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in the county jail at the Hall of Justice.

The four threatening notes found in Fennell's wallet were addressed to: The Journal at Sioux City, Iowa; The San Francisco Chronicle; The White House; and something called The War Resisters League.

They were dated: "Berkeley, Calif., December 19," and began:

"To you: I'm increasingly sickened by the people's reaction to the assassination of President Kennedy. Nowhere have I read or heard—from moderate, left-or-right wingers—the underlying reason.

"Unless Americans accept their political responsibility and abolish the office of LEADER we shall continue to abolish leaders.

"My immediate goal: the assassination of President Johnson. Yours in peace and war, Robert Fennell, social psychiatrist."

BEARD

Fennell, a gangling, bearded, ex-Air Force radarman, says he attended five or six colleges without graduating from any of them. He spent four months in the Cherokee Mental Health Institute in Iowa in 1959 after he allegedly threatened the life of a girl friend.

There he was diagnosed as having "schizophrenic reaction, acute undifferentiated type," and was released as cured.

Fennell told reporters before his arraignment that he was in Stratford, Texas, from November 14 to November 27.

DALLAS

He answered "no comment" when asked if he was in Dallas on November 22 when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Lee Harvey Oswald, who was charged with the assassination, said he was active in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Fennell said he came to the Bay Area about ten days ago and tried to re-enlist in the Air Force.

The Air Force gave him room and board at the St. Marks Hotel in Oakland from Saturday through Wednesday, while arrangements

were made for him to re-enlist as a radar technician.

DELAY

Fennell said he was told by the Air Force there would be a one-month delay. However, an Air Forces spokesman said that there was no delay. Fennell was told

Wednesday, the spokesman said, that he was "unacceptable."

The Air Force did not disclose the reason for refusing him.

Fennell, the son of a Sioux City, Iowa, insurance adjuster, paraded in front of the Sioux City Auditorium for three days in October with a sign reading, "Permit Free Travel to Cuba," on one side and, "Support integration: Inter-marry," on the other. He is a bachelor.

Fennell would not comment on the notes in his pocket or his reasons for writing them.

"I write lots of things and tear the notes up," he said.

ACLU

Ernest Besig of the American Civil Liberties Union said he received a call from Fennell requesting legal aid.

The legality of his original arrest, Besig said, hinges on whether Fennell properly identified himself to the officers.

Regarding the "threat" charge, Besig said, "There cannot be a threat unless it is communicated to someone else."

Tests on Youth Who Fears He'll Kill President

Chicago

Lloyd J. Wilson, 18, of San Jose, Calif., began a three-day psychiatric examination yesterday. He surrendered to the FBI earlier this week, saying that he was afraid he would kill President Johnson if he had the chance.

Wilson was turned over to the Secret Service, who, after questioning him, turned him over to Chicago police. Wilson was discharged from the Air Force at Chanute Field, Ill., this week.

Chicago Tribune



By Joe Rosenthal

ROBERT BEATY FENNEL
"We shall continue to abolish leaders"

Ex-Mental Patient

SF Chron
21 Dec 1963

**Bay Area Arrest--
Johnson 'Threat'**

By George Draper

A former mental patient, who may once have worked on behalf of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, was arraigned yesterday on a Secret Service complaint that he threatened the life of President Lyndon Johnson.

The complaint was based on the fact that 29-year-old Robert Beaty Fennell was carrying four threatening notes when arrested for vagrancy in Berkeley at 10:54 p.m. Thursday.

The notes were identical

and the concluding sentence read:

"My immediate goal: assassination of President Johnson."

Fennell, who describes himself as a "socio-psychiatrist" or a "psychiatrist of society," was arraigned before U. S. Commissioner Cameron Wolfe in Oakland and held in lieu of \$5000 bail.

He was transferred to San Francisco where Federal Judge Oliver Carter ordered a psychiatric examination.

Fennell was then placed

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THREAT IS FOUND AGAINST JOHNSON

Coast Police Hold Man With Note Menacing President

OAKLAND, Calif., Dec. 20 (UPI)—A self-styled social psychiatrist from Sioux City, Iowa, was under arrest today after the police found in his possession a note calling for the assassination of President Johnson.

The man, Robert Beaty Fennell, 29 years old, was booked on a vagrancy charge in nearby Berkeley.

United States Commissioner Cameron Wolfe set bail at \$5,000 and put the case over to Jan. 3 for hearing.

United States Attorney Cecil Poole, who said he would see that Mr. Fennell receive an immediate psychiatric examination, authorized a complaint against him for threatening the life of the President. The law carries a possible sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine.

Loitered on Streets

Mr. Fennell was arrested last night, the police said, after they had seen him loitering on Berkeley streets for some time.

When he was taken to the police station, it was discovered that he had a note in his pocket reading:

Berkeley, California, Dec. 19, 1963.

To you:

I'm increasingly sickened by the people's reaction to the assassination (sic) of President Kennedy. Nowhere have I read or heard—from moderates, left- or rightwinger—the underlying reason.

Unless Americans accept their political responsibility and abolish the office of leader we shall continue to abolish leaders. My immediate goal: the assassination [sic] of President Johnson.

Yours in peace and war.

Robert Fennell, social psychiatrist.

Attended University

Mr. Fennell, a former University of Iowa student, is the son of Joseph E. Fennell. The younger Fennell recently staged a vigil in his hometown to support his demand for unrestricted travel to Cuba. A year ago he picketed the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison to protest the death penalty.

A check of record showed that he had been committed to the State Mental Institute at Cherokee, Iowa, on April 16, 1959, and released Aug. 7, 1959, as "cured."

In Sioux City, the police said Mr. Fennell once allegedly threatened to kill a girl unless she married him.

He was picked up in 1959 after the girl, whom he had dated only a few times, reported the threat to the police.

No charge was ever filed but he was committed to the state mental institute at Cherokee a short time later. He spent almost four months at the institute.

He was described by persons who know him as a "withdrawn, bizarre person" and a "rather disturbed young man."

Doctors said he was classified as a schizophrenic—acute undifferentiated type, which they said was the most common type of schizophrenia. He was released as cured after treatment.

Ex-Mental Patient

Arrest for 'Threat' Raises Civil Liberties Issues

Robert B. Fennell, 29, was arrested by Berkeley police at 10 p.m. on December 19 because he failed to identify himself to the satisfaction of the officers. He gave his name and stated his business but when the officers demanded documentary identification he declined to produce it.

Fennell was charged with violating subsection (e) of Sec. 647 of the Penal Code which declares that a person is guilty of disorderly conduct "Who loiters or wanders upon the streets or from place to place without apparent reason or business and who refuses to identify himself and to account for his presence when requested by any peace officer so to do, if the surrounding circumstances are such as to indicate to a reasonable man that the public safety demands such identification."

"Resisting"

Upon being arrested, Fennell became limp and dropped to the sidewalk. Because he failed to cooperate with the police, he was also charged with resisting arrest.

The charges were dropped and Fennell was turned over to the U. S. Secret Service when a search of his billfold disclosed four almost identical letters written on note paper addressed to two newspapers, the War Resisters League and The White House. The notes closed with the following statement: "My immediate goal: the assassination of President Johnson. Yours in peace and war, Robert Fennell, social psychiatrist."

Psychiatric Examination

Fennell was arraigned before the U. S. Commissioner Cameron Wolfe on a charge of having made threats against the life of the President. Bail was set at \$5,000 and Federal Judge Oliver J. Carter signed an order for a psychiatric examination of Fennell while he is held in the San Francisco county jail.

The scene at the arraignment was reminiscent of the Oswald case. The Commissioner's office

was over-run by camera men and reporters. Mr. Wolfe stated that the cameras were within a foot of his face while he was trying to do business and that it was difficult to hear. The ACLU will discuss this problem with the Presiding Judge of the District Court which makes rules for the conduct of the Commissioner's office.

Hearing January 3

Fennell is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing on the charges on January 3. Since he did not communicate his "threat" to anyone there would not seem to be any violation of law. The ACLU is awaiting the results of the psychiatric examination before taking action. Incidentally, Fennell telephoned the ACLU for assistance after his arrest and staff counsel Marshall Krause visited him in the county jail.

Fennell's home is in Sioux City, Iowa. He says he has been trying to re-enlist in the Air Force. He spent four months in the Cherokee Mental Health Institute in Iowa in 1959 after he allegedly threatened the life of a girl friend.