

20 DEC. 1965
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1965

NASHVILLE, TENN., DEC. 20 (AP)-A VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR WAS ARRESTED TODAY ON A FEDERAL COMPLAINT CHARGING HIM WITH THREATENING THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

NATHAN L. PRESNELL, 39, OF PINEY FLATS, TENN., WAS ACCUSED OF MAKING THE THREATS IN A SERIES OF POSTCARDS WRITTEN BETWEEN DEC. 1 AND DEC. 12. HE WAS APPREHENDED AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL IN MURFREESBORO, WHERE HE SAID HE WAS COMMITTED VOLUNTARILY BECAUSE HE FELT THE NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.

THE COMPLAINT QUOTES ONE POSTCARD AS SAYING THE WRITER HAD BEEN EXAMINED BY A PSYCHIATRIST "WHO HAS FOUND ME TO HAVE A PERSONALITY DISORDER OF THE SAME TYPE AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD. I WILL TRY NOT TO DISAPPOINT HIM, SO I SHALL TRY TO DO WHAT OSWALD DID."

THE COMPLAINT SAID OTHER CARDS SAID "PERHAPS YOU HAD BEEN WARN THE KENNEDYS AND THE JOHNSONS BEFORE SOME DREADFUL FATE BEFALLS THEM."

PRESNELL WAS NOT CHARGED UNDER THE NEW LAW PASSED BY CONGRESS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, BUT UNDER A FORMER FEDERAL STATUTE MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO THREATEN THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT-ELECT OR VICE PRESIDENT. HE WAS BEING HELD IN LIEU OF \$25,000

LIEU OF \$25,000 BOND.

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