, named in the enclosed report, formerly worked at the Texaco Service Station, Clarendon and Ewing, serviced Ruby's car when he came to the station. As you will recall, Whittier was arrested by officers of this department on November 18, 1963, at which time two machine guns and two Browning automatic rifles were recovered which had been taken in a burglary of the National Guard Headquarters at Terrell, Texas. According to our records he was convicted in Federal Court and is now serving time for this offense.

Very truly yours,

Donnell D. Whittier
Deputy Chief Commanding
Criminal Investigation Division

Enc.
April 2, 1966

T. E. Trego

I contacted Mr. Leo Navarro, 1413 Houston, who owns the Navarro Garage at 1415 South Main Street. He stated he had never met Mr. Ruby, but that a friend of his, Mr. T. E. Moralli, had given Ruby his name and the address of his garage when Ruby asked for it where he could find a good mechanic. Ruby never brought his car to Navarro for repair work.

Mr. T. E. Moralli, 715 West Pembroke, states that Jack Ruby traded at his Texaco Service Station in Swing and O'Connell for about one year. However, he did not know Ruby very well. He gave Ruby a card with Leo Navarro's address on it when Jack asked him where he could find a honest mechanic. Moralli never did so this with anyone that fit his description.

Moralli also states that Ruby worked at most of the service stations and took care of Ruby's work for him. He states he does not know if they were friends or had relations of or if they were customer and station attendant or not. Moralli was arrested November 26, 1963 for burglary of village owned money in Navarro. He understood that he had been convicted of this offense in Lufkin Court.

Mr. E. de Villen, 900 Mission, is a friend of Mr. Trego. He stated that he knew Jack Ruby since he was a little boy. He met Jack about two weeks prior to November 26 in the post office area once. They greeted each other and Jack stated that he was doing it for a living. Mr. de Villen gave Mr. Trego his business card and told him to come to see him. He stated that he knew Ruby by his name in his place.

The Texaco Service Station at 9th and Houston Street was purchased by T. E. Trego in the early 1940's from E. E. Harris. Mr. Trego does not know if E. E. Harris could be contacted.

Respectfully

T. E. Trego

Lieutenant of Police

Navarro County
In response to your request the following information was obtained from Mr. Thomas F. Casey, Assistant Chief, Enforcement Branch, Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Division, Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Casey said that the firearms case involving Donnell D. Whittier was handled by the F.B.I. and Alcohol & Tobacco Tax was not involved in any way. However, in charging Whittier one of the offenses cited was a violation of the National Firearms Act and Alcohol & Tobacco Tax only learned about this when it received a telephone call from the U. S. Attorney concerned. According to Alcohol & Tobacco Tax's report on this matter, the Dallas police on November 13, 1963 arrested Whittier and one Lawrence R. Miller in connection with the robbery of a National Guard Armory at Terrell, Texas, on the same date. Whittier and Miller were accused of stealing two Browning submachine guns, serial number 524227 and number 110351; also two 30 caliber machine guns, numbers 655097 and 839439; and one grease gun number CR-GL-8 301456. When arrested, the guns were found in their possession. Since the guns were government property, the Dallas police turned the case over to the F.B.I.

Miller was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment. Whittier was transferred to Springfield for psychiatric examination and had been scheduled for trial on Monday, April 27.
JOHN FRANKLIN ELROD, an inmate of the Shelby County, Tennessee, Jail, as of August 11, 1964, furnished the following information:

ELROD currently lives at Memphis, Tennessee, and has been staying at the Harbor House, Memphis, prior to the time of his arrest for which he was placed in jail on August 11, 1964. The Harbor House, 1369 Court Avenue, Memphis, is a home for alcoholics, and ELROD stated that he, himself, is an alcoholic.

ELROD had come to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office during the early morning hours of August 11, 1964, after having consumed some beer and vodka. He was at that time in possession of a sawed-off 12 gauge shotgun which had a pistol grip. He stated that he had begun to think of the possibilities of killing his wife from whom he is now separated. Inasmuch as he had the sawed-off shotgun and the desire to kill her was known to him, he decided he should come to the Sheriff's Office and talk, which he did.

He further advised that he had been somewhat troubled by events which occurred immediately following the assassination of President JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY at Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963.

Shortly after the assassination of the President, ELROD, who had been about two and one half miles from the scene of the assassination at Lemon and Oaklawn Streets in Dallas, was arrested by the Dallas Police Department and placed in the City Jail. His arrest had nothing to do with the assassination of the President, and he knew nothing concerning the assassination of the President. At the City Jail in Dallas, he was placed in Cell 10 on the fifth floor, and at that time his cellmate was a man whose identity he could not recall. An individual, whose face was smashed up, was brought into the hallway of the jail where ELROD and his cellmate could observe him. At that time the unknown cellmate made some mention that he had known this man with the injured face as a result of meeting him at a motel. The cellmate stated that five men had met at a motel, and they had been advanced some money under some type contract. One of these men was reported to have
received $5,000. The man with the injured face had received some money, and he was reported to have been driving a Thunderbird automobile with a large quantity of guns contained therein. ELROD advised he was confined in the Dallas City Jail for a period of 72 hours, and he was confused at this time concerning the events which occurred. He stated he could not recall whether JACK RUBY's name had been mentioned prior to the time of the killing of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, but that this cellmate at some time had told him that one of the men who had been at the motel referred to above, name and location unknown, had been JACK RUBY. This was all the information which ELROD could recall.

He stated that on several occasions he has had difficulty remembering due to his extreme use of alcohol. He knew nothing concerning the assassination of the President, the involvement of JACK RUBY in the killing of HARVEY LEE OSWALD, or of any information concerning the possibility of the receipt of money by JACK RUBY, except the hearsay information he had received from his unknown cellmate.

ELROD is described as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>white</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth</td>
<td>November 12, 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of birth</td>
<td>Bassett, Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>5'11½&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>180 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexion</td>
<td>medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>JACKIE PAT ELROD nee Richards, 2616 Morris, Dallas, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>HOBSON ELROD, Bassett, Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scars and marks</td>
<td>one and one-half inch cut scar on forehead; little finger, left hand, off at first joint; left arm is undersized.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The identification record of JOHN FRANKLIN ELROD, FBI number 91 666 E, dated August 12, 1964, which follows, does not reflect incarceration of ELROD in the Dallas City Jail as claimed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</th>
<th>NAME &amp; NO.</th>
<th>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</th>
<th>CHARGE</th>
<th>DISPOSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PD Dallas Texas</td>
<td>John Franklin Elrod #E-17848</td>
<td>5/23/61</td>
<td>DWI &amp; Inv (vio State Barb Law)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Dallas</td>
<td>John Franklin Elrod #116211</td>
<td>2/14/62</td>
<td>DWI #15345-C</td>
<td>3 das jail &amp; F &amp; C Pd in JOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Dallas</td>
<td>James F. O. Elrod #116211</td>
<td>11/15/62 T/over #9921</td>
<td>no billed GJ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Quitman Texas</td>
<td>John Elrod #1057</td>
<td>3/19/63</td>
<td>Simple aslt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO Memphis Tenn</td>
<td>John Franklin Elrod #28001</td>
<td>8/11/64</td>
<td>inv Hom Div</td>
<td>hold for Fed Auth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Police Nab 2 Ex-Convicts With Load of Stolen Guns

Police property room clerk B. J. Smith checks in the arsenal recovered by officers J. B. Allen, center, and J. R. Sales Monday night.

Texas cracked down on Sunday Law Awaits

Police have arrested 2 ex-convicts who were allegedly attempting to Steal 2 Ex-Convicts With Load of Stolen Guns.

Pharmacist nabbed in gun hunt

A pharmacist was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a firearm without a license.

LITIGATION

A trial is scheduled to begin next month in the suits brought by the estate of a man who was killed in an accident.

City Bid Red

Dallas has launched a new bid to build a red light for traffic.

Lawrence H. Miller

Donnell D. Whitter