

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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[Handwritten initials]

Dallas
ORIGIN M/R 12/9/63 TJK

OFFICE Houston, Texas

FILE NO. CO-2-34,030

TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION Assassination of President Kennedy Lee Harvey Oswald
INVESTIGATION MADE AT Houston, Texas	PERIOD COVERED December 11-12, 1963	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY SAIC Lane Bertram		

SYNOPSIS

Horace Elroy Twiford, a merchant seaman, and Socialist Party Member, is now out of Houston but is expected to return December 15 at which time FBI agents have made arrangements to interview him.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Reference is made to M/R by Inspector Thomas J. Kelley, Dallas, dated 12/9/63 furnishing names and addresses of persons found in an address found on Lee Harvey Oswald.

Horace Twiford, 7018 Schley St., Houston, Texas, is the only one listed in the Houston district.

A search of the Houston Secret Service files failed to reveal any record of Horace Twiford.

The Intelligence Division of the Houston Police Department, Officer D. D. Collins, searched their files and furnished the following information: Horace Elroy Twiford, 7018 Schley St., Houston, Texas, a merchant seaman, described as a white male, born 3/20/23, 5-9, 156, brown eyes, brown hair, wife's name Mabel Estelle, formerly resided at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Mateo, North Carolina, moved to Houston in 1956 and resided at 4312 West Alabama, Apt. 5, Houston; 2501 Yoakum; 8511 Weir and 7825 Dixie Drive, rear. He previously had telephone number MI 9-8500. His present telephone number is WA 3-5492. He is employed as a merchant seaman, believed to have previously worked as a seaman for the Ballantine Chemical Company, whose home office is Neward, New Jersey. In 1962 he owned a 1962 Volkswagon automobile bearing 1962 Texas License No. TZ 623.

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		APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	638 DATE 12/14/63

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Subject Twiford has been active in the Houston area in the Socialist Party movement, at least since 1962.

On February 7, 1962, Twiford attended a meeting of the local chapter of American Civil Liberties Union at the YWCA where the film "Operation Abolition" was shown, with the ACLU version dubbed in on the sound track. Later Twiford was instrumental in creating the "Due Process Committee" of the ACLU. The purpose of this committee was to investigate cases of alleged police brutality. Some of the persons in attendance at this meeting were:

Mona Schacht
Charles Broughton
Dr. Howard McGaw

Mona Schacht is an official in the State Communist party and considered the top ranking communist in the Houston area.

Charles Broughton and Dr. Howard McGaw are associated with the communist party.

On February 21, 1962 Twiford held a meeting at his residence of the "Due Process Committee", the purpose of which was to elect permanent officers.

On February 28, 1962 Twiford conducted another meeting of the Due Process Committee at his residence.

On March 3, 1962, Twiford wrote a letter to the Editor of the Houston Post regarding the Berlin situation in which he stated "I, for one, say let President Kennedy mobilize some brainpower not manpower or missiles on this question."

On March 28, 1962, Twiford was observed by Intelligence Officers at the "Picnic for Peace" conducted at Zilker Park, in Austin, Texas. The principal speaker at this gathering was Norman Thomas, Ezra and Mona Schacht, Ed Badeaux, a folk singer affiliated with leftist movement, and several members of the Young People Socialist League of Houston.

On May 14, 1962, a member of the Young People Socialist League (YPSL) recommended Twiford as being a good person to organize a local chapter of the Socialist Labor Party.

On July 21, 1962, Twiford wrote another letter to the Editor of the Houston Post wherein he advocated equal time on radio and television for "all recognized political parties (socialist party)."

On November 19, 1962, Twiford submitted an application to the Houston chapter of the Socialist party whereon he stated his political affiliation as "Socialist Labor Party". On the application there was a written note as follows, "I believe in the materialistic conception of history, the class struggle and the surplus value as presented by Karl Marx."

On December 28, 1962, Twiford was mentioned in a letter written by one Larry Slakey to the Socialist Party. Slakey stated "Horace Twiford is on his way to Casablanca. He is a mate on a boat. He will be back soon. He is a very good friend of mine."

On January 3, 1963, Slakey stated in a conversation with a police intelligence informant that "Twiford was a good friend of Joseph H. Tupper, 1038 Meads, Houston, Texas." Tupper and his wife are members of the Socialist Party and allegedly have attended a Socialist Labor Party School conducted in New York City. Slakey also advised the police informant that Twiford sometimes uses the alias EDWARD McKNIGHT.

It is noted that Larry Slakey is an avowed Socialist Labor Party member and has stated that he is a Revolutionist, not a Pacifist. His father, Barney Lynn Slakey, is now under investigation by the Houston office on a forgery charge in connection with his filing of income tax return. Barney Slakey has been convicted in income tax fraud cases in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Robert E. Rightmeyer, SAC, FBI, Houston, advised on December 12, 1963 that his agents had determined that Horace Elroy Twiford was presently on a ship and not due to return to Houston until Sunday, December 15, 1963, at which time he would be interviewed by agents from that office. He stated that his agents had attempted to locate Twiford and had interviewed Twiford's wife, Mabel Estelle. After consulting her attorney, she advised agents that she received a telephone call several weeks, indefinite as to time, from a man who said he was Lee Oswald and claimed that he had corresponded with her husband, Horace Twiford. The caller stated that he was en route to Mexico City at the time.

Mr. Rightmeyer advised that the Immigration records indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald entered Mexico through Laredo on September 26, 1963. He recalled that the FBI had determined that Oswald returned on either October 1 or 3. He could not recall the exact date.

Mr. Rightmeyer advised that the Houston office would be furnished a copy of the report of interview by their agents after which time the subject will be interviewed if considered appropriate.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

This inquiry remains open pending report of interview with Twiford from FBI and further action as indicated.

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December 17, 1963

Herace E. TWIFORD's contact with OSWALD limited to
mailing of Socialist literature and uncompleted phone call.

To Chief:

Summary of TWIFORD's activities presented.

Re the attached memorandum and telephone conversation with Bertram today, he said the FBI had interviewed Twiford in Houston and that their interview merely confirmed the information they had received from Twiford's wife that a man named "Oswald" had called Twiford in Twiford's absence.

Twiford denied ever seeing Oswald at any time and his only connection with him was to mail some Socialist Party literature to Oswald in New Orleans at the request of the Socialist Party Headquarters in New York.

The interviewing FBI agents evaluated Twiford's information as being truthful.

A report from Bertram will follow.

Inspector Kelley

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