



THE BIG ORANGE

New questions about assassinations

Pursuing the Dade County connection to the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Miami Magazine* has acquired another piece of intriguing information, raising additional questions about the thoroughness of the original FBI investigation.

A previously unreleased FBI/Warren Commission document, obtained from the National Archives, reveals that the FBI ordered a check of right-wing extremist Joseph Milteer's phone records. (See explanatory box at right.)

Dated December 1, 1963, the FBI report reads: "Mr. Kermit Faulk, assistant manager, Southern Bell, Valdosta, Ga., advised that Joseph Adams Milteer has no telephone in Quitman, Ga. (location of Milteer's ramshackle mansion). Mr. Faulk advised that a check of the toll calls of the telephone listed to Mrs. C.C. Cofield, Valdosta, Ga., with whom Milteer resides part-time, showed that for the period August 26 to November 6, 1963, three calls were made to Miami, two to William Somerset and one to Miami telephone number 371-1031 (Somerset's home number)."

Three points in the FBI report stand out.

One—The FBI request is worded so that it seems to seek only those calls made to Miami. Since Milteer maintained extensive contacts with extremists across the country, were other calls made to other cities?

Two—Not only did the FBI

fail to check out calls up to the date of the Kennedy assassination (November 22), it also neglected to check calls after the shooting.

Three—Despite the FBI's awareness that Milteer was on the road much of the time, apparently no effort was put forth to trace his calls from other locations.

The belated release of this brief report provides further proof that authorities were aware of Milteer's activities, as *Miami Magazine* contended in

a two-part series last September and October.

That two-part series contained previously unpublished information and reported on warnings given law enforcement agencies prior to both assassinations. Copies of the stories, plus supporting documentation, were provided to the House Select Committee on assassinations.

Two months later, the information began filtering into the national press. In January,

acting on a leak from the House committee, Jack Anderson reported bits of a story—developed mainly by *Miami Magazine*—detailing statements made by Joseph A. Milteer. (On November 9, 1963, Milteer—in a now highly publicized conversation tape-recorded by Miami Police Department—predicted that President Kennedy would be shot "from an office building with a high-powered rifle.") In mid-March, "sources" within the House committee disclosed more of the story, this time providing information—collected by *Miami Magazine* on Miami police-FBI informant Willie Somerset's accurate prediction of Dr. King's death—to Dallas television station WFAA. Marty Haag, WFAA news director, confirmed to us the details of the "leak," but, of course, refused to identify his specific source. CBS Weekend News picked up the story and used it on the Saturday evening (March 12) news. Channel 4 (WTVJ) the next day presented the entire story, generously acknowledging the role of *Miami Magazine* in developing the information.

Both the committee "plants" apparently were part of a successful effort by the committee and its now-resigned chief counsel, Richard Sprague, to justify the committee's existence and to keep it in business past the March 31 deadline previously imposed on it by the full House. Both stories were disclosed so as to indicate that the committee had developed the information unilaterally. In fact, copies of the *Miami Magazine* stories, along with

The cast and the plot

Miami Herald Editor Don Shoemaker's house was bombed Feb. 18, 1962. Information provided by Willie Augustus Somerset led to conviction of the Shoemaker bomber. With that case, Willie Somerset became a trusted informer of the Dade state attorney's office, the Miami police and the FBI. Acting as an informer, Somerset began attending rightwing meetings throughout the country. At several of these meetings, he discussed with archconservative crusader Joseph A. Milteer the need to kill President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. When Somerset told Assistant State

Attorney (now Judge) Seymour Gelber that Milteer planned to visit Miami, Gelber suggested that Somerset tape-record Milteer. The tape predicting

JFK's death was made Nov. 9, 1963. In April 1968, Somerset, still acting as an informer, told Miami Police Lt. Charles Sapp (now retired) he had heard two labor organizers in Washington, DC discussing the need to assassinate Dr. King to stop his meddling in the Memphis sanitation strike.

The House assassinations committee nine years later is "intensively investigating" Somerset's stories. Both Joseph Milteer and Willie Somerset are now dead.



first-hand documents and letters, had been turned over to the committee before the committee sprang its first leak. The committee's interim report, released March 27, said the Miami leads were being "intensively investigated."

—Dan Christensen

CONSUMER

Unnecessary holdup

Hundreds of Dade County residents are ripped off annually by thieves, con men and assorted other bandits. For most, that experience means taking time to file a police report in the hope of recovering the stolen goods, collecting on an insurance policy or gaining a tax deduction.

When these unfortunate citizens seek to obtain copies of the reports in their cases, they learn they are about to be taken again—this time by the good guys.

The City of Miami charges a stunning fee of \$8 for a simple photocopy of a police report, no matter what the length of the report. Miami Beach charges \$3 up to four pages and another \$3 beyond four. Metro Dade County collects \$3 up to five pages and another \$3 beyond five pages.

South Miami's PD is potentially the most voracious fee collector with a \$1 per page copying charge. Check that against your local Postal Service photocopying machine.

Asked if many complaints were received about the high fees, one harried Miami police staffer replied: "You better believe it."

MEDIA

Don't discount this disco duo

It's a curious thing, really. Here is this Miami-Fort Lauderdale produced television show being aired in New York and Los Angeles and Honolulu and Kansas City and Pittsburgh and Tampa and Puerto Rico and at least ten other cities but not in Miami.

It's not a bad show, this *Disco 77*, a 30-minute dance party with decent talent like Andrea True, the Stylistics, Melba Moore and KC and the



Disco '77 producers Steve Marcus, Arnie Wohl (right)

Sunshine Band. The dancers are stars of local discos and the producers, Arnie Wohl and Steve Marcus, and sponsor, Star-Brite Distributing, Inc., are from Miami. The shows have been taped at Pete 'n' Lennie's in Fort Lauderdale, with special spots filmed at the Miami Beach Theater of the Performing Arts and the Cricket Club.

All this fancy South Florida promotion (*Disco 77's* introduction goes: "From Miami Beach and Fort Lauderdale, the Disco Capital of the World . . .") is a bit embarrassing, but nice. "Everyone told us we couldn't produce a national show out of Miami," said Wohl and Marcus. The skeptics appear to be wrong, because the show apparently is starting to do well, outrating, for instance, its competitor *Don Kirschner* on late-night New York television.

Thirteen segments have been completed. There are no interviews, just fast introductions, guest talent, and dancing,

dancing, dancing. "Pure disco," its producers like to explain. Simulcast stereo or quadraphonic FM tie-ins are also available to markets.

"We're promoting a town that's not even caring about us. We'd like to show the people here what's coming out of their town," the producers say, understandably. But the three major Miami stations that Wohl and Marcus have approached aren't interested. Why?

Program Director Tay Vove of Channel 4 (WTVJ) said, "It's a tough question, a sensitive area," but finally answered that he had "serious misgivings about the durability of the program, week after week after week." He ran a test of the show last year and acknowledged, "It's well done and Steve is one of the brightest guys I've come across." But? Film buyer Frank Struzzi of Channel 7 (WCKT) said, "I've screened the program and found it enjoyable, well-produced, and imaginative, but, unfortunately, I don't have a spot for it on

my schedule." Struzzi held out hope for the future, however, saying he will review the program again in the fall. And Channel 10: "I don't have a comment one way or the other right now" was all Program Director Dick A'Hearn would say.

—Marilyn Alva

Mulcahey joins Nostrand firm

Ann Mulcahey, formerly of Planet Ocean's staff, joins Steve Nostrand, the former Third Century USA Inc. executive director, in his ad-PR firm, Communicate, as account executive . . . Miami film maker Jerry Winters just completing a biographical documentary on actress Liv Ullman. He's been commuting to Norway for much of the shooting . . . PR exec Stuart Newman now a bank director, at Fidelity National Bank of South Miami . . . Lee Page, former sales promotion manager for *The Herald*, will direct the Dinner Key Boat Show . . . Margaret Kempel, formerly of *The North Dade Journal*, in place now as executive director for the Dade County Legislative delegation . . . Hans Hannau who captures exotic places in words and pictures for his own "little books" publications, out with a new and enticing one on the Caymen Islands . . . Orlando Hernandez, since 1973 production manager at Greenman Advertising, Hollywood, joins Nusskern Communications, Fort Lauderdale.

ECONOMY

Changing targets

Greater Miami's long-shot but intensive attempt to land the country's giant solar energy research lab has failed. The solar energy lab went to the home of Coors' beer, Golden, Colorado, to be managed by Midwest Research out of Kansas City. Next development target here is Teledyne-Neosho now battling for a military contract to overhaul B52 jet engines in the former Aerodex facility at Miami International Airport. With 400 skilled jobs in the offing, Teledyne-Neosho has purchased Aerodex tools and