

Mr. Lawrence Houston
General Counsel, CIA

September 22, 1967

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division, Justice

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129-11

A. A. L.

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

A. A. L.

Attached for your information is a copy of the memorandum prepared for the Attorney General, summarizing the conference held Thursday, September 21, 1967, between Mr. Nathaniel E. Kossack, First Assistant, Criminal Division, and Messrs. Edward F. Wegmann and Irvin Dymond, counsel for Clay L. Shaw.

We would appreciate receiving your comments on the requests of Messrs. Wegmann and Dymond.

Handwritten initials: FMV, KOS, W

Attachment.

Handwritten initials: LA 9/25/67

cc: Records ✓
Chron.
Mr. Vinson
Miss Thurman

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 23 1967

September 22, 1967

Mr. Ramsey Clark
The Attorney General

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

and J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

129-11 J.C.

RECORD
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Attached for your information is a copy of the memorandum summarizing the conference held Thursday, September 21, 1967, between Mr. Nathaniel E. Kossack, First Assistant, Criminal Division, and Messrs. Edward F. Wegmann and Irvin Dymond, counsel for Clay L. Shaw. A copy of this memorandum has been furnished to Lawrence Houston, General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, with a request for his comments.

At the conference, Messrs. Dymond and Wegmann expressed their belief that if Clay L. Shaw is convicted of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy, not only will the Warren Commission and the Commission's Report be completely discredited, but confidence throughout the world in the United States Government will be undermined. They expressed amazement and horror that one prosecutor in one medium-sized city could so affect the international stature of the United States. They cited the results of a public opinion poll taken in Louisiana during August at the direction of Governor John J. McKeithen, which revealed that 88% of those interviewed had a favorable impression of Jim Garrison. The District Attorney is a dangerous, irresponsible man and must be stopped, they concluded.

Mr. Kossack
Mr. Belcher

Mr. Doar
Mr. LaCour
Miss Thurman
Mr. Oliver

Records
Chron.
Mr. Vinson
Mr. Yeagley

Dymond and Wegmann were disparaging of Judge Haggerty, who is scheduled to preside at the Shaw trial, saying that he is

Also, that he is rumored to have [REDACTED]

Because of Haggerty's (possibly forced) disposition against Shaw, Dymond and Wegmann are hesitant to seek a change of venue, lest Haggerty assign the case to another parish where the political climate might be even less favorable.

Dymond and Wegmann, who claim that they are forced "to play with a stacked deck," presented a strong plea for investigative assistance and cooperation to help them refute charges that are otherwise unanswerable. Ultimately, their objective is access to information in the CIA files. Mr. Kossack said only that we would communicate with them further, without any pledge of assistance.

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SEP 25 1967

September 22 1967

Mr. Ramsey Clark
The Attorney General

FMV:JWY:KT:al
9/22/67
129-11

D. RECORD

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

and J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

On Thursday, September 21, 1967, at 11:15 a. m., two of the attorneys representing Clay L. Shaw, who has been indicted in New Orleans, Louisiana, for conspiring to assassinate the late President Kennedy, came to the Department of Justice to confer with Mr. Nathaniel B. Kossack, First Assistant, Criminal Division, about procedural problems and their strategy in the forthcoming trial. Mr. Kossack advised them that although their requests would be received and considered, no assurances or commitments of cooperation could be made at this time. In the course of their conversation, the Messrs. Irvin Lymood and Edward F. Wegmann indicated that they desired assistance from the Department of Justice in several matters:

1. To ascertain whatever contact existed prior to or on the date of the assassination between the Central Intelligence Agency and the following individuals:

- a. Donald P. Norton
- b. David L. Ferris
- c. Lee Harvey Oswald
- d. Clay L. Shaw
- e. Gordon Dwane Novel
- f. [REDACTED] - 7C
- g. Irvin Lymood
- h. Edward F. Wegmann
- i. William J. Wegmann
- j. [REDACTED] 7C
- k. [REDACTED]

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9/22/67

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- cc: Mr. Houston, CIA.
- Records
- Chron.
- Mr. Vinson
- Mr. Yeagley
- Mr. Doar

(Lymood and Wegmann stated that they might later submit the names of other individuals about whom they had similar questions.)

- Mr. LaCour
- Miss Thurman, GC Sec.
- Mr. Oliver, Int. Sec. Div.
- Mr. Kossack
- Mr. Belcher

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2. To learn whether Federal Bureau of Investigation "rap sheets" would be available on named individuals.

3. To learn whether Perry Raymond Russo had ever been interrogated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

4. To learn whether Clay L. Shaw had been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the course of the inquiry into the death of President Kennedy.

5. To learn whether Clay L. Shaw had been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation since March 1, 1967, regarding the strength and merit of District Attorney Garrison's charges against him. More specifically, to learn whether an FBI agent visited and interviewed

[REDACTED]

7C

6. To determine the whereabouts of

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] last known address was P. O. Box 174, Irving. And to learn if the FBI had investigated [REDACTED] after Garrison announced that he had found in Shaw's personal notebook the same number as he claimed could be decoded from a number in Oswald's notebook. Shaw has claimed that the number in his notebook is that of a post office box used by [REDACTED] for a business he previously operated.

7C

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7. To determine the whereabouts of Jack L. Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald during the period September 1 - September 3, 1963. More specifically, to determine whether either of them could have been in the Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge during that period.

8. To determine the financial situation of Lee Harvey Oswald during the month of September, 1963: i.e., when and where he cashed his regular unemployment checks.

9. To determine the whereabouts of George Senator, who was Jack Ruby's roommate in November, 1963.

10. To ascertain the FBI's willingness to conduct an investigation of Perry Raymond Russo for its psychological effect alone--i.e., to "shake up" Russo so that he would repudiate his allegedly perjurious testimony given at the preliminary examination March 14-17, 1967.

Mr. Kossack made direct answers to only two of these requests: he stated that the "rap sheets" referred to in paragraph 2 are covered by a statutory restriction, and may be distributed only to persons associated with law enforcement agencies; and he advised that Russo would be interrogated (paragraph 9) only in connection with an investigation of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's investigative jurisdiction.

Messrs. Dymond and Wegmann speculated that they might file a complaint with United States Attorney Louis LaCour stating that Shaw's civil rights have been violated through a conspiracy by Carrison, Dr. Edmond Patter and Perry Raymond Russo, to present false testimony at Shaw's preliminary examination, and through such a complaint draw the FBI into the matter and prompt an interrogation of Russo. Mr. Kossack referred them to Mr. John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, or Mr. Robert Owen, First Assistant, Civil Rights Division, for further comment on the federal civil rights statutes.

After speculating that they might seek a change of venue to another Louisiana parish, and commenting on the alleged [redacted] - 7c [redacted] of Judge Haggerty and the apparent liaison between [redacted] and the Teamsters, the two attorneys left a 12:15 p. m.