

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

J. LEE RANKIN
General Counsel

EARL WARREN
Chairman
RICHARD B. RUSSELL
JOHN SHERMAN COOPER
HALL BACOS
GERALD R. FORD
JOHN J. MCCLOY
ALLEN W. DULLES

MEMORANDUM

September 23, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

FROM: Burt W. Griffin

RE: Telephone conversation with Andrew Armstrong, Jr.

At approximately 2:45 p.m. today I spoke by telephone with Andrew Armstrong Jr. in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Armstrong stated that he did not know and had never heard of Russell D. Mathews or Elizabeth Ann Mathews and he knew of no connection between those persons and Jack Ruby.

Burt W. Griffin

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3069--Continued

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 27, 1963

1

JOHN W. MASHEK, Washington Correspondent for the Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Texas), 620 Albee Building, 1426 G Street NW, Washington, D. C., stated that he had been interested in trying to find out if there was any possible connection between LEE HARVEY OSWALD and/or JACK RUBY and gambling and racketeering activities. MASHEK stated that any information he had in this regard was hearsay, based on either information in the various news media or rumor.

MASHEK stated the person who would be best able to furnish information concerning JACK RUBY would be TONY ZOPPI, Amusement Editor, Dallas Morning News.

MASHEK said he had heard on the news, what he considers at present to be a rumor, of OSWALD having been in Mexico in the latter part of September, 1963, about the time President KENNEDY made a trip there. MASHEK stated he was trying to locate the file references in his office to ascertain the dates of the visit.

MASHEK said he had heard or read something about JACK RUBY or RUBY's brother having made trips to Chicago, but this was rumor as far as MASHEK is concerned, and he could not furnish any factual information in this regard.

MASHEK said in conversation with newsmen he had heard what he considered at the moment to be a "wild rumor," mentioned by a Chicago Daily News man who was working in Dallas at the office of the Dallas Morning News, to the effect that a payoff was made to OSWALD or RUBY in Chicago, two weeks before the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963. MASHEK said the rumor or information supposedly stemmed from an informant in Chicago, who reportedly told the Federal and Police Reporter for the Chicago Daily News about it.

MASHEK said he could not recall the name of the Chicago Daily News reporter in Dallas who had mentioned this alleged "payoff," but he had the name written down at home. He said he would find out the name and advise interviewing Agents of same.

on 11/25/63 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 44-520
DL 44-1639
DL 89-43
by Special Agent ELMER L. TODD & ROBERT F. MILWE, II Date dictated 11/27/63
RFM:nl:eah
253

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3070

November 27, 1963

1

Date

JOHN W. MASHEK, Washington Correspondent for the Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Texas), 620 Albee Building, 1426 G Street NW, Washington, D. C., advised he had not yet located the name of the Chicago Daily News reporter who had been in Dallas, to whom MASHEK had previously referred in an interview on November 25, 1963. MASHEK said the name was in his voluminous notes at his home, and he would try to locate it and advise.

MASHEK stated that he wished to be entirely cooperative and to furnish all information he could in this case. He stated he would not want to cause any recriminations against newsmen whose names he mentioned or to whom he referred, who were only doing their job in running down news leads. Accordingly, he requested that no specific reference be made to such individuals in any investigation which might be conducted based on information which he furnished.

MASHEK advised that MIKE QUINN, who works on the City Desk of the Dallas Morning News, was in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. QUINN came to Washington, D. C. Saturday night and on Sunday mentioned to MASHEK something which QUINN had heard in Dallas. This was something to the effect that there had been a payoff on the assassination of President KENNEDY.

MASHEK stated that he called the Department of Justice on Sunday afternoon, November 24, 1963, and talked to Assistant Attorney General HERBERT MILLER in charge of the Criminal Division, and to JACK ROSENTHAL, and told them about the rumor he had heard.

MASHEK stated that he telephonically contacted the City Editor of the Dallas Morning News in Dallas, Texas, who told him they were running down a rumor which had been heard from a Chicago Daily News man working in Dallas, Texas, according to which there had been a payoff in Chicago in connection with the assassination of President KENNEDY.

MASHEK stated that he had no information as to the amount of this rumored payoff, who supposedly made it or who received it.

MASHEK said he had assumed the supposed payoff would have been made to LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY, but upon reflection, he thinks the rumor would have referred to OSWALD at the time because RUBY was not publicly connected with the assassination until Sunday Sunday.

MASHEK stated he had no factual information whatsoever in connection with this rumor. He stated he would advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation if any factual information in this regard should come to his attention.

on 11/27/63 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 44-520
DL 44-1639
DL 89-43
by Special Agent ROBERT F. MILNE, II Date dictated 11/27/63
RPM:dlm:eah 251

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3070—Continued

JACK WILLNER, reporter, "Chicago Daily News", was contacted by Assistant Special Agent in Charge WILLIAM B. WELTE. WILLNER admitted that he was source of rumor which got around wherein a payoff was allegedly made to OSWALD and/or RUBY in Chicago in connection with assassination of President KENNEDY. WILLNER advised that no one person was source of this information. After the assassination of President KENNEDY, a number of people, including patrolmen on Chicago Police Department, contacted him with tidbits of information and ideas. He stated he received information that there had been a Cuban committee that had been active in Chicago and one individual, whose identity he cannot recall, suggested to him that perhaps the Cuban committee had been behind the assassination.

According to WILLNER, as a result of all the information he had gleaned concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY, he concluded there was a good possibility there had been money paid to OSWALD or RUBY to provide for the assassination. He did not have any facts to back this up and he passed this analysis of his own to HANSEN, "Chicago Daily News" reporter covering the Dallas story, to see if he could secure any corroboration of the theory that there had been a payoff in Chicago.

WILLNER stated he was unable to get any corroboration of his theory and therefore did not print this story. He stated he still feels, although he does not have facts to back it up, that there could very likely have been such as he does not believe that either OSWALD or RUBY acted spontaneously on their own. He stated he had secured anything to corroborate this theory of his he would have published it in the paper. He could not give the identity of any person who suggested this theory to him and feels that this conclusion was arrived at by him as a result of all of the information reaching him.

on 11/30/63 at Chicago, Illinois File # DL 89-43
DL 44-1639
CH 44-645
by Special Agent ASAC WILLIAM B. WELTE/jn Date dictated 12/2/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 3070—Continued