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750 PES

(420)

MOUNT VERNON, N.Y., DEC. 7 (AP)-A MAN WHO PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN PLACING AN AD CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN DALLAS NEWSPAPERS WHICH APPEARED HOURS BEFORE KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED THERE SAID TONIGHT THE COST WAS PAID THROUGH DONATIONS FROM "PEOPLE OF CONSERVATIVE PERSUASION."

BERNARD WEISSMAN, WHOSE NAME APPEARED ON THE \$1,464, FULL-PAGE AD, SAID THE MONEY WAS COLLECTED BY A SMALL GROUP HE HEADED KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE.

THE AD APPEARED IN THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS AND ASKED PRESIDENT KENNEDY SUCH QUESTIONS AS "WHY HAVE YOU ORDERED OR PERMITTED YOUR BROTHER BOBBY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO GO SOFT ON COMMUNISTS. . .?"

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 FOCUSED ON MY GROUP DUE TO ITS ANNOUNCED AIMS ALONG CONSERVATIVE LINES."

"THEY KNEW MORE ABOUT ME THAN 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, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF THE PRESIDENT, OR JACK RUBY, THE STRIP CLUB OPERATOR WHO KILLED OSWALD TWO DAYS AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH.

"AS FAR AS OSWALD IS CONCERNED, I THINK HE WAS A DESPICABLE COMMUNIST NUT," WEISSMAN SAID. "ONE OF EXACTLY THE TYPE PEOPLE THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT IS FIGHTING."

HE SAID HE FELT IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT THE AD HAD APPEARED IN LIGHT OF WHAT BEFELL THE PRESIDENT, BUT JUSTIFIED ITS BEING PLACED AS A RETORT TO "THE ATTACKS MADE BY LOCAL LIBERAL GROUPS THERE AGAINST CONSERVATIVES."

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 WHICH HE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY.

ASKED IF HE HAD WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY, OR IF HIS GROUP HAD CONTEMPLATED SUBMITTING AN APOLOGETIC AD IN THE NEWSPAPER AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH, WEISSMAN SAID "NO, WE NEVER DID CONSIDER THAT."

"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.

OSWALD HAD DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A MARXIST.

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