

Miami Plots to Kill JFK; Milteer; Penabaz; Indications Frameup 1/16/71

CDS7:206, report of an interview with an unidentified SS informant or source who could be Penabaz, as I wrote Kelley, claims to have been a report of knowledge before JFK addressed the IPA in Miami 11/63.

Naturally, the Castroites, of whom there is no reason to believe they ever had such intent - certainly neither the FBI nor the Commission came up with any - are credited with the "plot".

Assuming it is a Cuban of Penabaz' mentality, as most exiles are, and that it is neither a deliberate nor a spontaneous manufacture, it would then seem that one of his own reported it to him. Now it is also reasonable, given his public record, that this is the certainty his twisted thinking impressed upon Penabaz' strange mind.

However, assume it was not and was reported to him, and then assuming further what I really do not believe to be the case, that it was not manufactured by his source, this tale is a perfect fame-up set-up.

Even if I do not believe it, this report can be interpreted to mean that there was a right-wing Cuban plot to kill JFK at Miami and that the word was spread that the Castroites planned it, to place the blame upon the Castroites in advance if it succeeded.

Were it something this sinister, a Penabaz would have been a perfect one to get such a report, for such a man could be depended upon in advance to give it full credence and wide redistribution, as his record shows, for he not only manufactured it but kept repeating the same fabrication after denying that he had even said it to the FBI.

Naturally (although I do not believe it, either), had Penabaz and his really plotted such an assassination, what would be more natural than saying his enemies had?

Despite the contrary publicity and wide belief, there was ample reason for the rightist Cubans to have been disenchanted with JFK and their hopes of returning to a Cuba in which they held the same of better position.

12/30/68

McLary, Russell W.

Because TIME 12/30/68 said he was arrested by the Secret Service for a threat against LBJ and because from the story he seems one who could have been connected with known threats against the President in Dallas, I asked Gary Schoener to have the Archives check the files for me.

Today, when I asked him about it, Marion Johnson said there is no record on McLary.

the 'y' in Lyndon," he told Pennsylvania's Democratic Sen. Joseph Clark. And later, handing a pen to House Speaker John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, he said pointedly: "I've found out that if you get along with the Speaker you get these signing ceremonies more often. I think he [the Speaker] works on the basis that a bill a day keeps the President away."

But nothing, not even a session-closing spate of bills, was keeping the President away from Capitol Hill. In the middle of the week, he went down the avenue to attend a gathering of Texas Democrats for a farewell to Rep. Homer Thornberry. Toward the end of the week, he was there again for a Christmas party with Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen, and to attend a surprise party for Mike Mansfield, the Majority Leader.

Charted Course: Just as Mr. Johnson put his personal presence on the line in efforts to pry Congress off dead center, he flew to New York City to speak in person to the United Nations. The U.S., he said, would keep on course, the course eloquently charted by the late John F. Kennedy to the same U.N. forum just three months earlier, would honor all commitments, work for peace all around the world.

The President even adapted the language of a Chinese proverb used by his predecessor. "Peace is a journey of a thousand miles," Mr. Johnson said, "and it must be taken one step at a time."* But in his own, more direct style, he gave the Kennedy policy its boldest utterance: "The United States ... wants to see the cold war end; we want to see it end once and for all."

But his main purpose, as in the calls on the Hill, was to show himself in the flesh, especially to delegates from Asia and Africa. On the way in from what was even then being renamed John F. Kennedy International Airport, he rode with Mrs. D'Jaris Watson, a Negro social worker. After speaking, he shook hands with more than 100 delegates.

'Poverty Package': Back again in Washington, the President called another of his impromptu press conferences in his office in the White House. "Any kind of poverty will be the concern of this Administration," he said, plugging once more for the stalled tax-cut bill and hinting of a "poverty package" of new bills yet to come.

He also renewed his pledge to cut waste in government spending. A day later, as though to underscore his meaning, he ordered higher-ranking bureaucrats and even some diplomats divested of their long black limousines and assigned more modest transport. (The bubble-topped Lincoln in which President Kennedy was killed was in a

shop being strengthened to bear the weight of heavy bulletproofing.)

At the conference, Mr. Johnson said he hoped to spend Christmas on his LBJ ranch near Johnson City, Texas. But when the bitter wrangle over the foreign-aid bill kept Congress from adjourning last weekend, the White House announced that the President would remain in Washington until the stalemate was ended. If Mr. Johnson could get away to Texas, he planned to spend the holidays with "my sisters, my brother, my uncles, cousins, aunts, and my family." Afterward—before a visit from Chancellor Erhard—he might even seize a few hours to go hunting.



✓ McLarry: 'I hope he dies'

Other Guns

On the day before an assassin's bullets killed President Kennedy in Dallas, a student at Arlington State College just outside the city was heard to threaten the President's life. And on the fatal day itself, a machinist turned to a fellow worker in a printing-machine factory after the report of the shooting, and remarked:

"I hope he dies."

Russell W. McLarry, 21, a student at Arlington by night and a machinist in Dallas by day, was arrested by the Secret Service last week and charged with making the threat against Mr. Kennedy. McLarry, released on a \$2,500 bond for a Federal grand jury, is specifically accused of saying "that he would be working near the Trade Mart in Dallas, Texas, where the President was supposed to speak and that he would be waiting with a gun to get the President."

Although McLarry, who is unmarried, lived in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, where Lee Harvey Oswald,* the President's accused assassin, and Jack Ruby, Oswald's killer, also lived, U.S. attorney William Hughes said McLarry knew neither of them. Hughes added, though, that during questioning McLarry said of the President's death: "It's the best thing that ever happened."

Reputedly as thorny and argumentative as Oswald himself, McLarry was sullen at his arraignment. He described himself as a conservative attached to no party, and insisted that the threat was only a macabre jest. Besides, his rifle and two guns were back home in Sulphur Springs, Texas. "If I can be tried for a joke and found guilty," he said, "then that's the extent of it."

▶ In San Francisco, Secret Service agents seized two other men last week and charged them with threatening to take the life of President Johnson.

Robert Beaty Fennell, 29, a former mental patient from Sioux City, Iowa, carried in his pocket four copies of a note addressed "To You" at the White House, which proclaimed: "My immediate goal: the assassination of President Johnson." Bernardo Cisneros, 44, a teamster, was "drinking with friends when, Secret Service agents reported, he announced "that Johnson made a serious mistake and I'm going to go down to Dallas and get him."

'Lyndon's Boy' Wins

The day after Lyndon Johnson became President, Texas Republicans in Austin hurriedly began taking down Billboards that screamed, SCRATCH LYNDON'S BOY, JAKE with the last three words set up to emphasize the first letter of each. Right-wing Republican Jim Dobbs, who was campaigning against J.J. (Jake) Pickle, a former Johnson aide, in a special Congressional election, acknowledged that Lyndon Johnson's elevation to the Presidency had begun a new era in Texas politics. The voters showed last week how right Dobbs was.

Less than two weeks before the Kennedy assassination, Pickle and Dobbs beat out Jack Ritter Jr., a liberal Democrat, in the first round of the election to fill the seat of Rep. Homer Thornberry, appointed to the Federal bench by President Kennedy. Ritter then balked at throwing his support to fellow Democrat Pickle, and it looked as if the voters of the very district that Lyndon Johnson served before he went to the Senate might well elect the Republican in the run-off election.

But after the assassination, both Mr. Johnson and Gov. John Connally, who

*Mr. Kennedy's version: "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."

*In Massachusetts, residents of Boston and Pittsfield were trying last week to change the names of their Oswald streets.