

1 DON'T HAVE
CD 461, p. 1 - Paul

Date 2/11/64

1. Dr. WILLIAM G. CUSHARD, Superintendent, Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital, Jessups, Maryland, advised that a psychiatric report relative to GARRETT BROOK TRAPNELL had been made available to the Circuit Court of Kent County, Maryland, and that at a criminal trial by that court on January 20, 1964, TRAPNELL had been found not guilty by reason of insanity, and in accordance with Section 8, Article 59 (1963 Criminal Supplement, Annotated Code of Maryland) had been committed to Perkins Hospital for examination and evaluation to determine whether or not by reason of mental disease or defect he is a danger to himself or his own safety or will be a menace to the safety of person or property of others.

Dr. CUSHARD stated that no psychiatrist from Perkins Hospital had testified at TRAPNELL's trial and that the psychiatric report from the Perkins Hospital relative to TRAPNELL had certified that he had been sane at the time of the criminal offense and was capable of understanding the nature and extent of charges against him and able to cooperate with his counsel in the conduct of his defense. Dr. CUSHARD stated that the finding of the court that TRAPNELL was insane was inconsistent with the psychiatric report submitted to the court by Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital.

Dr. CUSHARD advised that he understood from TRAPNELL that TRAPNELL had handled his defense himself and Dr. CUSHARD also stated TRAPNELL was a clever individual who was capable of telling the truth but one who tended to lie. In his opinion, if it would serve his best interests and if it tended to make him feel important.

Dr. CUSHARD stated that it was most difficult to make a prognosis in a case of this type, however, he stated he did not expect that there would be any change in TRAPNELL's behavior pattern. He added that it was likely that after the passage of some months TRAPNELL would be transferred from the Perkins Hospital, which is a maximum security institution, to another mental hospital.

On 2/4/64 at Jessups, Maryland File # BA 105-7740
by SA RICHARD G. SULLIVAN:dvr Date dictated 2/8/64

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.

Date 2/11/64

1. GARRETT BROOK TRAPNELL was interviewed at the Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital where he is presently committed for examination and evaluation to determine whether or not by reason of mental disease or defect he is a danger to himself or his own safety or will be a menace to the safety of the person or property of others.

At the start of the interview TRAPNELL was asked about the results of his trial at Chestertown, Maryland, for issuance of a fraudulent check in connection with the rental of a boat which TRAPNELL had intended to sell. TRAPNELL jubilantly advised that the outcome of the trial was as planned and that he had been found not guilty by reason of insanity. TRAPNELL stated that in a few months he intended to petition for a transfer from the Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital to a mental hospital in Florida pointing out that his wife resided in Florida and TRAPNELL had hopes of obtaining a discharge from the mental hospital in Florida and residing in that State with his wife. TRAPNELL was questioned as to how he had succeeded in bringing about this verdict of not guilty and he stated that a psychiatrist who had known him since 1958 had testified at his trial.

TRAPNELL was asked if he desired to change any of the information previously furnished and he said that he could not add to or alter information previously furnished. He was again asked to state where he had originally met MIGUEL AMADOR FUENTES, and he at first said that he had previously furnished this information and could add nothing to it. TRAPNELL then said that he had originally met FUENTES at Fort Campbell, Kentucky when both he and FUENTES were in the U.S. Army. When advised that no Army service record could be located for FUENTES, TRAPNELL stated he could not understand this since he knew FUENTES had been in the U.S. Army. TRAPNELL was advised that it appeared obvious that he had lied on this point and that further it was clear that he had also lied about the fact that in a previous interview he had denied having been previously questioned by the Secret Service relative to an alleged plot to kidnap the children of President KENNEDY. TRAPNELL again denied that he had been interviewed by the Secret Service prior to the interview by the FBI in November 1963 but later said that he thought it was the FBI who questioned him at Miami, Florida, in January 1962 rather than the Secret Service.

On 2/4/64 at Jessups, Maryland File # BA 105-7740
by SA RICHARD G. SULLIVAN:dvr Date dictated 2/8/64

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.

It was pointed out to TRAPNELL that when interviewed by the FBI in August 1963 he had furnished the names of FUENTES and a number of other individuals whom he had met in Miami and who had discussed a plot to kidnap ROBERT KENNEDY, the Attorney General of the United States, and that when he was reinterviewed in November 1963 he substituted the name OSWALDO for the name of an individual he previously identified as ANTONIO VENTURA BARR, allegedly an associate of MIGUEL AMADOR FUENTES. TRAPNELL was again asked if he wanted to change any or all of the information previously furnished by him to the FBI in this matter. He paused a moment and muttered "you will be very angry with me." It was pointed out to TRAPNELL that Special Agents of the FBI were only interested in obtaining the true and complete facts in any investigation conducted by the FBI, and TRAPNELL then said, "Well, I will tell you the truth but I will deny it later if I have to."

TRAPNELL then admitted that the entire story about meeting MIGUEL AMADOR FUENTES and other individuals in Miami, Florida, in May 1963 and the information concerning an alleged plot to kidnap the Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY was a fabrication. TRAPNELL said there was no truth in it at all and that he had invented the story to confuse and complicate the facts surrounding the local criminal charges against him at Chestertown, Maryland.

TRAPNELL stated he was as shocked and surprised as everyone else when President KENNEDY was assassinated and that he introduced the name OSWALDO and the fictitious story he previously furnished since his trial was still pending and he thought that to do so would serve his own purposes. TRAPNELL stated that he originally obtained the idea to invent a fictitious story to bring the Secret Service and the FBI into this matter through a story he read some time ago which he believed to be factual. According to TRAPNELL this story related that in the 1920's a man named ROMINOF, proprietor of a well known restaurant in California, was facing deportation from the United States and that ROMINOF did or said something to bring the Secret Service into the case and the Secret Service took ROMINOF from the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and in the confusion that followed ROMINOF escaped deportation.

461

TRAPNELL attempted to justify his own falsehoods in this matter stating that he had been facing trial in the small city of Chestertown, Maryland, and feared a heavy sentence unless he created enough confusion to bring about his removal from the control of the local authorities. He continued that after he had once started the fabrication he embellished it after President KENNEDY's death by indicating that one of the individuals he had met with FUENTES was named OSWALDO. TRAPNELL said he had realized that in previous interviews with FBI agents they had not believed his story was factual, but he stated that at that time his mental condition was under evaluation and that his own interests indicated to him that he should continue to insist that this fabrication was factual.

TRAPNELL viewed photographs of an area in Miami, Florida, and stated that these photographs represented an area in Miami, Florida, with which he was familiar and that this was the area which he had in mind when he furnished the fictitious story relative to a meeting with FUENTES and other alleged plotters. TRAPNELL stated he realized there must be something mentally wrong with him in view of his past actions, but he stated he was not insane and that he intended to attempt to obtain a transfer to a mental hospital in Florida and after he obtained his release would thereafter stay out of conflict with the law.

TRAPNELL stated he would not sign any statement relative to this matter.

461

Other Individuals and Organizations Involved in Investigation

Date 2/12/64

Miss T. D. TRAYNOR, Secretary to Dr. WILLIAM G. CUSHARD, Superintendent of Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital, Jessups, Maryland, made available the following letter dated November 26, 1963, from Dr. WILLIAM G. CUSHARD to Judge GEORGE B. RASIN, Jr., Circuit Court of Kent County, Chestertown, Maryland:

'GARRETT B. TRAPNELL, No. 855, was admitted to the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital on August 20, 1963, by the order of your court for a pre-trial mental examination. He received comprehensive psychiatric examination with psychological testing, social service investigation, electroencephalography, and other pertinent clinical laboratory tests.

"It is the opinion of the staff and my opinion that he is of such mental capacity as to be able to understand the nature and extent of the charges against him and to be able to cooperate with counsel in the conduct of his defense. It is also our opinion that he was responsible at the time of the alleged offenses. While it is true that TRAPNELL has been previously hospitalized on numerous occasions in mental hospital facilities and has been given a diagnosis of schizophrenic reaction, paranoid type, it seems that he is functioning on a sociopathic level. His schizophrenia seems certainly to be in remission. He is likely one of the individuals who normally adjusts in an antisocial, impulsive, and hedonistic manner until he experiences an overwhelming frustration at which time he may exhibit dissent, psychotic-like effects. Mr. TRAPNELL has certainly not given any evidence of overt psychotic phenomena since his hospitalization with us, and in my opinion was not psychotic at the time of the alleged offenses."

Miss TRAYNOR was questioned as to whether any doctors from Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital testified at TRAPNELL's trial, and she stated that no subpoena had been received for such testimony. She was asked whether any other psychiatrists had examined TRAPNELL and she reviewed the file and located a report from a psychiatric report prepared by OSCAR G. PRADO, Director of Forensic Psychiatry, Department of Mental Hygiene, State of Maryland. Miss TRAYNOR stated that Dr. PRADO sits

On 2/4/64 at Jessups, Maryland File # BA 105-7740
by SA RICHARD G. SULTZMAN:dvr Date dictated 2/8/64
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.

BA 105-7740
RGS:dvr

In on staff conferences at the Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital but that he is not on the staff of the Perkins Hospital. She stated she did not believe that Dr. PRADO testified at TRAPNELL's trial, however, through contact with Dr. PRADO's secretary she determined that a copy of the report of Dr. PRADO relative to an examination of GARRETT B. TRAPNELL had been forwarded to the Circuit Court of Kent County, Maryland. Dr. PRADO's report is as follows:

"OPINION TO COURT"

"Diagnosis--Schizophrenic reaction, schizo-affective type with paranoid components, with Secondary Antisocial Behavioral Patterns. He has led, for most of his life at least a schizophrenic-type existence.

"(1) Responsibility--In my opinion patient was insane and not responsible at time of crime.

"(2) Competence (Pre-Trial Only)--In my opinion he is competent to stand trial in his own defense and/or to assist his counsel as to the same. While he has been, is and most likely will be a mentally ill person he is now sufficiently improved (almost in remission under treatment here), to be considered sane under the McNaghten Rule for the purpose of standing trial.

"Further Comments--In my opinion this patient belongs in a mental hospital, for years not unlikely.

I would like to recommend to your court that if he is found not guilty by reason of insanity he be committed to the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital (maximum security hospital). He is a menace to society by virtue of his psychotic-insane mental illness whose prognosis for full recovery is very poor. Perhaps at some later time his transfer to a non-maximum security hospital upon improvement could be in his best therapeutic interest and not unusually risky as far as society would be concerned."

Miss TRAYNOR appeared surprised when she found this report by Dr. PRADO which she stated was completely contrary to the report on TRAPNELL prepared by the hospital staff, and

BA 105-7740
RCS:dvr
2

she stated that she wondered if Dr. CUSHARD, Superintendent of the Hospital, had seen this report. However, after reviewing the report she stated that Dr. CUSHARD had initialed it indicating that he had seen it.

Miss TRAVINOR advised that TRAPPWELL had forwarded letters to the judge and other individuals in Kent County, Maryland, thanking them for the treatment he received at his trial and that he was also petitioning for transfer from the Perkins Hospital to a mental hospital in Florida.

8 *

461

CD 461