

To: Jim Garrison

September 23, 1967

From: Bill Turner

Subject: Clay Shaw in San Francisco

Referring to previous memorandums on the visit of Shaw to the University of California biological laboratory, as reported by Thomas Breitner:

Breitner this date called to advise that he now recalls that several people employed by the university dropped into the lab stockroom to meet Shaw, and that Shaw introduced himself as Clay Bertram. Once, claims Breitner, Shaw introduced himself as Clem Bertram, but quickly corrected the name to Clay.

Breitner states that he has read recent stories on the investigation in which the names Clay and Clem Bertrand have been mentioned, and that this is what refreshed his memory on the above.

Breitner described Shaw as fairly tall, about 6 feet, brown hair, wearing a shirt and tie and possibly a jacket of some medium color, no hat. Breitner says he does not remember much but concentrates on faces. He says he is certain of his identification and could be sure if he saw the person.

Breitner places the time of Shaw's appearance as between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m.

Breitner states that on the morning of the assassination, at 8:20 a.m., he heard Micheli ask Johnny: "Do you have your tickets ready?" There was a certain excitement between them. They then left, and Micheli called: "Good luck and be careful." Breitner can think of no reason that Johnny would have gone on a plane trip in the course of his duties. Johnny returned late in the afternoon, perhaps around 4:30.

Breitner is practically sure that Johnny was present at the time of Shaw's appearance. Consequently, since Johnny did not return on the 22nd until late, around 4:30, and Shaw had been seen possibly earlier, it seems most probable that Shaw's appearance was on the 21st. Also, it may have been that on the 21st he was in the company of San Francisco Trade Mart people until 5 p.m. or after.

Despite the fact he was in a concentration camp, Breitner gives the impression of being a very objective and careful witness.

He gave the following information, which he prefaced as being pure conjecture. There were about ten professors in the biochemistry department, of which this clique and himself were a part. A few were politically conservative, a few were quite liberal. One of the very liberal professors was David Hackett, a foremost authority on plant respiration who was soon to leave on a sabbatical in Japan. Several months after the assassination, in late January or early February, 1964, Hackett was murdered. He failed to show up at home after leaving the campus; his body was found in the Walnut Creek-Orinda area where he lived. He had been shot four times with a Walther P-38. His car was missing but was later found abandoned in the vicinity of the campus. A German student from Luxembourg had been held by the police but was released for lack of evidence. The murder remains unsolved. Breitner says he told the police about the clique, and that two days before the murder they had had a closed door session in the building lunchroom, emerging not at all jocular as is usual at lunch.

Breitner advises that Micheli is still at the University, and that Kurk is still in the stockroom at the biochemistry building. He made one further observation: that he did not see Kurk around on either the 21st or 22nd of November, 1963, but that he could have been on the roof tending the greenhouse.

It would seem that finding out the identity of Johnny's father is the next step. Breitner felt that Micheli and Johnny were the key people in this. Breitner is scared and wants all contact on a confidential basis.

William F. Turner
Prosecution: Orleans Parish District Attorney