

~~Material on Skolnick filed WC Archives.~~

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JFK & Hampton murders linked

BOB KAUFMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—Evidence was revealed this week in Chicago of a possible link between the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the assassination of Black Panther party leader Fred Hampton.

The thread of this story—which reads like the rough notes for the script of the movie “Z”—begins with a mysterious black Secret Service agent who was in Kennedy’s private guard.

The charge is now that this agent was railroaded to jail when he tried to tell the Warren Commission what he knew of a plot to kill Kennedy, not in Dallas but three weeks earlier in Chicago, at a football game, an appearance the President never made because he had a cold.

The plot being described in Chicago is also linked to Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of killing the President.

This is the story uncovered by well known Chicago corruption investigator Sherman Skolnick after he became interested in the case of black former secret service agent Abraham Bolden.

Skolnick says he has uncovered a mass of evidence, leading not only to a Chicago plot or plots unmentioned in the Warren Commission report, but also a mass of trails leading to apparent complicity of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service, Chicago judges, and the man who organized and led the raid that killed Panther leaders Hampton and Mark Clark.

CHICAGO PLOT?

The story surfaced Monday when Skolnick, with the aid of Chicago Metromedia station WCFL, filed suit against the National Archives in Washington, charging them with withholding documents pointing to a Chicago plot.

Though the story was released Monday, only the Chicago Daily News carried it in that city, and the Associated Press waited eight hours before sending only a small part of it out over their wire.

Key figure in the story is a Thomas Arthur Vallee, who was 30 in 1963 and is described as looking very much like Lee Harvey

Three documents, accidentally classified, are said to reveal Vallee was stopped one hour before Kennedy was scheduled to arrive in Chicago Nov. 2, 1963.

Vallee was charged with a minor traffic violation, but the FBI entered the case and in its report and linked it with an attempt on the life of the President.

The documents revealed that the witness against Vallee was David Groth, who was not at the

time referred to as a policeman, and was not the arresting officer.

ATTACK ON PANTHERS

This is the story Skolnick is telling.

Last December the same Groth, now a sergeant in the Illinois States Attorney’s Police, led the assault on Fred Hampton’s apartment. The States Attorney who organized the raid is Edward V. Hanrahan. In 1964 Hanrahan was United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

It was to Hanrahan’s office that Secret Service agent Bolden was escorted May 18, 1964, the day after Bolden’s effort to see the Chief Counsel of the Warren Commission, J. Lee Rankin, was thwarted by the Secret Service.

Bolden was ordered back to Chicago on a pretext. It was not until he got to Hanrahan’s office that he was told he had been indicted for selling evidence to counterfeiters.

Bolden got a hung jury in his first trial. In his second trial two counterfeiters who were also police informers testified against him and he was convicted and sentenced to six years in jail. In their own trial later the counterfeiters admitted they had lied against Bolden.

After the Warren court (the same Earl Warren of the Warren Commission) refused to hear his case, Bolden served 39 months.

LICENSE PLATES

After the story broke Tuesday, Bolden was called in by his probation advisor. Skolnick said Bolden was in effect told to keep his mouth shut or go back to prison.

Bolden is said to have known about the Chicago plot. One of the documents Skolnick’s suit seeks

other men.

The license plate of Vallee’s car, 311 ORF New York, Skolnick claims is “linked or registered to Lee Harvey Oswald.” But efforts by William Corley, Chicago NBC television news director at the time, to trace the plates, turned up an “FBI freeze” on the regis-

tration. Others who have tried to trace the plates have been harassed by the FBI, Skolnick charges.

On the police record of Vallee’s arrest, in the slot for aliases are the words “M1 rifle.” But Groth testified the only weapon Vallee had was a hunting knife.

The hunting knife as well as the car was returned to Vallee, and he has since apparently disappeared.

Bolden’s name has come up before in connection with the Kennedy assassination. News stories at the time mentioned a black secret service agent charging some Secret Service men were drunk in Chicago. But that was not all he charged.

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RACIST AGENTS

Among the things Bolden wanted to tell the Warren Commission was that some agents were bitter racists, who hated Kennedy because of his pro-civil rights stand.

Chicago has also figured in the

case before. Jack Ruby, the man who killed Lee Harvey Oswald before he could talk, came from Chicago. Oswald bought his rifle mailorder from a store in Chicago.

Skolnick claims he has only released 10% of the evidence he has collected. He says he doesn’t trust Chicago judges and he has good

reason not to. He is the head of the Citizen’s Committee to Clean up the Courts. Last Year through his efforts a corruption scandal forced the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court to resign. He recently turned up evidence that forced the Chicago City Council to redistrict.

—from People’s World

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