

I had, and I'll get the rest of them to you by the end of the week.

I talked to Bill Corley from NBC, and it's long. I'll try to be as brief as possible.

Corley had just recently become news director here in November, 1963. Prior to 11-2 he had been extremely busy setting up for JFK's visit and so was very concerned about the cancellation of the trip. As he recalls, the White House issued a cover story saying that JFK had a mild cold. He said his years in Washington had taught him to be very suspicious of mild colds, but his suspicions were allayed, as he recalls, when a few days later there was some large change in the international situation. He said that change explained to his satisfaction why the president had had to remain in Washington; although that wasn't, of course, necessarily true. The first he heard of Vallee was an anonymous tip after the assassination, in which the informant said the real reason JFK hadn't come to Chi. was that someone was going to kill him here, and that he should look into Thomas Vallee. He at first thought the guy was a kook who called him, but as they checked into it he became interested. He felt that ~~xxxxxx~~ there might be a connection between Vallee and Oswald, but even if there wasn't it was a story of local interest and had the interesting twist that here was a guy from the Right obviously planning to do the same thing Oswald did. He recalls that they devoted so much time and effort to the thing that he became the brunt of several jokes at NBC, other affiliates were joking that he thought he had the solution to the whole assassination.

He recalls that the initial foray for ~~xxxxxxx~~ information gave him the facts that Vallee had been picked up with the 2,000 rounds of ammunition, a knife, and a small arsenal in his car; that the car had the New York license plate #311ORF, and other information that we have: military service, political affiliation, etc. He called NBC News in New York and asked them to check the license number for him. They apparently forgot to do it, and when he didn't hear from them for a couple days, he asked Luke Hester, who had come from New York, if he knew anyone. Hester's father was a police captain in New York City, and Hester said his father could certainly get it. Hester's father shortly afterward replied that there was an FBI freeze on information about the license plate, and that Luke would probably get a visit from the FBI about it.

Although Corley wasn't sure of the exact day, he remembers that it was a holiday, most like Thanksgiving (11-28), two FBI men went to Luke Hester's home and asked him why he was checking on that license number. Hester said his boss had asked him to do it, and the next day, 11-29-63, the agents went to see Corley.

Corley said that the interview was exactly as the FBI men had presented it in the report, with two exceptions. They did mention names in the interview, that's one. But the other is more intriguing. Corley remembers no such discussion as the freeze being placed on the license # because of some connection with Oswald. He recalls no such thing. As a matter of fact, he says he later talked to Marlin Johnson, FBI chief here, and Johnson only indicated to him that the FBI freeze on the license number was done at the request of the Secret Service. To his recollection there was no reason given for that freeze, and that's what intrigued him about it. He says he feels the statement by the FBI agent about that in the report was merely "him telescoping two or three things into one report."

He could add nothing more up until the time that Vallee went to court. He said that Vallee was represented by two attorneys, and as he remembers it they were not regular Criminal Court type lawyers, although he couldn't remember who they were. He said that when he was asked by the NBC management about the overtime devoted to that case he justified it by saying it was a story of local interest that involved a right winger planning to do the same thing Oswald, the left winger did. So there was no doubt in his mind that Vallee was planning to hit the president.

He said he tried to locate their original information on Vallee, but hadn't been able to find it. He said if they could locate it he'd let me know and I could look at it. He says as far as he's concerned he could find no link between Vallee and Oswald, but it's still an open case for him and if I find anything solid he wants to know about it.

He was not at all surprised at the tales of disappearing files, letters, and break-ins. He suggested I tighten my security. He added a new consideration, though, he said that there are now operating a number of self-styled vigilante groups -- right wing of course -- and that in his opinion they have the capability of breaking into my apartment and tapping my phone. He said he's hoping to catch one of these groups in action so he can nail them.

He said that he has no idea why the story was not reported before he got the tip, but wouldn't speculate about a blackout. When I pointed out that the FBI agent's interview with him was dictated on 2-2-69 and the first newspaper account was the next day, he said what probably happened was that the Daily News had a contact at the FBI office who told them that NBC was devoting a lot of time to this story, and they figured they'd better get on it, too.

That's about all for Corley. I talked to Henry DeSutter, finally, yesterday. DeSutter works for the Daily News. He said he'd try to help but didn't see how he could be much help. He didn't sound very interested, but then he was trying to get the idea over the phone, and I find this whole affair too complicated to explain on

lives at # 4817 North Nashville. A little too close to be coincidental.

As it has been related to me, which of course is merely speculation, in the original arrest he was charged with plotting to assassinate the President, he gave the FBI information, and they reduced the charge to unlawful use of a weapon. Another curious thing about this is that he was arrested in May, 1963 in Knoxville, Tenn. & charged with driving while intoxicated & reckless driving. I checked with the Secretary of State's office here who verified for me the fact that an Illinois Driver, convicted of drunken driving automatically has his license revoked for one year. They told me that even if said driver is arrested in another state, they get the report on it and that man's license is revoked. And yet, in November, 1963, he's charged with a traffic violation in Chicago

The number that is blanked out on the top right-hand corner of the second page is the same number that is written in on the right side of the third page. The question mark on the first page was put on by my friend's source, but except for that all other numbers and names are the same.

First to answer your letter of 5/16:
I got some more informat' on on Vallee. The probat' on officer who wrote the letter releas'ng h'm from superv's' on is still at the Adult Probat' on Department, his name 's Vincent Mas'. I spoke with h'm the other day. It turns ~~xxxx~~ out there's another report down there that I didn't know about. It's the report of the first probat' on officer who interviewed Vallee when he reported in. Mas' read the report to me over the phone, but my contact there says he won't be able to get me a copy of it, because it would be immediately traceable to h'm. The interview'ng probat' on officer asked Vallee about events ~~xxxxxx~~ surround'ng his arrest. Vallee said that he was stopped by the police, they searched his car, found his rifle and ammunit' on, and he was taken to the Damen Avenue stat' on. At the Damen Avenue stat' on he said that he made some derogatory remarks about President Kennedy, which made the officers more susp'c'ous of h'm. Those are almost direct quotes from the report. So much for the lie that he didn't have a gun in his possess' on. So on the arrest report "M 1" was purposefully put in the wrong place -- or the original report was removed and an altered one substituted. Now, in relat' on to the charges: I was told that it was unusual for a defendant in this type of crime to receive superv's' on. Superv's' on is lower than probat' on. Under supervision, the subject only reports his act' ons once a month, and can do so by mail if he wants to. They said, as I've been told before, that the superv's' on clearly indicates some kind of deal with federal authorit' es, or someone wield'ng strong influence in his behalf. He also told the interview'ng officer that he had previously been liv'ng at 21 Bond Lane, Hicksville, New York. You may recall that one of the references he gave was Sam Herman at that same address. The car had NY plates on it, and was returned to the owner after the arrest -- if the car was Herman's, and if Herman had come from New York with h'm, what would they have come to Chicago together for? I would suggest that you look for a Sam Herman in informat' on about the radical right. I hope to be able to get the name of the interview'ng probat' on officer. I was told that he's no longer working there -- but I may be able to get his name and some informat' on on where he might be.

W.D. 1/1/69

8/17/68
J. Kennedy

transcripts I'll send you some photo copies of some clippings and other things I've come across recently that are very interesting.

Thomas Vallee, I've learned in phone books that he was in 1962, and he's never been listed. But the plot thickens. As you may remember, I have a friend who works for the County, and knows people who have access to the police files. A couple months ago, he had a man who was looking into some matters in the area where they keep records of potential assassins and other types, look up Thomas Vallee. While looking through those files, the person is always being watched by a police official, and has only a certain amount of time. The first time he was in there he said there was a folder for Thomas Vallee, but he didn't have enough time to take it out and look at it. The next time he was in there was over a month later, he went to take it out the file on Thomas Vallee to look at it, and it was gone. You can take it from there and decide what the implications of that are; I think there are many. Within the next two weeks myself or someone else is going to contact the manager of the apartment-hotel where Vallee lived at the time he was arrested.

I've found a contact in Florida, and expect soon to get some detailed information about the Phantoms M.C.. One interesting thing that I've found so far, the year Kennedy was killed (I think that is) the Phantom was a small motor vehicle that was a 1964

On January 28, 1964 he was put on one year's supervision by Judge Nash, charge was unlawful use of weapons. Supervision was terminated on January 6, 1965. It was case #63 MC 67333.

Last known address 4611 North Paulina.

Birthday 11-15-33, born in Chicago, Catholic, 5'6", 155 lbs.

Father died in 1953. Mother died in 1944.

No brother. Has two sisters: Margaret Higgins & Mary Portillo.

Received honorable discharge from U.S. Marines Sept. 23, 1956.

Sel. Service ~~XXX~~ #111-44-55 (by the way, that number looks wrong to me. Russ)

Gave two references:

Norbert Jayka, 4817 West Montana, Chicago

Sam Herman, 21 Bond Lane, Hicksville, Long Island, NY

Formerly lived at 1256 South Michigan Ave. (hotel)

Once lived at 1528 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.