

24 July 1967

EB96

PRECEDENT NEW ORLEANS HUMPHREY PLOT A130NU 320

WASHINGTON (AP)-THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY DENIED MONDAY A PUBLISHED REPORT THAT FEDERAL AGENTS WERE ALERTED FOR AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST THE VICE PRESIDENT IN BATON ROUGE, LA., IN APRIL, 1965.

THE NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM SAID TODAY FEDERAL AGENTS HAD HUSTLED AN ARMED MAN FROM A HOTEL BALLROOM AS HUMPHREY PREPARED TO ADDRESS A LABOR CONVENTION.

NO CHARGES WERE PLACED AGAINST THE MAN, IDENTIFIED ONLY AS A MEMBER OF AN EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

THE SECRET SERVICE REFERRED ALL INQUIRIES TO HUMPHREY'S OFFICE WHERE A SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S LIFE IN LOUISIANA IN 1965.

TWO MEN BELIEVED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE KU KLUX KLAN WERE PICKED UP BY LOCAL POLICE FOR QUESTIONING, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE SAID, BUT THEY WERE NOT ARMED AND WERE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THEY HAD "NOTHING ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS IN MIND."

HUMPHREY, HIMSELF, WAS NOT AWARE OF THE INCIDENT UNTIL MONDAY, HIS OFFICE SAID, AND THE SECRET SERVICE MEN ASSIGNED TO HUMPHREY WERE IN NO WAY INVOLVED.

THE NEWSPAPER SAID HUMPHREY WAS IN BATON ROUGE TO ADDRESS A MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA AFL-CIO. IT ADDED THE VICE PRESIDENT REJECTED SUGGESTIONS BY FEDERAL AGENTS THAT HE SKIP THE CONVENTION.

IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY, HUMPHREY'S OFFICE SAID, "THERE WAS NO THREAT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S LIFE IN LOUISIANA IN 1965."

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"WE LEARNED TODAY THAT LOCAL POLICE DID PICK UP FOR QUESTIONING TWO MEN THOUGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE KLAN. THE MEN WERE NOT ARMED AND WERE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY BY THE POLICE WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY HAD NOTHING ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS IN MIND."

"THE SECRET SERVICE MEN ASSIGNED TO THE VICE PRESIDENT WERE IN NO WAY INVOLVED BUT WERE INFORMED AFTER THE FACT. THE VICE PRESIDENT, HIMSELF, WAS NOT AWARE OF THE QUESTIONING AT THE TIME AND KNEW NOTHING OF IT UNTIL INFORMED THIS MORNING OF A REPORTER'S INQUIRY."

THE STATES-ITEM GAVE THIS VERSION OF THE INCIDENT:
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HUMPHREY PLOT 200

NEW ORLEANS AP - Federal agents alerted for an assassination attempt hustled an armed man from a Baton Rouge hotel ballroom as Vice President Hubert Humphrey prepared to address a labor convention in April 1965, the States-Item said today.

The newspaper, in a copyrighted story, said the incident had remained secret until now.

The States-Item said no charges were placed against the man, identified only as a member of an extremist organization.

Humphrey was in Baton Rouge to address a convention of the Louisiana AFL-CIO. The States-Item gave this version of what transpired:

Secret Service agents were tipped that an attempt would be made to kill Humphrey when he spoke. The vice president rejected suggestions by agents that he skip the convention.

Federal agents and special sergeants-at-arms at the convention were alerted to watch for the man under suspicion. This man was spotted near the convention area of the hotel and guided to a seat in the rear of the ballroom, where agents already were stationed.

As Humphrey, accompanied by Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen, entered through an entrance at the front of the ballroom, the man rose from his seat.

The federal agents rose with him and quickly ushered him from the room. They took a pistol from him.

Humphrey then delivered his speech without incident.

Federal agents, apparently feeling they lacked sufficient evidence to prefer charges, later released the man.

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