

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, DALLAS (89-43)

DATE: 11/27/63

FROM : SA ALFRED C. ELLINGTON

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

At approximately 12:55 AM, this date, SA ALFRED C. ELLINGTON, at the request of Inspector J. R. MALLEY, telephonically contacted W. THOMAS PETTIT, Correspondent, NBC News, Los Angeles Bureau, at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Room 1541, to determine whether or not Mr. PETTIT desired to be interviewed by an Agent from this Bureau at this time, or whether he desired to wait until later in the morning.

Mr. PETTIT advised he would be available upon the arrival of SA ELLINGTON at the Statler Hilton Hotel and desired to have the interview conducted at this time rather than later. Mr. PETTIT appeared to be drinking based on the sound of his voice; however, he did not seem incoherent.

At approximately 1:25 AM, this date, SAs ELLINGTON and JOE B. ABERNATHY contacted Mr. PETTIT at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Room 1541, at which time there were approximately six or eight individuals in this room, at least part of whom had drinks in their hands.

At the request of SA ELLINGTON made of Mr. PETTIT to find a quieter place in which to conduct the interview, he stated he desired two of his friends, whom he identified as LE GENE BARNES, NBC Cameraman from Los Angeles, and ROBERT MAC NEIL, NBC Correspondent, Washington, D. C., to be present during the interview with the Agents.

At Mr. PETTIT's request, the interview was conducted in Room 1510, which was apparently occupied by MAC NEILL.

At the outset of the interview, PETTIT advised he had received a telephone call from Mr. WILLIAM MC ANDREWS, NBC, New York City, in which call MC ANDREWS advised PETTIT he had

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*Belmont & DeLoach
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received information from Mr. DE LOACH of the FBI in Washington that the FBI desired to interview Mr. PETTIT. He claimed he has no knowledge of why the FBI desires to interview him, but that he is available for interview at any time.

Mr. PETTIT suggested that SA ELLINGTON should contact Mr. DE LOACH direct to determine the details as to why we desired to interview him and stated, "Mr. DE LOACH is not the FBI Agent at Pecos, Texas". Mr. PETTIT was assured the interviewing Agents were aware of the identity of Mr. DE LOACH, at which he replied, "So am I."

At this point it became apparent that any further efforts to interview Mr. PETTIT would be total waste of time and it was suggested to him that any interview with him be postponed until such time as the question regarding the reason for such be resolved.

Mr. PETTIT advised while leaving Room 1510 that there was one thing which he felt the FBI should be apprised of, this being that he felt "The FBI, or someone, intercepts all my telephone calls to Mr. MCCANDREWS".

It should be noted in this connection that the manner in which Mr. PETTIT made this comment inferred rather than stated that he suspected the FBI of having tapped his phone. He used the name FBI or at least the first two letters and as an after-thought changed his mind and said "someone" intercepts his telephone calls.

He was assured that the FBI has not intercepted nor made any attempt to intercept his telephone calls to MC ANDREWS. He was asked whether he had used the same telephone each time he called MC ANDREWS, to which he replied, "No", and "I have never called him prior to tonight".

It was noted during the contact with Mr. PETTIT that his eyes were very reddened; however, his speech was not thick and he gave the impression of having had several alcoholic drinks, but was not considered to be drunk. Throughout contact with Mr. PETTIT, Mr. BARNES retained possession of his glass, taking it from Room 1541 to Room 1510 and left this room at the same time as the Agents.

ACTION This memo is submitted for information purposes to record the contact with Mr. PETTIT.