IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION.

SHERMAN H. SKOLNICK, plaintiff,

Civil Action.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, defendant.)

COMPLAINT.

The plaintiff, SHERMAN H. SKOLNICK, complains against the defendant, NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, and alleges:

1. That this Court has original jurisdiction of this action under Title 28, United States Code, Section 1361.

Also, that this Court has jurisdiction of this action under the Public Information Section of the Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 as amended by 81 Stat.54 (1967).

Relief is also sought pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, Title 28, United States Code, Section 2201 and 2202.

- 2. The plaintiff, Sherman H. Skolnick, resides at 9800 South Oglesby Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Plaintiff is Chairman of the Citizens' Committee to Clean Up the Courts, a not for profit organization whose office is at his home. Skolnick is also a part time instructor at Columbia College, 540 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois. He teaches classes in Civic Investigation, and he and some of his students, together with other persons, have been working to investigate, document, and research Chicago -area type angles relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.
- 3. Plaintiff does not submit this suit to be heard or adjudicated by any of the present federal District Judges of the Northern District of Illinois, for the reason that the subject matter herein relates, in part, to the case of United States vs. Abraham Bolden, No. 64 CR 324, in this -District, wherein a United States Secret Service agent was imprisoned on admitted perjured testimony.

Skolnick fears that the present judges of this District would proceed in the instant case in secret and in camera, without open court proceedings and without notice to this plaintiff or hearing, to arbitrarily dispose of this case, without fair play and due and orderly processes of law.

- 4. The plaintiff does not invoke the jurisdiction or power of any judge, court Executive Committee, or other such group or person, who intend, or would intend, to determine and adjudicate this case in secret and in camera. Insofar as any such judge, court Executive Committee, or other such person or group would purport to proceed nevertheless to determine this case in secret, as aforementioned, plaintiff would withhold this Complaint from any such judge or group, and declare them to be trespassers in the premises of this Complaint.
- 5. Among the data compiled by plaintiff and his staff researchers, and students, associates, others assisting him and them, including information gathered from documents and interviews, are the following:
- (A) That prior to the assassination of President Kemmedy in Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963, there was a plot or plots to assassinate the President in Chicago, Illinois, on or about November 2, 1963, when the President was expected to be in attendance at the Army-Air Force football game in Soldiers' Field, to be held that same day, November 2, 1963.

Among those involved in the plot, or plots, were a person known as Thomas Arthur Vallee, a possible double for a person known as Lee Harvey Oswald; and three or four others including Lee Harvey Oswald, or person using such name, and a Mr. Bradley and a Mr. Gonzalez.

(B) Keeping Vallee under surveillance and carrying out other duties related thereto were U.S. Secret Service agents. Prior to the scheduled visit of the President, Acting Supervisor Martineau, Secret Service Division, Chicago, received a personal call from the Chief of the U.S. Secret Service, James J. Rowley, Rowley told Martineau that the Secret Service had word of an assassination plot, or plots, supposed to take place during the President's coming visit to Chicago. According to Rowley, four men had come or would come to Chicago to participate.

Martineau called in all men in his charge in Chicago and told them of Rowley's call. He also informed them the following as to this matter:

(a) there were to be no written reports; (b) nothing was to be sent by TWX; (c) Martineau was to report only by phone to Rowley, personally; (d) no file number was to be given to this case.

All Secret Service agents in Chicago were shown four photos of the men allegedly involved in the plot or plots. Shortly before the scheduled visit of the President, Martineau assembled some of his agents to discuss the results of the investigation. Among others at the meeting in Martineau's office were the following secret service agents: James Griffiths, Robert J. Motto, Thomas D. Strong, and Steven B. Maynard. As a result of surveillance, the plot, or plots, was thought to be genuine. The four men appear to have come to Chicago and were staying with a northside "landlady", at or about 1200 North, near a police station.

(C) The plot, or plots, or portion thereof, was or were aborted by the activities of Daniel Groth, who is shown in a Chicago Police Department Report as being a witness against Vallee, who was stopped two blocks from his purported residence. A copy of said Report is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Appendix A. Also attached hereto and made a part hereof as Appendix B, C, and D, are three pages from the so-called Potential Assassin File of the Chicago Police Department. Said File on Vallee has disappeared and re-appeared from time to time, and the photo attached thereto of Vallee is gone.

The purported Police Report, App.A, has no narrative of the purported arrest which succeeded in aborting the plot, or portion thereof, to the benefit of the potential assassin or assassins. Said Report shows discrepancies among others, as follows:

- (a) the alias column shows M.1. (Rifle), which may have been a password or form of identification;
- (b) there appear to be unexplained differences as to the police districts, whether Area 1 or 20th District.

Daniel Groth was known to often "hang around" the U.S. Secret Service office in Chicago. Whether Groth was actually in the capacity of private citizen-witness, or Chicago Policeman, or some form of federal agent or operative, remained a mystery to certain Secret Service agents.

- (D) News coverage of the November 2, 1963, plot or plots was inexplicably withheld or deferred until after November 22, 1963, when the assassination of the President occurred in Dallas. Immediately after the assassination, the Secret Service in Chicago and nationwide did nothing except work on the assassination problem. On the night of November 23, 1963, one of the secret service agents in Chicago received a call at home from a secret service agent in Dallas who wanted "instant information" on the following: (a) Klein's Sporting Goods Company and the Oswald rifle, and (b) whether Oswald received money from Chicago as alleged in a Chicago newspaper.
- (E) According to a City of Dallas jail document, a person known as Lee Harvey Oswald made a collect call, November 23, 1963, to John Hurt, Raleigh, North Carolina; one of two calls he made from said jail. A copy of said document is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Appendix E. Later investigation shows that the name was John David Hurt, whose address is 201 Hillsboro, Apt. 4, Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1963, Hurt's wife, Billie G. Hurt, was listed at said address. John David Hurt has a background as Special Agent, U.S. Army Counter

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Intelligence Corps. Plaintiff will offer additional data on John David Hurt at a trial on the merits of this case.

On November 24, 1963, Acting Supervisor Martineau called one of his secret service agents and asked him if he had ever heard of a John Heard, phonetically pronounced. Martineau asked the agent to "pull" all cards marked "Heard". There were approximately 100 such "Heards". It is believed that the Secret Service arrested a John Heard at that time; said name phonetically pronounced.

- (F) Normally, Secret Service Identification Cards are re-issued or re-validated only when agents go to Washington, D.C. Agents normally identify each other in public by lapel pins. However, very soon after the assassination of the President in Dallas, all agent identification cards of Chicago agents had to be turned in, in Chicago, and new ones issued. Ordinarily, such cards are never out of agents possession. This apparently was a check to see if all agents had their cards, because there were reports that in relation to the assassination, someone had flashed a secret service identification card.
- 6. Defendant, National Archives and Records Service, without explanation, arbitrarily suppresses or releases documents, papers, and exhibits relating to the events, or some of the events, herein described. Although having kept the same suppressed for some six years, defendant recently released certain documents relating to the events, or some of the events, herein described. Copies of said papers are attached hereto and made a part hereof as Appendix F, G, and H; Appendix HH is a verbatim rendering of H because of the poor legibility of H.

Although the person known as Thomas Arthur Vallee could be mistaken for the person known as Lee Harvey Oswald, Appendix F states, inter alia, "He advised further that no individual by the name of OSWALD was arrested on such charge on November 2, 1963". (Emphasis added).

- 7. Attached hereto and made a part hereof as Appendix I, J, and K, are copies of F.B.I. reports.
- 8. After the events hereinbefore described in paragraphs 5 through 5(F) preceding and inclusive, Secret Service agent Abraham Bolden, with his knowledge of Secret Service laxity, insobriety, and other matters in respect to the assassination, discussed the possibility of giving testimony in one form or another to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, known commonly as the Warren Commission, established November 29, 1963. Bolden discussed this at length with his secret service partner, Conrad Cross, during the Spring of 1964. Bolden believes Cross must have "ratted" on him and that the Secret Service knew of it when Bolden left Chicago for Washington, D.C., for Secret Service School, on May 17, 1964.

When Bolden arrived in Washington, he went to the White House and tried to phone J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the Warren Commission. Bolden could not reach him. His so-called "babysitter", agent Garry McCloud "dogged him" carefully. Also, McCloud received a phone call at 2:30 a.m., on May 18, 1964, at the hotel. On May 18, 1964, at approximately 2:00 P.M. E.S.T., two secret service agents, Special Agent in Charge Howard Andersen, Washington, D. C., and Inspector Gerard McCann, stated to Bolden that he was needed immediately in Chicago, for the purpose of participating in an investigation. Bolden was at that time in Washington attending the Secret Service School having arrived there on May 17, 1964 and acquired a room in the Willard Hotel. On the pretext of "participating in an investigation", Bolden was flown to Chicago with McCloud.

Upon arriving in Chicago, O'Hare Airport, at approximately 4:00 P.M. C.S.T., May 18, 1964, Bolden was met by Special Agent in Charge, Richard A. Jorday, who re-stated the pretext used by agents Andersen and McCann to Bolden. Bolden was escorted to the office of the U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Illinois, Edward V. Hanrahan, and was told to wait in the grand jury room for further instructions. Inspector McCann was left in the room with Bolden and

Bolden was not allowed to leave the room for any purpose even though Bolden requested to make a telephone call to his wife. At approximately 6:00 P.M., Special Agent in Charge Maurice G. Martineau, Chicago office, entered the room and charged ' Belden with having attempted to sell a government document in respect to a counterfeiting case.

9. The Warren Commission was established November 29, 1907; the Warren Commission Report was published September 27, 1964. Between those dates, Abramam Bolden was brought back to Chicago on pretext; indicted, convicted, and sentenced to six years in federal prison. He was not allowed to appear before the Warren Commission.

The main witness against Bolden later confessed perjury, but Bolden nevertheless was kept falsely imprisoned. Bolden served 39 months in jail and was recently let out on probation, with about 2-1/.2 years to go. Implicit in the probation is the understanding that Bolden remain silent or be dragged back to prison.

While in jail, Bolden spoke with a critic of the Warren Commission, Mark Lane, author of the book, "Rush to Judgment". Thereafter, Bolden was placed in the so-called "snake pit" for several weeks of solitary confirmement. According to Bolden, he was pumped full of drugs and put through something known as "Room 12-S". Bolden has told certain persons that he has written out a 50-page long-hand report and sent it to a friend for public disclosure upon his death.

From time to time, Bolden has made the statement: "I have evidence that a member of the Secret Service had a part in the planning of the assassination. Someone, an agent, could be indicted on it". More data will be brought out by plaintiff in a trial on the merits.

- 10. While Bolden was in prison, his faimily had been subjected to a number of serious threatening activities: an attempt was made to bomb and/or burn his home, at 7632 South Sangamon, Chicago, Illinois; his garage was burned down; a shot was fired through the window of his home; his wife has been followed upon occasion and a brick has been heaved through his wife's car window.
- 11. The defendant's National Archives and Records Service,'s, suppression of documents, papers, and exhibits, showing the plot, or plots, to kill President Kennedy in Chicago, and its relationship to the assassination in Dallas, is interwoven with Bolden's attempt to appear before the Warren Commission. Instead of being allowed to testify before the Warren Commission, he was instead falsely imprisoned. Acting Supervisor Maurice G. Martineau and others in the Secret Service have been instrumental in having Bolden falsely imprisoned to silence him and destroy the possibility of his testimony before the Warren Commission.
- 12. Defendant National Archives and Records Service, is suppressing the following in relation to the events herein described:
- (A) An interview, November 3, 1963, by a U.S. Government official with the person known as Thomas Arthur Vallee, as to Vallee's relationship with a person known as Lee Harvey Oswald.
- (B) The documents showing that the 1962 Falcon auto driven by Vallee in Chicago, November 2, 1963, had license plates linked or registered in the name of Lee Harvey Oswald. Said license plates being New York 311orf. In addition, a "freeze" on said license plate information is being kept by the F.B.I. at the request of the Secret Service.
- (C) Documents, papers, and exhibits relating to John David Hurt, or phonetically pronounced John Heard; and his relationship to Lee Harvey Oswald, or person or persons known by such name.
- (D) Interviews by U.S. Government officials with persons connected with Klein's Sporting Goods Company, Chicago, in relation to the fact that Klein's had no receipt for the gun allegedly sent to an alleged Oswald alias.
- (E) "Documents, papers, and exhibits relating to the plot, plots, or conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy in Chicago, prior to the assassination in Dallas, November 22, 1963.

13. The defendant, National Archives and Records Service, owes a duty to plaintiff not to suppress documents, papers, and exhibits gathered and kept at public expense. Insofar as any law, regulation, rule, pronouncement, or proclamation arbitrarily purports to authorize such suppression, it is unconstitutional, as denying plaintiff orderly processes of law to obtain documents, papers, and exhibits gathered and kept at public expense.

Three documents relating to the Chicago plot or plots to kill President Kennedy, November 2, 1963, have been arbitrarily and capriciously released. Appendix F, G, and H. Other papers, documents, and exhibits relating to the Chicago plot or plots are arbitrarily and capriciously suppressed, in violation of plaintiff's federal constitutionally guaranteed right to orderly processes of law, and in contravention of plaintiff's rights under the Public Information Section, 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552 as amended.

14. The Warren Report was calculated to allay public concern with assassination conspiracy, when, in fact, there was a plot, or plots, in Chicago, to assassinate President Kennedy, November 2, 1963, three weeks before Dallas.

WHEREFORE, in view of the aforesaid, the plaintiff, SHERMAN H. SKOLNICK, asks:

- (a) That the Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, commonly known as the Warren Commission Report, be declared void; said Report was calculated to allay public concern with assassination conspiracy when, in fact, defendant National Archives and Records Service, is suppressing or abitrarily releasing piecemeal, documents showing a Chicago plot or plots to assassinate President Kennedy, November 2, 1963.
- (b) That all suppressed documents, papers, and exhibits in relation to the Chicago plot or plots to assassinate President Kennedy, some of which papers are hereinbefore referred to, be ordered to be released by defendant National Archives and Records Service to plaintiff or his agent; or, in the alternative, that all suppressed documents, papers, and exhibits, suppressed by defendant and being in relation to the assassination of the President, be released to plaintiff or his agent.
- (c) That insofar as any law, regulation, rule, pronouncement, or proclamation arbitrarily purports to authorize such suppression as hereinbefore complained of, it be declared unconstitutional, as denying plaintiff orderly processes of law to obtain documents, papers, and exhibits gathered and kept at public expense.
- (d) That all suppressed documents, papers, and exhibits relating to John David Hurt, or phonetizally pronounced John Heard, suppressed by defendant National Archives and Records Service, be ordered to be released to plaintiff or his agent; and said papers, documents, and exhibits showing his relationship to the person or persons called by or known by the name of Lee Harvey Os:wald.
- (e) That all suppressed documents, papers, and exhibits in relation to interviews by U.S. Government officials with persons connected with Klein's Sporting Goods Company, Chicago, in relation to the fact that Klein's had no receipt for the gun allegedly sent to an alleged Oswald alias, suppressed by defendant, be ordered to be released to plaintiff or his agent.

Sherman H. Skolnick, plaintiff, pro se.

Sherman H. Skolnick, plaintiff, pro se, 9800 South Oglesby Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60617; 375-5741.

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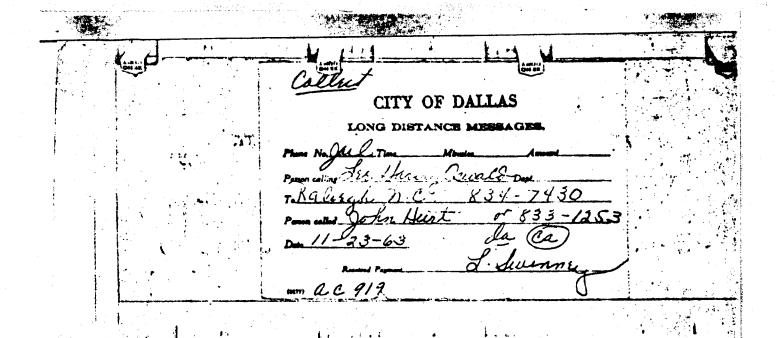
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APPENDIX E

Other Individuals and Organizations Involved of Intervious

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Acting Supervisor Minarmat, Secret Service Savintes, Chicago, on Pasember S, 2008, advised SA WINARM S. Chimatan an College:

Investigation conducted by the Desiret Buryles in Chicago reflects that there was only one award on Nevember 2, 1933 regarding protection of President Minimus, who was expected to be in attendance at the Annyalis Perse game to be hold that same day. This arrest populated to include William, proviously mentioned.

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APPENDIX F

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CG 62-6115

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, HATNOIS

On January 38, 1664, THOMAS A. VALLE appeared before Judge Constitut to Mish in maricipal Court for the Charles of conviction for "malawful use of weapon." Judge MASH withdraw the finding of guilty imposed on January 14, 1984, and continued the case for one year. During this year continuance, VALLE: is to be under the supervision of the court and must report to a probation officer each month.

APPENDIX G

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APPENDIX H



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DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Larry Fanning, Executive Editor, "Chicago Daily News", had previously advised that on November 2, 1963, four men were reported arrested in Chicago, Illinois and charged with carrying a concealed wwapon. One of these individuals, according to Fanning's source, was believed to be the subject Oswald.

SAC Marlin W. Johnson has periodically maintained contact with Mr. Fanning in an effort to determine Fanning's sources for this story. On January 21, 1964, Mr. Fanning advised SAC Johnson that he had looked into the matter thoroughly and there was absolutely no truth whatsoever in the story. He stated he could not tell Mr. Johnson exactly how the story originated.

On January 14, 1964, Thomas Valle [sic]appeared before Judge Gordon B. Nash, Branch 46, Municipal Court, Chicago, Illinois, charged with "Unlawful Lise of Weapon". Valle [sic] had been arrested on November 2, 1963, for a traffic violation, at which time arresting officers observed a hunting knife lying on the front seat of Valle [sic] 's car. During the interrogation of Valle [sic] by Chicago Police officers, Valle [sic]revealed he was very much against the present administration. On the date of trial, Valle [sic] through his attorney, Peter Deorges, entered a plea of "not guilty". His attorney submitted a motion to suppress the evidence on the grounds that the weapon in question was found in an illegal search of Valle[sic]'s vehicle. During the course of testimony by the arresting officer Peter Schurla, Schurla stated that the weapon was observed on the passenger side of the front seat. Valle [sic]in testifying on his behalf stated that he maintained this weapon for protestion purposes and kept the weapon on the front seat of his car. Judge Nash denied the motion to suppress the evidence. On the conclusion of hearing evidence Judge Nash found Thomas Valle [sic] guilty of the charge of Unlawful Use of Weapon, and ordered a \$5.00 suspended fine on the traffic violation. At this time Judge Nash granted a continuance for a hearing on the sentence and set the date for semicine as January 28, 1964. Valle [sic] was released on \$100.00 bond.

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C.D. /460 PAGE 2*

APPENDIX HH

Parts Desember 2, 1963 Other Individuals and Organizations. Involved of Interviewed

Chicago, Milimois, was interviewed at his place of residence, 1211 Michigan Avenue, Evanston, Milimois, on Movember 28, 1963, at which time Mister advised that he was born and raised in New at which time Mister advised that he was born and raised in New York City and has only resided in the Chicago area for the past five years. After being appraised of the situation concerning the Bureau interests in the assassimation of President Minnedy, the Bureau interests in the essassimation of President Minnedy, Mr. Mister stated that he would be of any assistance and would make so of any information he possessed. He stated that a few advise of any information he possessed. He stated that a few Minagor, for NEC News, days ago his superior, RYAL CORUNY, News Minagor, for NEC News, days ago his superior, RYAL CORUNY, News Minagor, for NEC News, days ago his superior, RYAL CORUNY, News Minagor, for NEC News, days ago his superior, RYAL CORUNY, News Minagor, for NEC News, days ago his superior, RYAL CORUNY, News Minagor, for NEC News, and information the action of the property of the superior with commentation of the formation with Coruny, that has the further place of the superior with Coruny, and inasmuch as this automobile had some commention with Corunt the father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, who resides at 5009 17th his father-in-law, NUCH LARMAN, the resides place. MDCH larman the information was frozen land that the information was frozen.

he. MESTER forther stated that he was not avere of the background concerning why or how this linense plate was connected with OSUMID, but that his superior, he. CORNET, would probably know the circumstances supercuading the linease plate and its know the circumstances supercuading the linease plate and its connection. He requested that the USA contact Mr. CORNET for any further information.

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APPENDIX I

CQ 32-8115

the aforementioned arrest in Chicago and the assassmention of the President. We is still interested in this nation intermed as the FBX in New York has put a "freeze" on the license plate information.

CORNEY concluded by stating that if he received only additional information in this matter, he would immed occurate the FBI in Chicago and would cooperate with the FDI in chicago and would cooperate with the FDI in chicago and would cooperate with the

He was unable to supply additional information.

APPENDIX K

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