

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Q/111
U. S. Secret Service

TO : [REDACTED], Washington

DATE: May 27, 1964. *WJH*

FROM : [REDACTED], Dallas *SP*

SUBJECT: Assassination of President Kennedy - Story in Ft. Worth Star Telegram on Feb. 10, 1964, by Thon Waldo.

Reference is made to your l. d. phone conversation this date instructing that memorandum submitted by SA Howard re conversation between him and his brother be sent to you. The original of the memorandum of Feb. 10, 1964 is enclosed herewith. Copy of this memorandum is retained in the Dallas office.

ATTACHMENT - 1

AIRMAIL

1551

RECEIVED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

United States Secret Service

TO : Chief

DATE: May 27, 1964

FROM : SA Howard - White House Detail

SUBJECT: Article entitled "Oswald case: A new angle," appearing in the May 9, 1964, edition of NATIONAL GUARDIAN, a New York newsweekly.

At the request of the Warren Commission, I was interviewed on May 27, 1964, by [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] of this Service, in connection with quotations appearing in subject article (copy attached) allegedly made by me on February 9, 1964, relative to the assassination of President Kennedy.

To the best of my knowledge, the following is a factual account of my activities on February 9, 1964.

On February 9, 1964, after delivering Mrs. Marguerite Oswald to Dallas Love Field from Fort Worth (see my M/R dated 2/10/64, SS Control No. 1161, Warren Commission), [redacted] Dallas office; [redacted] and the reporting agent were having coffee in the airport coffee shop. We were joined by Mr. Theyer Waldo, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, who asked if he might "hitch a ride" with me to Fort Worth. Due to the fact that I was off duty and returning to Fort Worth in my private automobile, I agreed to let Mr. Waldo ride with me. While driving between Dallas and Fort Worth, [redacted] and I were riding in the front seat and Mr. Waldo was in the back seat. Both front windows were completely open and the wind was blowing strongly, possibly muffling the conversation going on in the front seat, which may account for Mr. Waldo's misunderstanding of the conversation.

[redacted] and I were discussing an incident which [redacted] of the Dallas P.D. had told me on January 1, 1964, concerning a Negro male suspect who was questioned by the Dallas P.D. in connection with his being in the Texas Book Depository on the day of the assassination, and having left hurriedly sometime afterwards. When questioned as to why he left the Texas Book Depository in a hurry, the suspect stated that, since he had a police record, he would probably be suspected of involvement in the shooting. However, [redacted] stated that the suspect apparently had absolutely nothing to do with Oswald nor the shooting.

After relaying this story to [redacted], Mr. Waldo sat up in the back seat (apparently having heard part of the conversation) and asked if

1551

5/27/64
page 2

this man would be testifying before the Warren Commission. Not taking Mr. Waldo seriously, and not realizing he was a newspaper reporter, the reporting agent laughed and jokingly stated "Why yes, I'm sure he will be." Mr. Waldo then asked where this man was, to which [redacted] stated (in a joking manner) "They probably have him hidden-out someplace."

Upon arrival at Fort Worth, Mr. Waldo asked to be dropped off at the Star-Telegram office.

On this same day at approximately 10 p.m., a television broadcast was heard by the reporting agent, to the effect that a witness was being hidden by police officers who was to testify before the Warren Commission. Mr. Waldo's name was mentioned in this broadcast. A few minutes after the broadcast, the reporting agent received a telephone call from [redacted] in Washington, D.C., asking if I had heard the broadcast and instructing me to find out whatever I could about it.

I immediately telephoned the Star-Telegram office and talked with Mr. Waldo, asking him where he had gotten his information as to the "hidden witness" mentioned in the TV broadcast, to which he answered "You don't have anything to worry about, I won't mention your name." Not immediately understanding that he was referring to the story [redacted] had told me, I said "That's fine, but who is this witness who is going to testify before the Warren Commission?" Again Mr. Waldo told me not to worry; that he had spoken with his lawyer who told him that it was all right to print the story. When I realized that he was referring to the story that [redacted] had told me, I told him that there had been a misunderstanding and that I was joking with him.

When the article appeared in the Fort-Worth Star-Telegram of February 10, 1964, I tried to get in touch with Mr. Waldo again, but he was not available.

The above incidents were made the subject of an O/M to [redacted] dated February 11, 1964. I did not try to get in touch with Mr. Waldo again on the advice of [redacted]

In connection with the quotations allegedly made by me and [redacted], to my knowledge, at no time did [redacted] tell Mr. Waldo that he would give him information in regard to an unidentified witness to the assassination of President Kennedy; at no time did I refer to "that old black boy" going before the Warren Commission; at no time did I refer to anyone having seen Oswald or anyone else fire a shot from a window of the Texas Book Depository; at no time did I refer to a janitor in the Texas Book Depository; at no time did I tell Mr. Waldo that I had seen the Negro man in question in the custody of the Dallas police;

1551

5/27/64
page 3

and at no time did I state that a rifle had been found on the roof of the Texas Book Depository which had been dropped by a Dallas police officer.

James M. Howard
James M. Howard
Special Agent

Attachment

JMH:ml



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
FIELD FORCE

REFER TO FILE NO.

00-2-34,030

OFFICE Dallas

ADDRESS: P. O. LOCK BOX NO. 2089

Dallas, Texas

Feb. 10, 1964

To: [REDACTED]

From: SA Howard

Re: "Witness" article printed in Ft Worth Star Telegram 2/10/64.

On Sunday, Feb. 9, 1964, while driving from Dallas to Ft Worth, Texas in my personal auto, [REDACTED] and I were discussing a numerous incident that had happened in Dallas on the day that President Kennedy was assassinated. This story was told to me by a detective from the Dallas Police Dept., on January 1, 1964 while I was in Dallas with Lynda Byrd Johnson for the Cotten Bowl Game.

In my car at the time this tale was being told by me to [REDACTED] was a man known only to me as Mr Waldo, a close friend of [REDACTED]. He was a passenger because he had accompanied Mrs Oswald to Dallas Love Field & had asked if he might ride to Ft Worth with us.

As we roje along the Dallas-Ft Worth Turnpike, my [REDACTED] & I were discussing & laughing about the incident that the Dallas Policeman had told me about. As the story went, this negro was in the Texas School Book Depository Bldg. on the 22nd of Nov., 1963. He was suppose to have heard the shots just above him & had hidden for fear he might beeshot also. When the negro found out someone had shot the President, he ran for fear of getting involved. He alledgedly had a record for vagrancy or some minor violation with the Dallas Police Dept. As I was telling the story, my [REDACTED] & I were laughing about it & not paying any attention to our passenger, until he leaned forward from the back seat & asked-"Is this negro going to testify before the Warren Commission. I laughed & said I didn't know, that I had never talked to the man & wasn't even assigned to the Assassination Investigation. I also told him that I didn't know the name of the negro nor where he was now. [REDACTED] said "they're probably holding him in protective custody on a vagrancy charge." We all laughed. At this time we explained to Waldo that this tale was heresy & that there were no facts to prove it valid.

I was surprised & amazed to read the story that came out in the Ft Worth Star Telegram early monday morning Feb. 10, 1964. I immediately called the Star Telegram & asked to talk to Theon Waldo, the writer of the article. I asked Waldo where he got his information & he answered "You don't have a thing to worry about. I won't tell anyone where I got the information. " I asked him if he had written that story from what he heard in my car & if so he was wrong & the facts were all twisted around & were not true. He apoligized & promised to correct the story.

About fifteen moments later I received a phone call from [REDACTED] a photographer for the same paper. He asked if I had seen the story & what about it. I told him that I didn't know where Waldo got his facts. I asked Jerry what kind of fellow Waldo was & he answered that Waldo was a "Spectacular" type of writer that would write anything & add too it in order to make a story.

cont.

RELEASED 1551

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
FIELD FORCE

Dallas
ADDRESS P. O. LOCK BOX NO. 2089

Feb 10, 1964

I am not sure that this report will have anything to do with the article that was written. However, I do not feel that it is a coincidence that such an article would be printed by Waldo so soon after hearing the tale that was discussed in my car. I am not aware that I have broken any regulations at this time & am writing this report at your request in order that you know exactly what was said. I did not know that Waldo was a reporter at the time he was riding in my car. I knew him only as a friend of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

James M Howard

James M Howard
Special Agent
U.S. Secret Service

1551

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