

JW, JL- Re enclosed memo on Peter Scott's new and untimely interest in the King assassination, I find a consistency in his assassination writing that is disturbing. He first establishes a good rep. with a fine book vs WW war and then goes off only in wrong directions with the assassinations, associating only with the notoriously irresponsible (persisting in these associations only after I chide him about them, which he then denied, as JL should recall). This is to say that what he has done and is doing, which is separate from why, is moving in to keep focus on the wrong things and attention to the wrong people and approaches, at a time when it is utterly irresponsible to do these things. This may all be inflated self-concept, may have explanations in his emotional makeup. But there is at least one alternative, and in this alternative all he has done is consistent. It troubles me. So, I think I'd like to know all there is to know about what he says, writes and does. Leading into racist solutions to the King assassination at this time is worse than irresponsible. Doing it without consulting JL or me is irresponsible and is indicative of other than a quest for fact or dependable guidance. HW 7/13/74

Dear Dad (and Jim) Peter Scott's Hiltner-HMAC memo of 7/9/74 IM 7/13/74

Because I took your sending me a copy of this incomplete memo to mean you want my opinion I read it as soon as I could. My reaction to it depends on whether it is in fact a memo or if it is intended to be another of his questionable contributions to assassination folklore.

Paul Hoch had told me of the HUAC hearings.

Because it is incomplete I don't know what will follow.

There is nothing new to me in the content of these five pages. I did not use the HUAC source because I had a more dependable one. I suppose I can still find the memo I then made-1968 or 1969. It include much of this kind of material I did not use in Frame-Up, some of which was in the draft. Much more on Brown, for example.

Unlike his Ramparts writing, there is no factual error in this (read it yesterday while walking between errand stops\* so I may not remember all fine details) but like that writing it seems to be leading in what we have substantial reason to believe is the wrong direction.

I find myself wondering about the answer to the first question or many, why?

Why at this time?

Why without consultation with those who have done much work and do have a basis for believing that the probable solution lies in a certain direction?

Why suggest at this time that the "ing assassination was an NSRP or Klan job? Especially when a hearing impends (and he can't know enough to intrude himself into the case) and from what we know if this were a Klan or NSRP job it is atypical, much more sophisticated for all its roughness than those that can be attributed to either.

If it is a research project only, to draw together what is available on racists overtones, it is not without any worth, although he shows ever sign of not drawing on one of the better sources, where he'll get much more than the HUAC hearings can hold. If it is for writing I'll have much more doubt about him than I now do and I now draw a sharp line between his excellent work on Vietnam and his trashy, superficial and wrong-headed assassination writing. In the latter he has shown an affinity for nuts only. His writing is sophisticated Brussell.

Again I ask myself why when his other work is so different.

Recently he said - and if these are not his exact words it is what they meant - that the one and only Jack Ruby was a HUAC informant in trade-union activities in Chicago in 1948 or 1949. Well, maybe. But Jack Rubenstein is not an uncommon name. HUAC does have one from Chicago by that name who it called red. I think that it is irresponsible to say anything like this without proof that one and only one Jack Ruby/Rubenstein is involved. (I also have doubts about Scott's unnamed but fairly clearly identified source for this Ruby statement. The doubt only begins with what he was doing with an FBI report that is not in the archives.)

My standards of measurement are sometimes simplistic. Scott came here a year ago with Jim. He had come all across the country to do some work in the Archives. In my view the right way for a person looking for fact, not for isolated substantiation of a preconception, would have been to first ask Paul Hoch what he had and then ask me for what I have on what interests him before going to the Archives and in a relatively short period trying to extract what he wants from that enormity. Scott was here hardly long enough for a social visit, as Jim will tell you, and instead of asking me what I know, what I have and what I think he tried to argue an untenable political line with me. The one thing he said that interested me turns out not only to be factually wrong but is a third- or fourth-hand citation of only the undependable. The contrast between this and his subsequent writing and public associations and The War Conspiracy are just too great.

I will look forward to the rest of this "memo" and to any subsequent use because it may help answer the lawyer's question that too few lawyers ask themselves, cui bono?

In haste. Final version to come.

DRAFT

PSC-A

July 9, 1974

Memo: MILTEER INT REVIEW AND HUAC HEARINGS ON KU KLUX KLAN (1966)

Warren Commission Document 1347, pp. 119-26, contains the FBI account of a Miami police informant's advance warning, on November 9, 1963 and also Martin Luther King. of a plot to kill President Kennedy, According to the informant, ~~name~~ a (Joseph Adams Milteer) "suggested one JACK BROWN of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the man who could do the job" (CD.1347.119). Page 121 of this memo is still withheld, but CD 1347's index reveals the following names, in the context of what is evidently the September 15, 1963 bombing of a Birmingham Baptist Church, in which four girls were killed (cf. Harold Weisberg, Frame-Up, p. 478):

ASSOCIATION of South Carolina Klans  
Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama  
Bolen, A.O.  
Hendricks, Jack  
Kennedy, Robert  
King, Martin Luther  
Knights of Ku Klux Klan  
Mims, Bolton  
Ulmer, Will  
United Klans of America, Inc.  
Wade Hampton Hotel, Columbia, S.C.

The 1966 HUAC Hearings into the Ku Klux Klans (Activities of Ku Klux Klans Organizations in the United States, 89th Cong., 2nd Sess.) throw some light on these names, and suggest a conspiratorial nexus possible with/links not only to the Birmingham bombing but to the killings of John F. Kennedy, Lemuel Penn, <sup>Vio/la L. 11c</sup> Norman Lincoln Rockwell and above all Martin

Luther King. It is perhaps relevant that investigations for these hearings began January 1, 1964, shortly after the Kennedy assassination, with an investigator seconded from Army CIC rather than the FBI (p. 1546).

Jack Brown of Chattanooga is identified as leader of the Dixie Klans of America, Inc., ~~(pp. 1543-44)~~ he died a few days before the opening of the HUAC Hearings in October 1965. (pp. 1543-44). The Dixie Klans, which operated in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, were nominally part of the National Association of Klans headed by James R. Venable, along with the Association of South Carolina Klans headed by A.O. Bolen and Cecil (Belton, Jr.) Mims (all three names in suppressed CD 1347.121). However Venable testified that after Robert Shelton was expelled from the United Klans of America, Inc., alias the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (CD.1347.121), he may have run the of the "Brown brothers" Dixie Klans, which were also connected with J.B. Stoner of the National States Rights Party. Venable accused Shelton's Klans of involvement in the Lemuel Penn and Viola Liuzzo murders (p. 3949), but may not have been disinterested. A police undercover operative testified ~~(p. 3949)~~ that the indicted killers of Lemuel Penn (John Howard Sims and Cecil Myers, p. 3604) were members of the elite "degree team for Mr. Venable" (p. 3388). In 1963 Venable and Stoner were both involved in a series of Klan meetings (April 6-7, Biloxi; May 26 and August 3-4, Dinkler Hotel, Atlanta; Venable's home town of Stone Mountain, <sup>Ga.</sup> ~~Ala.~~, August 31; Atlanta, November 30; p. 3660-61); these climaxed with the chartering of Venable's National Knights in November 1963 (pp. 3956-58).

Jack Brown had a contact in Ohio called Mrs. E <sup>Ohio</sup> Witte, <sup>or [unclear] (of Stoner's NSRP (p. 3624)</sup> and Venable's National Klan  
 to a Klan disciple about switching allegiance  
 who reported/after twlking to Brown/that the "Dixie Knights" were  
 "more masculzine or more for violence than the KKKK United Klans/  
 and they get a lot done" (p. 3404). Daniel Wagner, a member of  
 the Ohio Klan's "Black Shirts" security guards, <sup>(p. 3383)</sup> wrote after being  
 arrested at a May 1965 Klan-NSRP-Manuteman rally (pp. 3641, 3647)  
 that Mrs. Witte had tried to recruit him as a sniper to kill Martin  
 Luther King. According to his letter

Mrs. Witte...told me that the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan had  
 hired a gunman for \$25,000 to assassinate Martin Luther King.  
 (p. 3402)

After this gunman backed down, ~~Wagner~~ Mrs. Witte reported engaged Wagner  
 to shoot Martin Luther King at Antioch College in June 1965, but then Mrs.  
 Witte backed down.

Another of Mrs. Witte's disciples in the Ohio Klan-NSRP was an  
 ex-member of Rockwell's American Nazi Party called Richard Hanna.  
 Hanna confirmed Mrs. Witte's contacts with Brown's Dixie Knights  
 (p.3634), and added that Mrs. Witte once said, "I would have killed President  
 Kennedy if I had a chance (do.). With respect to the conspiracy to  
 kill Martin Luther King, he testified that two guns, an MP-40 submachine  
 gun and an M-1 Garand rifle, were shipped into Cincinnati (p. 3635).  
 Sgt. Dan Swartz, head of the Columbus, Ohio, police intelligence unit,  
 testified further that Dan Wagner had dynamite in his car from Stone Mountain,  
 Ga., (Venable's home town), p. 3365). Swatz's undercover agent with  
 Mrs. Witte's Klan, Booby Stephens, attended a Klan rally at Stone Mountain  
 under Venable (p. 3372).

This published testimony in 1966 would appear to confirm the existence of a ~~Klan~~ contract to kill Martin Luther King for \$25,000 which James Earl Ray's brother Gerry told Harold Weisberg about in 1968 (Weisberg, Frame-Up, pp. 310, 322). That an agent in this 1965 conspiracy was the Ohio organizer for Stoner's NSRP strengthens the apparent case for a conflict-of-interest on the part of J.B. Stoner, who became James Earl Ray's attorney, was informed by the Ray's of the \$25,000 offer, and apparently suppressed ~~his~~ testimony to this effect (ibid.). It is also striking that advance notice of a conspiracy to kill King reached the federal authorities from Wagner just as <sup>did</sup> advance notice ~~from~~ Milteer of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, ~~was~~ that both the Milteer and the Wagner information involved Jack Brown of the Dixie Klans under Venable and Stoner, and that apparently no federal punitive action was taken in either case. The HUAC testimony would appear to strengthen Ray's case for a new trial.

The Stoner-Venable-Brown nexus would appear to have links to other acts of violence. Charles Cagle, an NSRP member, was indicted by the Justice Department under Attorney-General Robert Kennedy for the September 1963 bombing in Birmingham (NYT, October 1, 1963; cf. Oct. 2, 9, 10). In 1961 (p. 3342), the NSRP National Organizer was Roy Frankhouser, who went on to be an organizer for the Minutemen of Robert de Pugh (an NSRP speaker in 1962) and of Rockwell's Nazi Party. ~~(p. 3342)~~ In September 1961 Frankhouser attended a Klan rally in Atlanta with Venable; he stayed with a George Bright who had been accused of the 1958 bombing of an Atlanta Jewish temple (Atlanta Journal,

September 5, 1961; reprinted in HUAC, p. 3345). Under questioning from HUAC investigator Manuel, Venable denied knowledge of the 1958 Atlanta bombing, of having heard the nickname "'Bomber' Stoner", or whether Stoner had been involved in the 1963 Birmingham bombing. (pp. 3352-53).

In August 1963 Roy Frankhouser was engaged on a Nazi "Hate Hike" with his friend John Patler (p. 3350), whose American National Party was praised by Stoner's NSRP (Group Research). By 1965 Frankhouser, still a Nazi, had turned against Rockwell, whom he called "vicious" and "dictatorial" (p. 3352). Later John Patler would be convicted of the assassination of Rockwell; those who doubt that Patler was the true assassin argue that the killers were close to Patler.

On October 21, 1965, the day he was named in the HUAC Hearings, Frankhouser was "shot at" in his residence a la General Walker (p. 3353).  
 , on November 5,  
 Two weeks later his good friend Dan Burros of the Nazi Party, whose name was found in Oswald's notebook (16 H 57) "committed suicide in Frankhouser's apartment" (p. 3354). Peter Moyes book on the assassination of Robert Kennedy implicates west coast members of the Minutemen/<sup>organization, for</sup> in which Frankhouser was Pennsylvania co-ordinator (Legacy of Doubt, pp. 197-206). In circumstances as yet unexplained, a San Diego Minuteman was arrested in connection with that killing (Special Unit Senator, p. 151).

Stoner and the Teamsters: A Robert Gentry of Jacksonville (whose attorney was Stoner) admitted to the HUAC Committee that he was in Birmingham on September 15, 1963 (p. 3669), the date of the bombing in which NSRP was allegedly implicated.  
 the  
 Klansmen and  
 Gentry was one of three/deputy sheriffs in St. Johns Co. whose Klavern met in the county jail; allegedly "J.B. Stoner...was a hidden member". The three men were ~~indicted~~ indicted for violating the civil rights of Donald Godfrey, a black teamster in September 1963 and later (p. 3672). One of the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

Seal  
ENC. 2

Bernard Fensholt

905 16th Ave.

Washington D.C. NM



PAR AVION \* VIA AIR MAIL \* CORREO AEREO