

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CD 301

Date 11/26/63

Sheriff HENRY A. REID, JR., Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

On November 25, 1963, at approximately 9:00 AM he was personally contacted at his home by Mr. SAM MANCUSO, a former member of the Louisiana State Mineral Board. MANCUSO told him that approximately three or four weeks ago, he met LONNIE MORGAN, a white male, approximately 40, at Billie's Cafe, located on Ryan Street, Lake Charles. MORGAN is a drilling foreman for the Continental Oil Company in Lake Charles, Louisiana and MANCUSO has known MORGAN for approximately six or seven years. At this chance meeting with MANCUSO, MORGAN asked MANCUSO "How about making a contribution to kill the SOB?" MANCUSO asked MORGAN what he was talking about and MORGAN replied, "Kennedy". At this time MORGAN displayed a small piece of paper with names written thereon, wrapped around some currency. MANCUSO advised REID that certain elements in the oil industry have been violently opposed to President KENNEDY's oil depletion policies.

REID advised he told MANCUSO that he would notify the FBI concerning the statement made by MORGAN.

On 11/25/63 Lake Charles, Louisiana File # 89-69
by SA JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT /dmk Date dictated 11/26/63

Date 11/26/63

SAM MANCUSO, 1135 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

Approximately one month ago, during the morning hours, he met LONNIE MORGAN, whom he has known for about six years outside of Billie's Cafe, 900 Ryan Street, Lake Charles. He advised he does not now recall whether he had been drinking coffee with MORGAN but after meeting outside the cafe, MORGAN stated "I'm raising some money to get rid of that SOB". He asked MORGAN what he meant and MORGAN replied "Kennedy". MORGAN then displayed a small piece of paper with what appeared to be written names thereon and wrapped some currency with the paper. MANCUSO assumed the currency represented previous contributions. At this point the conversation was terminated by the arrival of one or two men, identities not recalled. MORGAN did not mention the name of any group or organization he might have been representing and MORGAN may have been using this approach to make a personal loan from him. He has had no further discussions in subsequent contacts with MORGAN concerning this matter. He did not believe at that time that MORGAN actually meant the death of the President when he used the phrase "get rid of the SOB" but following the assassination of the President he viewed the statement in a different light and thought the conversation with MORGAN should be reported.

MANCUSO is of the opinion executives of the oil industry as a whole have been strongly opposed to the oil depletion policies of the Administration. He advised he holds no personal animosity toward MORGAN who he considers a close business associate. He advised MORGAN has been with the Continental Oil Company for approximately eight years and believes MORGAN is from the McAllen, Texas area. MORGAN's closest associates in the Lake Charles area are CLINTON "Red" GRIFFITH, Griffith Rental Tool Company; W. G. HILL, District Supervisor, Continental Oil Company; JIM SUDDUTH, local tax consultant. MANCUSO knows of no associates or relatives of MORGAN in the Dallas, Texas area.

On 11/25/63 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # 58-69

by SA JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT and /dmk Date dictated 11/26/63
SA GEORGE M. CAMPBELL

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1Date November 27, 1963

A. J. ZICKLER, Manager, Production Section, Continental Oil Company Off Shore Operations, 400 Kirby Street, was interviewed and furnished the following information.

He has known LONNIE B. MORGAN, Drilling Foreman, Continental Oil Company, for about two years. MORGAN is not assigned to his section and he therefore does not know him as well as his direct supervisor, ART GENTRY. He does have occasion to see him almost daily at work and recalls seeing MORGAN in the Continental offices on Kirby Street during the morning hours of November 22, 1963, until about 10:00 a.m. At no time during the period he has known MORGAN, has MORGAN ever indicated extreme hatred toward the late President KENNEDY or the administration. At no time, to his knowledge has MORGAN ever solicited or sought contributions for a fund to "get rid of KENNEDY". He is not aware of MORGAN's political, racial or other personal views and has not heard from any source that MORGAN was raising funds to "get rid of KENNEDY". He is of the opinion he would have certainly heard if MORGAN was seriously conducting such a campaign. He does not know of any organizations or groups to which MORGAN might belong but does recall MORGAN has mentioned the Masonic group in the past.

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 by SA JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT /sms Date dictated 11/26/63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 27, 1963

ARTHUR ALLEN GENTRY, District Supervisor,
Continental Oil Company Off Shore Operations, 400 Kirby
Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, furnished the following
information:

He is the direct supervisor of LONNIE BEN MORGAN and as such is in contact with MORGAN several times a day in connection with company oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. He advised MORGAN has been a drilling foreman for the Continental Oil Company for approximately six years in the Morgan City, Cameron and Gulf area of Louisiana. Two or three years ago, MORGAN was in Mexico on Company drilling operations for a brief period but with that exception has worked in the southwest Louisiana area almost exclusively. During the six year period he has known MORGAN, at no time has MORGAN ever voiced his political opinions concerning President KENNEDY or the present administration. He does recall some discussions where he obtained the opinion MORGAN was a segregationist, but no more so than many southerners and MORGAN's views on the racial problem were not radical or extreme. While he can not be positive, he is quite certain MORGAN has not been seeking contributions for any cause, group or organization among persons engaged in the Oil Industry in the Lake Charles area as sooner or later he would have heard about such activities. At no time has MORGAN approached him about making a contribution "to get rid of, or to kill KENNEDY". He is of the opinion MORGAN's estranged wife may have reported that he did make such a statement as she is very bitter concerning the pending divorce and is known to be an alcoholic.

As the direct supervisor of MORGAN he advised he is personally aware MORGAN has not been in the Dallas, Texas, area on company business or during working hours. If such a trip had been made it would have to have been made almost overnight as he is also in contact with MORGAN on weekends. MORGAN did take a trip to McAllen, Texas, several months ago to visit his parents for a weekend and to the best of his knowledge, this was MORGAN's only trip to Texas in the recent past.

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On Friday, November 22, 1963, he personally observed MORGAN in the offices of the Continental Oil Company, 400 Kirby Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, between the approximate hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. MORGAN was filing and working on drilling reports during that period. At approximately 10:00 he instructed MORGAN to proceed to Cameron, Louisiana, and then to Continental Oil Rig #192A located in the Gulf of Mexico. At approximately 3:00 p.m., November 22, 1963, he received a radio communication from MORGAN at the Rig concerning a particular drilling problem which had arisen.

He advised the Continental Oil Company has no office as such in Dallas, Texas, to his knowledge and the nearest office to Dallas would be the Fort Worth Office.

Date November 27, 1963

JAMES M. SUDDUTH, 3414 Patrick Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was contacted at his place of business, Sudduth and Associates, Tax Return Preparation, 908 Ryan Street, Lake Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He advised he was formerly associated with SAM MANCUSO in the Southwest Barge Terminal, and while in this business he became acquainted with LONNIE MORGAN, drilling foreman for Continental Oil Co. He stated he has known MORGAN for about 5 - 6 years, but actually, MANCUSO was more friendly with MORGAN.

He stated MORGAN never said anything to him about taking up a collection to get rid of President KENNEDY or anyone else. He stated MORGAN definitely is a segregationist, but he has never said anything about hurting President KENNEDY, ROBERT KENNEDY or any other KENNEDY. Mr. SUDDUTH stated he has never known MORGAN to take up a collection for any individual, group or organization.

Mr. SUDDUTH said that MORGAN, just as almost every segregationist in the South has undoubtedly made unkind remarks concerning the Administration's Civil Rights stand, but he has no knowledge that MORGAN has ever said anything about harming President KENNEDY.

He advised that to his knowledge, MORGAN does not belong to any civic or fraternal organizations, and that other than his fellow employees, the only friends of MORGAN that he knows are RED GRIFFITH, Griffith Rental Tool Co., and SAM MANCUSO.

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On 11/26/63 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # NO 89-69

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 27, 1963

CLINTON "RED" GRIFFITH, 2202 21st Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was contacted at his place of business, Griffith Rental Tools, Inc., 230 N. Highway 171, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He stated he has been acquainted with LONNIE MORGAN, who is employed by Continental Oil Co., Lake Charles, for about six years. He explained he is a customer of MORGAN's, and knows him both through business and socially. He stated they are on the same bowling team.

Mr. GRIFFITH stated MORGAN has never said anything to him about taking up a collection to get rid of President KENNEDY or anyone else. He stated he knows MORGAN does not agree with the policies of the Federal Government concerning racial matters and oil allowables, for example, but he feels sure MORGAN would never entertain the idea of killing the President of the U. S., be it JOHN F. KENNEDY or anyone else. He stated it is very possible that MORGAN, himself, or any Southerner might say something to the effect that KENNEDY was an SOB for pushing integration, or that he was acting foolishly concerning some of his policies as affect the oil industry, but certainly none of this kind of talk was meaningful to the degree that the person saying such would actually wish any harm to President KENNEDY or the Attorney General.

He stated he felt sure that if LONNIE MORGAN ever said he wanted "to get rid of" President KENNEDY, he meant that the way to do it would be to "get rid of" him at the polls, by voting against him.

He stated MORGAN was really a quiet person and just does not have the personality to make friends. He stated MORGAN's friends, as far as he knows are just some of the people who work with him at Continental Oil Co.

Mr. GRIFFITH stated that to his knowledge, MORGAN has never joined any civic or fraternal organization, until recently, when he joined the Masons.

On 11/26/63 at Lake Charles, La. File # NO 89-69
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1Date November 27, 1963

Mrs. BILLIE CARSON, owner and manager, Billie's Cafe, 914 Ryan Street, furnished the following information.

The name of LONNIE BEN MORGAN is unknown to her. She has quite a few oil workers as customers but she only knows a few of them personally. At no time in the past has any person asked her to contribute to a fund "to get rid of KENNEDY" or any similar cause or campaign. At no time has any person conducted such a campaign in her cafe.

On 11/26/63 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # 211 NO 89-69
by SA JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT /sms Date dictated 11/26/63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date November 27, 1963

Mrs. LUE JACKSON, 2908 General Mitchell Avenue, Lake Charles, Louisiana, advised she knows Mr. LONNIE MORGAN, 2912 General Mitchell, as a neighbor since she moved to this address in January, 1963. She stated her husband is employed by B-J Oil Tool Co., and he is a customer of Mr. MORGAN.

She stated Mr. MORGAN has never said anything to her about taking up a collection to get rid of President KENNEDY or anyone else. She advised MORGAN is definitely a segregationist and is opposed to the policies of the Attorney General, ROBERT KENNEDY, who MORGAN states has been pushing integration too fast. She stated she just feels MORGAN is too quiet and sensible to ever have any thoughts about hurting the President or anyone else.

Mrs. JACKSON stated MORGAN was recently divorced from his wife, and she and her husband have noted that since their divorce, MORGAN has come home right after work each evening and rarely goes out. She stated she knows he bowls one night a week and that he has recently become active in the Masons, and he usually spends one night each week in their work. She stated she knows about his Masonic work since she and MORGAN attend the same church. She stated she does not know the identity of any of his friends and does not know of any other organizations he has joined.

It is noted MORGAN lives in an area formerly occupied by Air Force people, and Mrs. JACKSON advised none of the other homes in the block, other than hers and MORGAN's, are occupied.

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On 11/26/63 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # NO 89-69
 by SA GEORGE M. CAMPBELL /sms Date dictated 11/26/63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 27, 1963

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It is noted MORGAN lives in an area formerly occupied by Air Force people, and Mrs. JACKSON advised none of the other homes in the block, other than hers and MORGAN's, are occupied.

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation has requested that certain pages of this document not be disclosed. This request was incorporated in a letter of August 13, 1965, to Dr. Wayne C. Grover, Archivist of the United States from Norbert A. Schlei, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice.

Commission Document Number:

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1Date November 27, 1963

A review of records, Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Courts Office, Parish Courthouse, Lake Charles, Louisiana, showed that LONNIE BEN MORGAN filed for divorce from NINA I. MORGAN in Louisiana 14th Judicial Court on July 25, 1963, which action was filed under number 58878.

MORGAN's petition stated he was requesting the divorce on the grounds that his wife had treated him in a cruel and inhumane manner by habitual intemperance, specifically staying drunk and using vile and obscene language from July 20-23, 1963. Mrs. MORGAN's answer denied the statements made in her husband's petition.

On September 19, 1963, judgment in favor of LONNIE BEN MORGAN was returned, with condition that MORGAN give half his property to his wife and that he pay her \$200.00 per month alimony, plus pay \$116.00 monthly rent on her residence at 215 Beauregard Street, Lake Charles, until such time as the divorce is final.

No record of any chattel mortgage in the name of LONNIE BEN MORGAN was located in the records of the Clerk of Courts office.

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NO 58-69
JFW/dmk

AT LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

The following investigation was conducted
by SA JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT on November 25, 1963:

MARSHALL KING, manager of the Lake Charles
Credit Bureau, 511 Ryan Street, advised that LONNIE BEN
MORGAN, born December 28, 1916, at Milano, Texas, was
placed in credit files in 1957. Prior to that time
his address is listed as 309 Myssa Street, McAllen,
Texas. In 1955 MORGAN owned and operated the South
Texas Floor Covering Company, Mc Allen and prior to that
time worked as a driller for various oil drilling
companies in the McAllen, Texas area. Former Lake
Charles addresses are listed as follows:

3545 West Roosevelt
2219 Ninth Street

When last checked in 1960, his occupation was
listed as drilling foreman, Continental Oil Company, Lake
Charles, Louisiana. Relatives are listed as GEORGE MORGAN,
father, deceased; GEORGE MORGAN, JR., McAllen, Texas; and
LENA MORGAN, wife, who filed divorce proceedings July 29,
1963.

Records indicate a previous marriage and
divorce in 1946, name of wife not listed. His credit
record is considered satisfactory.

On November 25, 1963, the following persons advised
their respective records failed to reflect any record
identifiable with LONNIE BEN MORGAN:

DICK ROBERTS, superintendent, Bureau of
Identification, Calcasieu Parish,
Sheriff's Office

Detective FRANK LANDRY, Lake Charle Police
Department.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/26/63

LONNIE BEN MORGAN, 2912 General Mitchell Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was advised that he did not have to make any statement and that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law. He advised he had the right to consult an attorney and no threats or promises of reward could be made to him. The identities of the interviewing Agents were made known to him.

MORGAN furnished the following information:

He has been a political opponent of President KENNEDY and the administration concerning racial and oil depletion matters. However, President KENNEDY was nevertheless the elected President of the United States and he has never, nor would he wish any physical harm to the President of the United States. He would never sanction or be involved in any physical act of violence directed toward the President. He emphatically denied having made any statements concerning any contributions or collections to get rid of or kill the President and denied having made any collections or seeking contributions for any group or organization for any purpose. He advised the possibility exists he did make a comparable rash statement while in a bar but does not actually recall having done so.

On Friday, November 22, 1963, he was on the job in Lake Charles and Cameron, Louisiana and during the morning hours until approximately 9:00 or 10:00 AM, was at the Continental Oil Company office at 400 Kirby Street, filing drilling reports. At approximately 9:00 or 10:00 AM, he drove to Cameron, Louisiana, accompanied by DON SMITH, a fellow employee. He took a helicopter to Continental Oil Company rig #192A and spent most of Friday afternoon on the rig or in the Cameron area. He stated he has no friends, relatives or associates in the Dallas, Texas area and believes he last visited that city in 1949 following his second marriage. He has not been in contact with any person in the Dallas, Texas area for several years to the best of his knowledge. He again denied being involved in any conspiracy concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY.

On 11/25/63 at Lake Charles, Louisiana File # 216 58-69
 by SA's JAMES FRANCIS WRIGHT and /dmk Date dictated 11/26/63
GEORGE M. CAMPBELL

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NO 58-69

The following description of MORGAN was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	LONNIE BEN MORGAN
Age	46
Date of Birth	December 28, 1916
Place of Birth	Milano, Texas
Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Height	6'1"
Weight	190 pounds
Hair	Graying, blonde
Eyes	Hazel
Complexion	Ruddy
Build	Muscular
Occupation	Drilling foreman, Continental Oil Company, Lake Charles, Louisiana
Marital Status	Divorced from LENA MORGAN, July, 1963
Relatives	Father - GEORGE MORGAN - deceased Brother - GEORGE MORGAN, JR., McAllen, Texas
Address	2912 General Mitchell Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana
Scars and Marks	Jagged 3" scar right side of neck near chin
Arrest Record	Claims none