

MAR 17 1967

Probe Kennedy Death Here

FBI Man Visits Winnipeg To Check Assassination Clue

An agent of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation has been in Winnipeg checking out a lead that might shed some light on the mystery still surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

Merrill Nelson, FBI agent stationed in Grand Forks, North Dakota, registered at a downtown hotel two nights ago while he questioned a Winnipeg man about a conversation he heard at the Winnipeg International Airport Feb. 27.

The testimony is now in the hands of a Presidential commission headed by Sen. Earl Warren, investigating the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas Oct. 22.

The local man, who is being withheld from public view, is said to be a resident of a rooming house in the downtown of Winnipeg. He overheard the conversation of two men seated at a table behind him.

From their conversation, he deduced that one had information about the Kennedy assassination and he attempted to sell it. The man, who was followed by a third man, has been sitting separately, while both the conversation and himself.

He managed to get the pursuer, and took his lawyer. The lawyer, a resident of the United States, is in Winnipeg, who in turn called the FBI.

In testimony to a grand jury, the man said he was in the rooming house.

partially given the investigation agency a good idea of the man's appearance.

One of the pair, described as a heavy set, between 45 and 50, with dark bushy hair and bushy eyebrows, appeared to be wearing his companion's name tag at the shooting. He was wearing a dark, plastic frame.

The man, who is believed to be about 35 years old, is described as having a deformed nose, fair hair and flushed cheeks. Six feet tall, and weighing about 200 pounds, he is believed to be left handed. The fingers of his left hand were either scarred or tattooed.

However, the man followed, first standing between the informant and a stairway leading by the RCMP office on the ground floor of the airport, and then approaching him as he began to relate his story on the telephone to a corporal at RCMP headquarters downtown.

The informant hung up and walked to one of the flight attendant rooms on the second floor after walking through two rooms. He again entered the lobby of the airport. His father was nowhere in sight.

Agent Nelson accompanied the informant and his lawyer to the airport the night of Feb. 27, and made his investigation of the scene, as well as taking testimony.

Testimony of the Winnipeg man has again sparked rumors that Oswald was but a cog in the plot to assassinate Kennedy.

One theory holds the plan was originated by a right-wing organization and had the support of at least some members of the Dallas police force. A recent series of articles attempted to prove that circumstances show the assassination and subsequent killing of Oswald were financed by a well-heeled organization, and received support of at least some law enforcement officers connected with events of the week and last fall.

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41,500?
DALLAS
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This is the story that appeared exclusively in the Free Press May 2, 1964 which interests the New Orleans District Attorney's office, now investigating a reported plot to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Meeting

He disclosed that the group of which both men were apparently a part, would be holding a meeting March 18 in a Kansas City, Missouri hotel. The group were in reserve rooms under the name of a family concern.

The two switched their conversation and began discussing airplanes after the third man, sitting at a separate table, apparently signaled them that someone was in earshot of their discussion. The FBI informant recalled the man sitting separately stared at him in such a manner that he got up and left the room in an attempt to locate the police.

The man who followed the informant is believed to be about 35 years old, and is described as having a deformed nose, fair hair and flushed cheeks. Six feet tall, and weighing about 200 pounds, he is believed to be left handed. The fingers of his left hand were either scarred or tattooed.

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conversation when he took a seat at a table in front of them. After placing his order he noticed the pair were discussing

film of Mr. Kennedy's arrival in Dallas. At the time of the airport conversation he was being followed by a man named

Hoffman or Hoffman who was to "relieve" him and destroy a 1958 model automobile Isaac had in his possession.

The elder of the two men, who the FBI reportedly believe is from the Southern United States, told his companion he was more worried at our

Mr. Kennedy's death and he paid attention to what they said.

Piped in music in the room made it impossible to hear the complete conversation, but notes and descriptions forwarded to the FBI have ap

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Commission No. 645

MP 105-2864

Copy to:

Report of: EWALD I. CARLSON
Date: 3/6/64

Office: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Field Office File No: 105-2564

Bureau File: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Character:

Special:

On 2/13/64, while in a bar at Winnipeg International Airport, source overheard conversation between two unsubs apparently discussing OSWALD. In conversation reference was made to "New York did OSWALD know" and to "ISAACS," apparently an acquaintance of OSWALD's who was "seen near KENNEDY" in a film. Reference also made to papers of Toyhandise coming in from Nevada, and that "while there had been no sales meeting since November, one might be scheduled on 3/18/64 in Kansas City, Missouri." Source while making notes of conversation of unsubs noticed a third individual apparently scrutinizing source's actions. The scrutiny of the third individual who may have signaled the unsubs that their conversation was being overheard, caused source to leave bar and eventually the airport. Descriptions of unsubs and third person set out.

- RUC -

Details: On February 27, 1964, MP T-1, whose reliability is unknown, advised that on February 13, 1964, while at the Winnipeg International Airport, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, he overheard a conversation between two individuals unknown to him, which conversation seemed to him to pertain to OSWALD.

MP T-1 advised that on the above date he had occasion to visit the bar situated in the Winnipeg International Airport and sat near a table at which two persons were already seated. These individuals were conversing in normal tones and consequently he paid little attention to them until he heard the name of OSWALD mentioned. MP T-1 stated that one of the individuals, herein referred to as Number One, did state several times, "How much did OSWALD know. How much did she know." It was MP T-1's impression that the two individuals were speculating as to whether there are people other than OSWALD who knew. MP T-1 explained that the background music in the bar and the normal activity within the place made it difficult for him to hear the entire conversation between these two individuals but that he did manage to overhear parts of the ensuing conversation.

MP T-1 stated that after the query was made as to how much OSWALD knew Number One made the statement, "We have a film that I have seen where ISAACS is seen near KENNEDY after the landing." Number Two then remarked something to the effect about ISAACS, ending in a query, "Why should a person with such a good record as ISAACS, become mixed up with a psycho." The impression received by MP T-1 was that the two unknown subjects were still referring to ISAACS. Number One then made the statement that L. J. TAMAN or HAUGHTMAN (phonetic) is or was searching for ISAACS and there was mention of a car, a 1958 Dodge, which should be looked after when ISAACS is found. It appeared to MP T-1 that the gist of this conversation appeared to be that the car was to be disposed of and if ISAACS was found he apparently could clear the matter up. Number One then stated that even if ISAACS (?) is found fully the Bureau will not stop their investigation. At this juncture Number Two elicited something or papers coming in from Nevada. Number One again mentioned to the effect that Mercury would be closed as it has been too risky in the past months. MP T-1 explained that from the conversation he could not determine whether Mercury referred to a town of Mercury, Nevada, a business, or possibly an automobile, but that he did receive the impression that when they mentioned closing they were referring to closing a house or shop.

MP T-1 advised that there had been a reference between the two unknown subjects about the fact that there had been no regular sales meetings since Kowenberg, and he received the impression from listening to the conversation that if everything went well there would be a sales meeting at the Town House at Kellogg and Broadway in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 18, 1964.

MP T-1 also stated that he had the impression that the reservation for this sales meeting was to be in the name of a textile firm. MP T-1 advised that the last portion of the conversation that he overheard was a statement by unknown subject Number One and was something to the effect that his niece had left for California and that there is more money at my or our disposal than at any other time.

MP T-1 explained that the conversation between the unknown subjects lasted about a half an hour and that he definitely formed the opinion by listening to their conversation that ISAGS was linked or was to be linked with the assassination of the President and the two unknown subjects were wondering why he should get mixed up with a psycho like OSWALD.

MP T-1 explained during the above conversation that since unknown subject Number One was sitting with his back to him he did not see his face but that he would be likely to recognize unknown subject Number Two since this individual was facing him. MP T-1 also emphasized that only portions of the conversation was overheard by him and that the notes that he had taken of the conversation were destroyed by him after leaving the airport and, therefore, he was unable to quote exactly the terminology used by the two unknown subjects, but that he did recall that unknown subject Number One was referred to as Mr. ROBINSON (phonetic). Unknown subject Number Two was never referred to by name.

MP T-1 towards the latter part of the conversation between Number One and Number Two noticed another individual in the bar seated across the room from him and who kept looking in his direction with great interest. MP T-1 stated that he was conscious of the fact that this individual, herein referred to as Number Three, was staring at him during the period that he was taking notes of the conversation between the two individuals and had the feeling that this individual may have signaled the two unknown subjects of his interest in them since these men suddenly changed their conversation and began talking about various types of airplanes that could be seen from the window.

At this time Number Two made the statement, "There is the type of plane I fly back home." MP T-1 stated that upon hearing this statement he also looked outside the window and noticed a two motor amphibian airplane. MP T-1 stated that by this time he became very apprehensive because of the scrutiny by Number Three and left the bar and went to a magazine stand in the lobby where he inquired whether there was a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) official in the building.

MP T-1 stated that he was informed that there was a RCMP official downstairs and as he turned to proceed downstairs he noticed Number Three across the lobby watching him. MP T-1 stated that at this time he made his way to a bank of phones located in a hall near the magazine stand and made a call to the RCMP Headquarters.

When the connection was made he again noticed Number Three standing near the entrance to the hall from the main lobby whereupon he abruptly terminated the connection. MP T-1 advised that after a short time he ventured back to the vicinity of the magazine stand and did not notice the presence of Number Three and took this opportunity to leave the terminal building.

MP T-1 stated that while driving home from the airport he destroyed his notes because by this time he was quite frightened by the incident. MP T-1 stated that on his way towards home he saw a friend waiting for a bus and gave him a lift to town.

