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30 DEC 1963

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U R G E N T

BY JACK KEEVER

JOHNSON CITY, TEX., DEC. 30 (AP)-SECRET SERVICE AGENTS QUESTIONED A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN FOR 15 MINUTES TODAY AFTER SHE SAID SHE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION NOV. 22 IN DALLAS.

THE WOMAN, WHO REGISTERED AT A JOHNSON CITY MOTEL AT 2:30 P.M. TODAY, GAVE HER NAME AS MISS ELIZABETH CRONIN OF ASTORIA, ORE. (1457 EXCHANGE ST.) HER AGE APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 60. MISS CRONIN SAID SHE FLEW TO AUSTIN TODAY AND TOOK THE BUS TO JOHNSON CITY, 50 MILES WEST.

SHE ASKED THE MOTEL MANAGER, EMIL KROLL, TO CALL THE SECRET SERVICE AT THE LBJ RANCH TO TELL THEM SHE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION, KROLL SAID.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS BEEN AT THE RANCH, 15 MILES WEST OF HERE, SINCE DEC. 24.

AN ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWSMAN ASKED HER THE NATURE OF HER INFORMATION BUT MISS CRONIN REPLIED: "I DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS IT UNTIL IT'S VERIFIED (BY THE SECRET SERVICE)."

TWO AGENTS CAME TO THE MOTEL SHORTLY AFTER 5 P.M. AND QUESTIONED MISS CRONIN ABOUT 15 MINUTES IN THE MOTEL OFFICE AND THEN LEFT.

SHE SAID THEY TOLD HER THEY WOULD CONTACT HER LATER.

KROLL'S WIFE SAID THE TWO AGENTS SHOWED HER CARDS IDENTIFYING THEM AS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS.

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WHEN ASKED WHY SHE HADN'T CONTACTED THE SECRET SERVICE OR FBI BEFORE, SHE REPLIED:

"WELL, I CAME TO SEE THE PRESIDENT."

MISS CRONIN TOLD A REPORTER SHE KNEW WHO THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS. BUT SHE WOULD NOT ELABORATE.

SHE SAID SHE LEFT ASTORIA ABOUT A WEEK AGO AND HAD SPENT SOME TIME RECENTLY IN HOUSTON. SHE HAD AN AIRLINE TICKET STUB FOR PASSAGE FROM HOUSTON TO AUSTIN.

THE WOMAN SAID SHE HAD DONE HOUSEKEEPING WORK IN THE PAST AND HAD BEEN A SECRETARY FOR VARIOUS COMPANIES IN PORTLAND, ORE. SHE SAID SHE PLANNED TO LEAVE JOHNSON CITY TUESDAY FOR AUSTIN EN ROUTE BACK TO ASTORIA.

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(AT ASTORIA, POLICE CHIEF GERALD ARRINGTON SAID THAT A MRS. ELIZABETH CRONIN WAS A RESIDENT OF THE CITY. HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, MRS. CRONIN HAS MADE SEVERAL REPORTS TO POLICE ON VARIOUS MATTERS. HE SAID THAT "THESE REPORTS HAD BEEN CHECKED OUT AND WERE FOUND TO HAVE NO BASIS.")

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