Weissman, Bernard

11/30/63 Washington -- An FBI inquiry into the American Fact Finding Committee of Dallas, TX, was reported yesterday by Rep. Bernard F. Grabowski, D-CT, and Silvio O. Conte, R-CT

The Committee was the sponsor of a full-page advertisement in the Dallas Morning News on the morning of the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

... The advertisement was signed with the name of Bernard Weissman as chairman of the American Fact Finding Committee.

Weissman does not appear in either the city directory or the telephone directory in Dallas. Efforts to locate him have been unavailing.

[Local Birchers and Robert Morris, past president of the Defenders of American Liberty, both said never heard of Weissman]. San Francisco Chronicle, no attribution

12/2/63 Dallas -- A telegram delivered in the middle of the night resulted in the man calling himself Bernard Weissman and his sidekick hastily moving out of their Dallas apartment here the day before Thanksgiving day [which was 11/28].

When Weissman place a full-page anti-Kennedy ad ... he gave ... an address at an apartment house on Reiger St.

The proprietors there say that he moved into one of their apartments with a man named William Burley on 11/5. Burley is described as a tall, blonde man who wore black horn-rimmed glasses. ... they said they were rug salesmen.

The messenger with the telegram came knocking on doors in the apartment house last Wednesday morning [11/27] about 2 a.m. Later that day, the proprietress recalled, Weissman told her, "I've got bad news ... we're going to leave. We got a telegram calling us home."

Weissman showed the proprietress the advertisement and told her: "I wrote that," she remembered. He volunteered that the FBI had been there to see them about it.

The ad, which cost $1464, was signed "The American Fact-Finding Committee, 'an unaffiliated and non-partisan group of citizens who wish truth,' Bernard Weissman, Chairman, P. O. Box 1792, Dallas 21, Texas." San Francisco Chronicle, Times-Post Service

12/7/63 Mount Vernon, N.Y. -- Weissman said in a telephone interview from the home of his father here that he was in Dallas at the time the President was assassinated, but was attending a sales meeting and failed to see the presidential motorcade.

He said he telephoned the FBI the same day and volunteered to appear for questioning "because of the attention that had been
Weissman, Bernard

focused on my group due to its announced aims along conservative lines.

"They knew more about me that I knew about myself," he said of the FBI. I left a few days later because I couldn't earn a living with the threats and pressures being brought to bear against me there by local liberal groups," he explained.

He said he never knew Lee Harvey Oswald ... or Jack Ruby ...

Weissman said he adopted a conservative political philosophy while serving as a military policeman in the Army in Germany.

A bunch of us got together and found out that we thought alike," he recalled. "We all thought the United States was acting like a weak sister and we decided to do something about it when we got out of the Army."

Weissman, who said he was separated from his wife, expects to begin work Monday with a new firm that he declined to identify.

... "I was truly shocked at the President's death," he said. "It was a terrible thing."

"But I was even more shocked by the fact that many people kept blaming the conservatives even when it had been established that a Communist was the assassin," he added.  

AP, 9:50 p.m. EST

Dallas -- The *American Fact-Finding Committee* ... is still getting a heavy volume of mail as an aftermath.

There were 70 letters yesterday at the Dallas postal box mentioned in the full-page ad. ... The majority denounced the committee and Bernard Weissman. ...

A member of the committee said in an interview that it took only two days to raise, among Dallas conservatives, the $1,484 it cost to run the ad.

He said Mr. Weissman was selected to sign it both because he wanted to and because it was felt the use of his name might tend to counteract the "many charges of anti-Semitism that have been made against the right wing."

... Mr. Weissman, a 26-year-old unemployed salesman, left to visit his father in Mt. Vernon, NY, five days after the ad appeared. He had been in Dallas only three weeks.

Participated in picketing speech by Adlai Stevenson on 10/24. *New York Times*, Donald Janson

2/9/64

A witness said he had seen Tippit, Bernard Weissman and Ruby conferring for about two hours in Ruby's night club on 11/14.
… Mr. Lane, who has frequently challenged the view that Oswald was guilt of shooting Mr. Kennedy, told the commission he had hear of a secret meeting in a Dallas night club eight days before tree President was killed.

Present at the meeting, he said, were J. D. Tippit the Dallas patrolman who was slain while trying to arrest Oswald; Bernard Weissman, a Mount Vernon, NY, resident who had placed an anti-Kennedy advertisement in a Dallas newspaper the day the President was shot, and an unidentified third person.

The meeting Mr. Lane said, was held on 11/14 in the Carousel Club, a night club owned by Jack Ruby, now on trial in Dallas for the murder of Oswald.

The hearing room was cleared of newsmen and spectators when Mr. Lane said he would rather give the name of the third person present at the meeting to the Commission in private.

… Asked what the purpose of the Dallas meeting was, Mr. Lane said the three persons spent more than two hours conferring. He said his information did not indicate what they were talking about. …

Mr. Lane's contention that a secret meeting had been held in Dallas was first made at a public meeting on 2/18 in Town Hall at which Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, the accused assassin's mother, appeared. Although he mentioned the names of Mr. Tippit and Mr. Weissman at the Town Hall meeting, Mr. Lane did not make public the third person's identify.

Mr. Weissman, asked to comment after Mr. Mark Lane first made his charge, said he had never met Mr. Tippit, Ruby or Oswald. He also said he had never been in the Carousel.

“As far as I know,” Mr. Weissman said at that time, “anybody I associated with in Dallas never had any such meeting.” New York Times, UPI, Washington [3/4]

Washington - ... The [Weissman] ad blamed Kennedy for the imprisonment and deaths of thousands of Cubans. AP, 11:14 a.m. CST

Story on interview of Ruby by Warren on 6/7, in Dallas. [Miss Kilgallen's transcript of interview filed Ruby.]

Miss Kilgallen pointed out that while Ruby did not admit that he, Weissman and Tippit had a meeting at the Carousel Club, he
never directly denied it. *San Francisco Examiner,* Dorothy Kilgallen

[See 9/28/64]

**8/29/64**  
Story on series of articles by Dorothy Kilgallen, on Warren's questioning of Ruby, published in *New York Journal-American,* 8/18/64, ff.

[Mark Lane had informed the commission months before of the Ruby-Tippit-Weissman meeting at the Carousel.]

Yet throughout the three hours of testimony, Justice Warren permitted Ruby to ramble, twist and dodge and never answer directly the questions whether he knew Tippit or had been with him at the *Carousel* that night. Even more bizarre, Justice Warren added a fourth man to the table, "a rich Texas oil man," whom Lane says he never mentioned. Significant was Ruby's reply to Warren's question. "Who was the rich oil man?" Ruby replied. He never admitted the meeting took place; he never denied it. *National Guardian*

**9/28/64**  
Story on publication of *Warren Report,* dealing with its report on Ruby:

The commission specifically discounted an allegation by ... Mark Lane ... that Ruby, Bernard Weissman and ... J. D. Tippit had met at Ruby's *Carousel Club* on 11/14. *San Francisco Chronicle* [From *New York Times*]

[See 8/19/64, Kilgallen story]