

Date December 6, 1963

Senator returned to the apartment about 10:30 P.M. and found that Jack was there and had eaten some of the food the Senator had cooked earlier. Ruby, he said, had been crying and was brooding without saying very much. Ruby went out and Senator went to bed. Senator awoke on Sunday morning at approximately 9:00 A.M. and spent some time doing laundry while Ruby was asleep. At about 9:30 A.M. Ruby awoke. They had breakfast and Senator said that Jack was "worse in his grief" and described him as being very upset with a strange look on his face, almost as if he were in shock. During the morning a stripper, Little Lynn, telephoned to Ruby from Fort Worth as she needed money. Jack said he would send her some by Western Union. After that Ruby took his dachshund Shoba and said he was going to drive to the club. Senator did not see Ruby again until after his arrest for shooting Oswald.

Senator said that it was his opinion that there was no premeditation on the part of Ruby in shooting Oswald and that he must have done so on the spur of the moment. Senator said he had heard later that Ruby had spent some time at the Carousel Club just sitting around and crying on Saturday. He advised that Ruby was the first club owner to announce that he would close for three days. Senator said there were several things that may not have come to the attention of the authorities which would indicate to him that Ruby had not planned to shoot Oswald. He said the fact that Ruby had the dog Shoba, to which he was very attached, in the car when he went to the police station alone would indicate that he intended to return soon. Also the fact that he had the cash receipts from the club in the car. Senator said he was convinced that Ruby had emotionally worked himself up to such a pitch that when he saw Oswald in the basement of the police station he went out of his head.

Senator said that he did not think that Ruby carried a gun at all times as he had seen Ruby's revolver stored in a blue canvass bag at both the club and at the apartment. He said Ruby always carried the gun when he carried money from the club to the apartment or to the bank. Senator stated that it was ridiculous to think that Ruby had any connection with subversive organizations or with Oswald.

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WILLIAM MILTON BURLEY, III, was interviewed at the Denver Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at which time he was advised that he need not make any statement; that any statement made by him could be used against him in a court of law, and that he could consult a lawyer prior to making any statement.

Mr. BURLEY advised that he formerly resided at 7039 Conley Street, Baltimore, Maryland, and that he is presently employed by the Encyclopaedia Britannica Company, 126 West 12th Avenue, Denver, Colorado. He said he is now residing at 3353 West 33rd Avenue in Denver.

BURLEY stated that he graduated from Patterson Park High School, Baltimore, Maryland, in 1954, and thereafter attended Baltimore Junior College from February, 1955, to June, 1955, and also the University of Maryland at Munich, Germany, from January, 1963, to April, 1963.

He said that in August, 1961, he was drafted into the United States Army and assigned to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for basic training. He said that he later took military police training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and after completing this training, was stationed with the United States Army at Munich, Germany, from January, 1962, to July, 1963.

BURLEY stated that while assigned at Munich, Germany, he became acquainted with BERNARD WEISSMAN and LARRY SCHMIDT and during many discussions of political activities, determined that they all shared the same views regarding their approach to American politics. He explained that by this he meant that all favored a conservative type of government and were opposed to the liberals in the United States Government.

He said that thereafter he attended many discussions of political activities with WEISSMAN and SCHMIDT and also other service men who were assigned at Munich. During one of these discussions, toward the end of their time at Munich, someone proposed

—Commission Exhibit No. 1811—

On 12/4/63 at Denver, Colorado File # DN 89-41  
by Special Agents RAYMOND J. FOX and BRENDAN P. WALSH:jkr Date dictated 12/5/63

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that they all meet in the United States, after their discharge from the Army and continue active support of the conservative groups in the United States. BURLEY stated that while they all agreed to this, actually no such meeting was later held in the United States, and, to his knowledge, only he, WEISSMAN and SCHMIDT actually met for this purpose.

BURLEY advised that LARRY SCHMIDT was the first one to receive his discharge from the service, and that he returned to the United States, where he lived for a short period of time with his wife in the State of Louisiana.

SCHMIDT continued to communicate by letter with WEISSMAN and BURLEY and later informed them that he had moved to Dallas, Texas. In his letters SCHMIDT told WEISSMAN and BURLEY that there was a large group of influential businessmen in the Dallas area who shared the same political views as he and WEISSMAN and BURLEY, and that he, SCHMIDT, felt that WEISSMAN and BURLEY should come to Dallas, and become active in political affairs.

BURLEY stated that he returned to the United States from Munich, Germany, in July, 1963, and was discharged honorably from the United States Army at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York, in August, 1963.

He said that he immediately went to Baltimore, Maryland, to reside with his wife, WINIFRED BURLEY, at 7039 Conley Street, in Baltimore.

He said he obtained employment with the Beltone Schwartz Company at Baltimore, Maryland, selling hearing aids and was so employed from September, 1963, until October, 1963.

He said that during this time, although he had only been home one month, he learned that his wife was four months' pregnant, and that he separated from his wife for this reason.

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Mr. BURLEY stated that while in Munich, Germany, he had become acquainted with Miss ELSA SILBERNAGEL, a naturalized German citizen, and had previously discussed with her the possibility of her coming to the United States. He said that he learned, while at Baltimore, that she planned to enter the United States for the purpose of immigrating on October 25, 1963. He advised that since his marital relations had become strained and he planned to separate from his wife, he left Baltimore, Maryland, on October 23, 1963, and went to Mount Vernon, New York, for the purpose of meeting Miss SILBERNAGEL when she landed at New York City, on October 25, 1963.

Upon arriving at Mount Vernon, New York, he contacted BERNARD WEISSMAN at the home of WEISSMAN's father, HARRY WEISSMAN, 439 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, and resided with the WEISSMANs during his New York stay.

He said that he met ELSA SILBERNAGEL at New York City, upon her arrival and assisted her in getting settled in New York. He stated that ELSA SILBERNAGEL was invited by the WEISSMANs to stay at their home, and that she accepted this offer.

BURLEY advised that while at Mount Vernon, New York, WEISSMAN told him that LARRY SCHMIDT had been in touch with him, WEISSMAN, and continued to urge WEISSMAN to come to Dallas, Texas. He said that according to SCHMIDT an opportunity existed for WEISSMAN and BURLEY to obtain business opportunities in Dallas by joining the conservative group in that city and becoming active in their affairs.

He stated that WEISSMAN was in favor of going to Dallas, and BURLEY subsequently agreed to accompany him on this trip.

He said he left Mount Vernon, on October 31, 1963; returned to Baltimore, Maryland, to pack his clothes, and remained at Baltimore until November 2, 1963.

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BURLEY advised on November 2, 1963, BERNARD WEISSMAN, accompanied by ELSA SILBERNAGEL, came to Baltimore, in WEISSMAN's 1957 Ford automobile, at which time BURLEY joined them.

He said that all three left Baltimore on November 2, 1963, and drove to Greensboro, North Carolina, where they visited with BURLEY's father for about five hours.

He said they then drove to Charlotte, North Carolina, where they spent the remainder of the night of November 2-3, 1963, with BURLEY's mother.

On the afternoon of November 3, 1963, all three left Charlotte, North Carolina, and drove straight through to Dallas, Texas, arriving at Dallas, at approximately 3:00 P.M., on November 4, 1963.

Upon arriving at Dallas, BURLEY made arrangements through the Preston Travel Agency, which is located in a bank building on Preston Road in North Dallas, for ELSA SILBERNAGEL to obtain plane transportation that same day from Dallas, to Denver, Colorado. He said that they then drove ELSA to Love Field, where she was due to leave for Denver, in approximately two hours, at about 8:00 P.M. that evening.

BURLEY advised that he and WEISSMAN then called LARRY SCHMIDT who resides at 5735 Gaston, in Dallas, and spent the night with him.

On the following day, November 5, 1963, he and WEISSMAN obtained an apartment at 4618 Reiger Street, Dallas, Texas, and on the following day, November 6, 1963, they obtained employment at Carpet Engineers Company in the 2,000 Block of South Beckley Street in Dallas, as salesmen.

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BURLEY advised that from November 6, 1963, through November 21, 1963, he and WEISSMAN were frequently in the company of LARRY SCHMIDT and all had numerous discussions at their apartment concerning the conservative political group in Dallas, Texas.

He said that after they had been in Dallas, approximately ten days, SCHMIDT, who he knew to be a member of the Young Americans for Freedom at Dallas, and also a member of the John Birch Society (JBS), approached WEISSMAN and himself to become members of the JBS. He said SCHMIDT made available application forms for them and that he and WEISSMAN completed these forms and returned them to SCHMIDT. He said they were also given the "Blue Book" of the JBS to read and that both he and WEISSMAN did read this book.

BURLEY stated that he never attended an actual meeting of the JBS or any other organization at Dallas, and that he did not pay the \$2.00-per-month fee which all members are required to pay in the JBS. He added, however, that he considered that his application form for membership actually did make him a member of the JBS.

Mr. BURLEY stated that through LARRY SCHMIDT he met JOE GRINNAN, a Dallas, Texas, oil man, who has an office on Southern Street in Dallas, approximately four times, and he found that JOE GRINNAN is a volunteer co-ordinator in the JBS at Dallas.

He said he also met JOE's brother, ROBERT GRINNAN, who is a real estate investor in Dallas, and he understood that ROBERT GRINNAN is also a member of the JBS.

BURLEY stated that during the time he was in Dallas, he met several groups of businessmen, usually in a cafeteria, and was introduced to these businessmen by SCHMIDT. He could not recall the names of these people since he met them on one occasion only; however, he understood from conversation later with SCHMIDT,

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that all were members of the JBS.

BURLEY advised that about November 12, 1963, while he and WEISSMAN were at their apartment that evening, WEISSMAN told him that LARRY SCHMIDT had approached him with the proposition that they place an ad in a Dallas Newspaper timed to coincide with the visit of President KENNEDY to Dallas, in which they would list questions concerning the Administration of the President. WEISSMAN told BURLEY at this time that the contents of the ad would be taken from JBS literature and that SCHMIDT wanted WEISSMAN to sponsor the ad and have it contain his name.

He stated that he and WEISSMAN discussed this proposition at length that evening; that he told WEISSMAN that he did not believe it would be wise to use his name, but that WEISSMAN was in favor of it since he felt that the Dallas businessmen who were members of the JBS would be favorably inclined toward them because of this action.

Mr. BURLEY said that WEISSMAN told him that it had been decided to place the ad in the "Dallas Morning News" since this was a conservative newspaper.

He advised that in another meeting at the apartment on November 14, 1963, LARRY SCHMIDT and WEISSMAN examined a brochure of the JBS containing approximately fifty questions attacking the KENNEDY Administration, and that from these fifty questions, twelve questions were eventually chosen to be placed in the ad.

He said that the main twelve questions which were subsequently used, were reduced to writing that evening by WEISSMAN and SCHMIDT, and that on the following day, November 15, 1963, WEISSMAN and SCHMIDT took this final proof to JOE GRINNAN's office for approval. He said that he understood from later conversation that GRINNAN approved of the advertisement and it was generally under

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stood during that visit with GRINNAN, that he would raise enough money from business associates to pay for the ad.

BURLEY stated that on Monday, November 18, 1963, he, LARRY SCHMIDT and WEISSMAN were in JOE GRINNAN's office at Dallas, at which time there was a great deal of discussion as to whether the newspaper would accept the ad. He said that WEISSMAN was instructed by GRINNAN and SCHMIDT to take a typed copy of the ad to the newspaper and ask them if they would run it.

BURLEY said that WEISSMAN took the copy to the newspaper on that date, at which time he was informed by the newspaper people that they saw no reason why the ad couldn't be run, but would like to take the matter up with the legal advisors of the newspaper first.

He said that on Tuesday, November 19, 1963, WEISSMAN again contacted the newspaper people at the "Dallas Morning News" and was informed that they had agreed to run the ad.

He said that on the following day, November 20, 1963, JOE GRINNAN gave \$1,000.00 to BERNARD WEISSMAN as part payment for the ad, which was to be placed in the newspaper on the morning of November 22, 1963. He said that GRINNAN told WEISSMAN to give the \$1,000.00 to the newspaper people and agreed to pay the balance on the following day.

He stated that on November 21, 1963, the balance of \$463.00 was given to WEISSMAN by GRINNAN and WEISSMAN then turned this money over to the newspaper people. BURLEY pointed out that he was not present when this money was given to WEISSMAN to pay for the ad, but learned of it later from WEISSMAN.

He said he understood from WEISSMAN that JOE GRINNAN raised the money for the ad from other Dallas businessmen and possibly from other members of the JBS. He said that neither he

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nor WEISSMAN contributed money toward the cost of the ad since neither of them had any money, and he does not believe that LARRY SCHMIDT contributed money either. BURLEY stated that he does not know the names of any businessmen or JBS members who may have contributed any amount of money toward the cost of the ad.

He said that during discussion of the proposed ad, it had been pointed out to WEISSMAN and himself by LARRY SCHMIDT that SCHMIDT and JOE GRINNAN had discussed the possible name of the person who would sponsor the ad and had agreed that since BERNARD WEISSMAN was Jewish, it would be desirable to have his name appear in the ad in order to show members of the JBS that there were Jewish people in the conservative movement. SCHMIDT emphasized that GRINNAN felt that there were too many conservatives who were anti-Jewish and that this would tend to lessen the anti-Jewish sentiment among members of the conservative group.

SCHMIDT also stated to WEISSMAN and BURLEY that GRINNAN had brought to his attention that STANLEY MARCUS, a prominent Dallas businessman, had boasted that he held the Jewish vote in Dallas, and that WEISSMAN's name appearing on this ad would indicate to MARCUS that he did not control all of the Jewish vote.

BURLEY stated that there is no such group as the American Fact Finding Committee; that this was an ad hoc committee name which originated with JOE GRINNAN and LARRY SCHMIDT. He said that GRINNAN and SCHMIDT explained that there didn't need to be any such group and that any fictitious name would suffice for the ad.

BURLEY stated that he and WEISSMAN were aware that GRINNAN and SCHMIDT were using them by having WEISSMAN sponsor this ad; however, they consented to this procedure because their main purpose in going to Dallas, was to find some business, such as a bar or tavern, and felt that by their active support of the conservative group they

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would gain favor with the Dallas businessmen who were members of this group.

BURLEY advised that during the time he was in Dallas, he never heard any of the people with whom he came into contact in the JBS or other conservatives, mention the name LEE HARVEY OSWALD or the name JACK RUBY. He said that he never heard WEISSMAN, SCHMIDT or JOE or ROBERT GRINNAN ever refer to either RUBY or OSWALD. BURLEY advised that neither did he hear any of these people mention any violence toward President KENNEDY and it was his opinion that the people he met in this group were sound, sensible businessmen who disagreed with the policies of President KENNEDY and his Administration, and he cannot seriously believe that they ever entertained thoughts of assassinating the President of the United States.

BURLEY stated that he is positive, based upon his knowledge of the JBS members and other conservatives in Dallas, that none of these persons were associated with LEE HARVEY OSWALD or had any connection with the assassination of President KENNEDY.

He advised that when he learned of the assassination of the President, he was shocked and immediately made arrangements to leave his employment in Dallas.

He said that after the assassination, many vitriolic letters were mailed to the box number which appeared in the advertisement in the "Dallas Morning News" and it became apparent to him that because of the reaction of the people, he and WEISSMAN were not going to be successful in any business venture in Dallas.

He said that he and WEISSMAN remained at their apartment until November 27, 1963, when he left Dallas, by bus to come to Denver, Colorado, and WEISSMAN left in his personal auto to drive to Mount Vernon, New York.

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BURLEY stated that prior to leaving Dallas, he had one more meeting with LARRY SCHMIDT and WEISSMAN at JOE GRINNAN's home, at which time all expressed sympathy for the KENNEDY family and he was convinced that GRINNAN and SCHMIDT were shocked at the violent assassination of President KENNEDY.

BURLEY stated that it is his intention to remain at Denver, Colorado, and continue employment with the Encyclopaedia Britannica Company.

He said that he anticipates that he will reside at his current Denver address for at least six months and thereafter will continue residence at another address in Denver.

BURLEY furnished the following background and descriptive data concerning himself:

Name: WILLIAM MILTON BURLEY, III  
 Born: July 17, 1935  
 Race: White  
 Sex: Male  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 170 pounds  
 Hair: Dark brown  
 Eyes: Blue (wears dark horn-rimmed glasses)  
 Scars: Burn scar right forearm; appendectomy scar  
 Military service: United States Army, August, 1961, to August, 1963, honorable discharge August 7, 1963  
 Military Service Number: US 53 331 300  
 Relatives:  
 Mother: MARY BURLEY,

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724 East Moorhead Street  
 Charlotte, North Carolina

**Father:**

WILLIAM M. BURLEY  
 Greensboro, North Carolina, salesman for Mobile Homes Company, Market Street, Greensboro.

**Brothers:**

RICHARD BURLEY,  
 4759th DSES, Box 762,  
 Riggs Air Force Base,  
 El Paso, Texas;

SAMUEL BURLEY,  
 724 East Moorhead Street,  
 Charlotte, North Carolina;

GERALD BURLEY,  
 724 East Moorhead Street,  
 Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Sisters:**

ARMINDA OLIVE,  
 husband, CALVIN OLIVE,  
 Orlando, Florida;

MILLICENT HORNE,  
 husband, PAUL HORNE,  
 1533 Belvedere Avenue,  
 Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Wife:**

WINIFRED BURLEY,  
 7039 Conley,  
 Baltimore, Maryland.

**Former employments:** June, 1953, to June, 1956 -  
 Night shift at Chevrolet Division,

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Date July 4, 1964

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Baltimore, Maryland, assembly line;

June, 1956, to August, 1956,  
 Remington Rand Company,  
 Baltimore, Maryland, salesman;

September, 1956, to March, 1958,  
 Trojan Boat Company,  
 Lancaster, Pennsylvania, salesman;

March, 1958, to January, 1959,  
 in business for self as trucking  
 contractor, Toledo, Ohio  
 (Unable to make go of business.);

January, 1959, to June, 1959,  
 West Toledo Marine Company,  
 Toledo, Ohio, salesman;

July, 1959, to August, 1961,  
 Albright Boat and Marine Company,  
 Pineville, North Carolina, sales-  
 man.

RICHARD LEE HOUSTON, United States Marine Corps 2081759, assigned to Platoon 134, B Company, First Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, advised that he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May 8, 1964, at Dallas, Texas. He advised he was employed by the "Dallas Morning News" in the Retail Advertising Department for approximately one and one-half years and frequently during the political seasons he engaged in accepting political advertisements for the newspaper. He advised that due to the number of the political advertisements, anyone in the department was eligible to handle them.

On one date, which he was unable to recall, an individual who informed HOUSTON that he was BERNARD WEISSMAN entered the office while he, HOUSTON, was on duty and informed HOUSTON that he wanted to place an advertisement in the newspaper. HOUSTON explained that WEISSMAN identified himself verbally and did not exhibit any papers to verify his identification.

HOUSTON described WEISSMAN as being between 25 and 28 years of age, six feet tall, thin, slight build, dark wavy hair, dark complexion as that of an individual of the Jewish descent, and spoke with a slight New York accent. HOUSTON said that possibly WEISSMAN wore glasses, but he was unable to make a definite statement to that effect.

Upon entering the office, WEISSMAN gave HOUSTON a copy of the advertisement he wanted to place in the newspaper. After HOUSTON looked at it, there was some question in his mind as to whether it could be placed due to the contents of the advertisement, and he then took the copy to JOHN RECTOR, whom HOUSTON identified as the Advertising Manager.

HOUSTON recalled that RECTOR then took the advertisement to CY WAGNER, the Advertising Director.

HOUSTON stated that at that point he returned to his location, and he was unable to state what happened with the advertisement from there on.

Commission Exhibit No. 1812

7/3/64 at Parris Island, South Carolina File # Savannah 44-1200

SA WILLIAM P. FRIDAY/bah 93 Date dictated 7/4/64

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