

Ann,

This addition, to be inserted near the first reference to Jack Martin, is not essential. It is desirable for several reasons, not the least of which is that the origin is CBS.

Actually, one of the first suspects - a man wanted in connection with the assassination well before Oswald was arrested - is named Jack Martin! Bob Richter has called two Secret Service reports on this to my attention.

Filed, as one would suspect, under "Oswald", not mentioned in the propagandizing "synopsis" so characteristic of New Orleans Secret/Service reporting, and not filed until December 4 is the intelligence that the Dallas Secret Service "thought that possibly Jack Martin may have been the assassin of President Kennedy." Once Oswald was arrested and charged, not with the assassination but with the murder of Officer J.D. Tippit, all interested in any other potential assassins ended.

Agents Anthony E. Gerrets and Adrian G. Vial waited almost two weeks to report on this suspect. I have seen nothing elsewhere, especially not from Dallas, to indicate this immediate belief that one Jack Martin may have been the assassin. He seems not to have been the New Orleans Jack Martin. Special Agent in Charge John Rice approved the report. It begins:

At 1:40 P. M. on November 22, 1963, reporting agent received a long distance telephone call from Clerk Lillian L. Rhyan, of our Dallas office, who stated that she was calling at the request of SA Robert A. Stewart, Dallas, regarding an individual named Jack Martin, Route 1, Goldonna, La., on whom SA Stewart desired discreet inquiries conducted. At that time Clerk Rhyan indicated that she did not have any information regarding the said Jack Martin and did not know what connection, in any, he might have had with the shooting of President John F. Kennedy that same date at Dallas.

At 2:06 P. M., November 22, 1963, Clerk Rhyan again called reporting agent, advising that at that time it was thought that possibly Jack Martin may have been the assassin of President Kennedy. She could furnish no information regarding Jack Martin's description or background, knowing only that his address was reported at Route 1, Goldonna, La., and that it was desired that discreet inquiries regarding Martin be conducted at Goldonna at once.

Reporting agent immediately telephoned SAIC John W. Rice, who happened to be on an official road trip to Shreveport and vicinity, in the northwest section of Louisiana, approximately 325 miles from New Orleans, Goldonna being located in Natchitoches Parish in the northwest section of Louisiana.



Rice conducted an immediate investigation on which he also did not see fit to report until December 4. With Oswald in hand, no one was interested in any other suspect. Rice's investigation, while developing ~~certain similarities~~ ~~in the description with~~ ~~xzwxzwxz~~ a description of Goldonna Jack Martin that is in some ways suggestive of New Orleans Jack Martin, seems to eliminate the New Orleans man.

Aside from the coincidence in names - and one of the most common names in the story of the assassination is "Jack Martin" - what is significant and quite provocative here is the existence of an immediate suspect who is not mentioned in the Report and in whom interest melted once Oswald was arrested and before there was any reason, no matter how remote, for connecting Oswald with the assassination.

Why did the Dallas Secret Service so rapidly suspect "Jack Martin", consider him a possible assassin? Why should this remain a mystery? Instructions to phone New Orleans and the call to New Orleans and the developing of information justifying a suspicion all took about an hour. This is remarkably fast time. There had to be some reason for all of this. Someone had the suspicion, for some reason, good or bad. It should not remain a mystery.

And how remarkable it is that the clue, like the suspicion, points to New Orleans, where thorough investigation could have embroiled Oswald.