

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI(62-109060)

FROM : SAC, TAMPA(62-455)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS
(OO:DL)

DATE: 12/5/68

REC 45

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|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Casper | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad | _____ |
| Mr. Felt | _____ |
| Mr. Gale | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

Enclosed to Bureau are two copies each of two self-explanatory news clipping authored by TOM RAUM, Tampa Tribune, Tampa, Fla., under dateline of November 27 and 28, 1968, concerning captioned matter involving District Attorney JIM GARRISON, New Orleans, La., and writer HAROLD WEISBURG. One copy of these news clippings are being enclosed for New Orleans and Dallas for information purposes.

2-Bureau (Encls. 4)
1-New Orleans (Encl. 2) (Info.) (89-69)
1-Dallas (Encl. 2) (Info.) (89-43)
OTB:db 1-Tampa
(5)

2 - Bureau
5 - TAMPA
1 - DL

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REC 45

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109-10-6118

DEC 6 1968

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DEC 19 1968 U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

(Section 164)

Mount Clipping in Space Below

In JFK case

Photo 'touch-up' charge

By TOM RAUM
Times Staff Writer

Did New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison commission a set of deliberately "touched-up" photographs of Tampan Kerry Thornley to show an alleged likeness to accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald?

The possibility was confirmed to The Times today by Thornley's attorney, Arnold Levine. An aide to Garrison has disclaimed any such order.

The Times learned of the existence of a letter which was reportedly mailed to a freelance artist in California bearing the letterhead of Garrison's office. The letter contained a purported request to "touch-up" photographs "to make Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald."

THORNLEY, onetime buddy of Oswald, is being prosecuted by Garrison on a charge of lying about his connection with the alleged assassin in New Orleans during the months prior to the John F. Kennedy assassination in 1963.

Attorney Levine said he has reason to believe Garrison wanted to use the touched-up photographs to support a theory that Thornley posed as Oswald on several occasions when Oswald was away from New Orleans — apparently on clandestine missions.

The Times has also come into the possession of copies of

photos which Levine said were re-touched by the California artist, as well as another letter apparently from one of Garrison's assistants denying that the district attorney had any intention of using a "touched-up" photograph of Kerry Thornley in his trial.

The 29-year-old Tampa freelance writer, who served in the same Marine Corps outfit with Lee Harvey Oswald, is presently awaiting trial on the perjury charge. Specifically, he is charged with lying before a New Orleans grand jury last winter.

LEVINE TERMED the request to touch-up Thornley's photograph "just another example of the sham" of Garrison's investigation, and the charges which have been lodged against the Tampan.

The letter asking for the "re-touch" job bears the date of March 12, and the name of Harold Weisburg, a New Orleans writer whom Levine said has a "well-known" connection with Garrison.

Written on what appears to be official stationery, the letter, addressed to Fred Newcomb, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., says:

"Enclosed are four sets of pictures of Kerry Thornley printed backwards but otherwise entirely untouched. My purpose was to emphasize the resemblance to Oswald and his receding hairline, which when his hair is combed the opposite of his normal fashion is quite emphatic.

"WHAT I WOULD like you



Look-alikes?

"Backwards" photo of Thornley (top), and "touched-up" (second). Thornley as he really looks (third), and Oswald (bottom).

(Indicate page, newspaper, city)

B. APPROX 11/1

PAGE 1-2
THE TAMPA
Tampa

Date: 11-27-61
Edition:
Author: Tom Ra
Editor: James A
Title:

Character
or
Classification
Submitting Office
 Being Investigated

65-119-60-1118
ENCLOSURE

to do with one of each pair is pretend you were a make-up man doing the minimum necessary to make Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald as for example by pruning off or brushing back the forelock, trimming the eyebrows, shadowing the chin, etc.

"I would like you to keep one pair for your use out there, send one pair to me and the other two to Jim Garrison . . ."

The letter indicates that it was typed by a secretary with the initials "bb."

A second letter, dated May 21, and also bearing the "bb" initials purports to be from executive assistant Dist. Atty. Jim Alcock to artist Newcomb, and reads:

"I HAVE just received the documents you sent concerning Harold Weisburg's request for you to do some photographic touching-up on pictures of Kerry Thornley. So that the record may be set straight, Mr. Weisburg, who is not a member of our staff, made the request without our authority or consent.

"Further, this office has absolutely no intention of using any 'touched-up' photograph of Kerry Thornley in his trial . . ."

Neither Garrison nor Alcock could be reached by The Times today for comment, but a receptionist in the district attorney's office confirmed that there is a typist in the office typing pool with the initials "bb." She declined to give her name.

THE RECEPTIONIST also said that while Weisburg "isn't a member of the staff," he was well known in the office. Weisburg, author of "Whitewash," is presently in Frederick, Md., the DA's office said.

Garrison alleges that Oswald, David Ferrie, Clay Shaw and Jack Ruby, working on the fringe of the CIA, hatched the assassination plot while they were in New Orleans in 1963.

Thornley, who has published a book on his acquaintance with Oswald, denies he met with Oswald in New Orleans.

No trial date has been set in Thornley's case.



DISTRICT ATTORNEY,

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119

JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

March 12, 1968

Mr. Fred Sewcomb
4640 Noble Avenue
Sherman Oaks, California

Dear Fred:

Enclosed are four sets of pictures of Kerry Thornley f backwards but otherwise entirely untouched. My purpos to emphasize the resemblance to Oswald and his recedin hairline, which when his hair is combed the opposite o normal fashion is quite emphatic.

What I would like you to do with one of each pair is t you were a make-up man doing the minimum necessary to Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald as for by pruning off or brushing back the forelock, trimmin eyebrows, shadowing the chin, etc. I would like you one pair for your use out there, send one pair to m the other two to Jim Garrison, District Attorney, 270 Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70119.

Best to Marilyn and everyone else and many many thank

Sincerely,

HAROLD WEISBURG

HW:bb
Enclosure

"That would cover lamps adequately," Curry said.

Curry also pointed out to council that a section of the law, which stipulated that "all operators must accept and respond to emergency calls, be amended to include the word "transmit."

Council heard one funeral home representative complain of his ambulance being unable to pass inspection tests because its emergency light did not have a clear plastic cover, but one of glass instead.

**CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE
SERVICES**

You are cordially invited to attend these Churches of CHRIST, SCIENTIST

**THANKSGIVING DAY
SERVICES!**

FIRST CHURCH
Grand Central and Cedar Ave.

11:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Day

SECOND CHURCH
1310 W. Linebaugh Ave.

11:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Day

THIRD CHURCH
2616 Bay-to-Bay Blvd.

10:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Day

© No Evening Service
for Thanksgiving Day

The left

Both letters appear to be on official "DA" stationery. L on left asks for "touch-up" job, one on right disclaims Garri

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Weisburg admits 'touch-up' letter; denies connection

By TOM RAUM
Times Staff Writer

Writer Harold Weisburg has confirmed he originated a request last March 12 asking a California artist to "touch-up" photos of Tampan Kerry Thornley to make them look like Lee Harvey Oswald. But the writer denies that New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison had anything to do with the project.

In a story yesterday, The Times disclosed that a letter bearing Weisburg's name and what appeared to be the official letterhead of Garrison's office was sent to California artist Fred Newcomb asking for the retouching job.

THORNLEY'S lawyer, Arnold Levine, said he believed the touch-up was to be used by Garrison to support a theory that the Tampan posed as Oswald on several occasions when Oswald was away from New Orleans.

Weisburg, who has published four books on the Kennedy assassination, including "White-wash" and "Oswald in New Orleans," told The Times from his home in Frederick, Md., that Garrison did not ask him to write the letter, or tell him to send photos of Thornley to the artist to be retouched.

Then why was the request

on the District Attorney's letterhead? "I dictated it to one of (Garrison's) typists. I never saw it again and I didn't know she had used the letterhead."

WEISBURG SAID he dictated the letter "because of my illegible handwriting. If you saw my handwriting you'd know why I had to dictate the letter."

"At no time have I represented having any connection with Garrison," said the writer.

Weisburg did not explain why he was allowed the services of Garrison's typing pool.

"I have often been accused of being responsible for Garrison's interest in Thornley," Weisburg told The Times. "This is absolutely incorrect. Garrison's interest in Thornley was inevitable."

THORNLEY, 29, who presently resides in Tampa at 726 S. 51st St., was in the same Marine Corps unit with Oswald in 1959. The Tampan is awaiting trial on charges of perjury resulting from a Garrison prompted New Orleans grand jury investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Garrison contends Thornley lied about an alleged association with Oswald in New Orleans during the months prior to the 1963 assassination.

Weisburg admittedly sent four sets of Thornley's picture to artist Newcomb and requested "What I would like you to do with one of each pair is pretend you were a make-up man doing the minimum necessary to make Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald..."

AFTER BEING read over the phone the entire letter, which was reproduced in yesterday's Times, Weisburg confirmed he was the author.

Weisburg charged that the letter and the partially retouched photos were leaked to The Times as "part of the propaganda campaign being waged against myself and Mr. Garrison."

"Your paper is being used as a dupe," he said.

Weisburg commented he personally "agrees with what Garrison says about the assassination in theory" but disagrees with him on "a number of details."

BRIEFLY, GARRISON holds that Oswald, David Ferrie, Clay Shaw and Jack Ruby, working on the fringe of the CIA, gave birth to the assassination plot while they were in New Orleans in 1963.

It was during this time that Garrison alleges Thornley met with his old Marine corps acquaintance.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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PAGE 1-B
THE TAMPA TRIBUNE
Tampa, Florida
Date: 11-28-68
Edition:
Author: Tom Raum
Editor: James A. Clendinen
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Tampa
 Being Investigated

100-108000-6618
ENCLOSURE

8 3

Weisburg said he has been to New Orleans "half a dozen times to conduct my own investigation. I never lived in New Orleans, however, and I never spent more than two weeks there at one time."

It was apparently on one of these visits that the "touch-up" letter was written.

An aide to Garrison has denied the district attorney had intentions "of using any 'touched-up' photograph of Kerry Thornley in his trial."

Thornley, who has published a book on Oswald, denies official will represent South seeing the accused assassin anytime after 1960.