

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

SHERMAN H. SKOLNICK, plaintiff,

vs.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, defendant.

Civil Action.

No.

700 79

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 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 Involvement 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 District Judges of the Northern District of Illinois, for the reason that the subject matter 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 perjurious 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 to him, 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 person 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, and others assisting him and them, including information gathered from documents and interviews, are the following:

(A) That prior to the assassination of President Kennedy 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 [redacted] 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 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 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. 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 in 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. Moore, 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 at 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 at 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 19 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 other 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 Count

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 Bolden with having attempted to sell a government document in respect to a counterfeiting case.

9. The Warren Commission was established November 29, 1964; the Warren Commission Report was published September 27, 1964. Between those dates, Abram 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 confinement. 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 family 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 pronounce 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.

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 regulation, rule, pronouncement, or proclamation 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.

The defendant's suppression of documents relating to the Chicago plot or plots to kill President Kennedy, November 22, 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.

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 on November 2, 1963, three weeks before Dallas.

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

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; that the Report was calculated to allay public concern with assassination conspiracy when, in fact, defendant National Archives and Records Service, is suppressing or arbitrarily releasing piecemeal, documents showing a Chicago plot or plots to assassinate President Kennedy on November 2, 1963.

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 as suppressed, 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.

That insofar as any law, regulation, rule, pronouncement, or proclamation 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.

That all suppressed documents, papers, and exhibits relating to John David Hurt, or John David Heard, commonly 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 as Lee Harvey Oswald.

That all suppressed documents, papers, and exhibits in relation to interviews by U.S. Secret Service officials with persons connected with Klein's Sporting Goods Company, Chicago, Illinois, in connection with the fact that Klein's had no receipt for the gun allegedly sent to an alleged assassin, be ordered to be released to plaintiff or his agent.

Skolnick,

1000 North Dearborn Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois 60617;

Sherman H. Skolnick, plaintiff, pro se.

IDENTIFICATION SHEET/ CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
IDENTIFICATION SECTION

DATE NOV - 2 1963

GROUP PHOTO'S

2 Nov 63

FPC
5 U 18
18 Ra

REF.

P. NUMBER

L. H.

R. H.

CRIMINAL CLASSIFICATION
 SEX BUR.
 ROBB. NARC.
 OTHER

NAME VALLEE, Thomas Arthur A.K.A. NICKNAME

HOME ADDRESS 4614 N. Paulina

SEX	RACE	AGE	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	BUILD	COMPLEXION	HAIR	EYES	CHIN	TEETH
M	W	33	155	5 ft 6 in.	Light Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heavy	Med.	Brn.	Blue		

NATIONALITY French Amer. DATE OF BIRTH 15 Nov 33 PLACE OF BIRTH Chicago, Ill.

MARKS, SCARS, MOLES, TATTOO'S, DEFORMITIES, ETC.
 LEFT ARM
 RIGHT ARM
 FACE
 NECK
 OTHER

OCCUPATION Lithographer SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 327 30 4015 EMPLOYER I.P.P. Printing Co.

MILITARY SERVICE HARRIED Yes No CHILDREN WIFE'S NAME

QUESTIONED, MEASURED & PHOTO BY DISTRICT

ADDITIONAL DATA

B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11-2-63
 (30) 188

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 077 475 E, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
ID Knoxville Tenn	Thomas Arthur Vallee #58596	5-25-63	DWI, noc driv	
PD Cingo Ill	Thomas Arthur Vallee #40432	11-2-63	CC weapon "knif"	D

19482
 —e87b7

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.
 Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

Date December 2, 1963

Other Individuals and Organizations
Involved of Interviewed

LUKE CHRISTOPHER HESTER who is employed with NBC News, Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of residence, 1211 Michigan Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, on November 28, 1963, at which time HESTER 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 assassination of President KENNEDY, Mr. HESTER stated that he would be of any assistance and would advise of any information he possessed. He stated that a few days ago his superior, BILL CORLEY, News Manager, for NBC News, Midwest Bureau Merchandise Market, Chicago, Illinois, asked if he had any contacts in New York City by which information concerning a New York license plate could be obtained. CORLEY, knowing that HESTER used to be a native of New York, requested that he obtain a listing on New York license plate 3110RY, inasmuch as this automobile had some connection with OSWALD and the assassination. HESTER stated that he subsequently contacted his father-in-law, HUGH LARKIN, who resides at 5309 17th Street, Maspeth, New York, to see if he could be of assistance in obtaining information concerning the license plate. HUGH LARKIN thereafter advised him that the information was "frozen" and that only the FBI could obtain this information.

Mr. HESTER further stated that he was not aware of the background concerning why or how this license plate was connected with OSWALD, but that his superior, Mr. CORLEY, would probably know the circumstances surrounding the license plate and its connection. He requested that the FBI contact Mr. CORLEY for any further information.

Ch. 11/17
On 11/28/63 at Evanston, Illinois File # 62-6115
by SAs LANSING P. LOGAN and JOHN P. QUENLAN/TAQ Date dictated 12/2/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/2/63

Mr. BILL CORLEY, News Manager, National Broadcasting Company (NBC) News, Merchandise Mart, advised as follows:

He recently became News Manager for NBC in Chicago and has administrative control over news items he feels should be investigated by reporters as possible stories of interest.

Several days ago, exact date unknown, it was brought to his attention, from an unrecalled source, that an individual alleged from New York had been arrested by the Chicago Police Department for a minor traffic violation and a search of this individual's automobile resulted in the finding of numerous rounds of ammunition and a weapon, make and caliber unknown. He did not know the name or address of the person arrested and did not know the disposition of the arrest. Inasmuch as the arrest occurred on the same day, November 2, 1963, the late President JOHN F. KENNEDY was to attend the football game between the United States Air Force Academy and the West Point Military Academy at Soldier Field, this arrest became of interest to CORLEY. Subsequently the above arrest became even more interesting to him when he learned of the details of the assassination of the late President. Although he knew of no connection between the individual arrested on November 2, 1963 and the man accused of the assassination, CORLEY assigned a Chicago television reporter, LEN O'CONNOR, to investigate and determine if there could possibly be a connection.

To assist O'CONNOR, CORLEY asked LUKE HESTER, a Chicago NBC employee who formerly worked in New York City if HESTER had any contacts in New York who could check on New York automobile registration 3110RF, inasmuch as this registration plate had some connection with LEE HARVEY OSWALD and the assassination. HESTER later informed CORLEY that the FBI in New York had placed a "freeze" on any information concerning this registration. By "freeze" CORLEY explained he meant that no information could be given out concerning this registration because the FBI had requested New York authorities to keep the information confidential.

12/2/63

Chicago, Illinois

File # CG 62-6115

by MARGARET LOGAN & JAMES A. POND/Jel

Date dictated 12/2/63

CG 62-6115

CORLEY personally knows of no connection between the aforementioned arrest in Chicago and the assassination of the President. He is still interested in this matter inasmuch as the FBI in New York has put a "freeze" on the license plate information.

CORLEY concluded by stating that if he received any additional information in this matter, he would immediately contact the FBI in Chicago and would cooperate with the FBI in any way possible.

He was unable to supply additional information.

Collect

CITY OF DALLAS

LONG DISTANCE MESSAGES

Phone No. Jul. Time Minutes Amount
Person calling Sgt. Harry Cavall Dept.
To Raleigh N.C. 834-7430
Person called John Heist or 833-1253
Date 11-23-63 La (Ca)
Received Payment L. Swenny
AC 919

E