

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

JULY 12, 1967

*John William Canales, Jr.*

Copy to  
Mr. Binfield  
8-7-67

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY - JULY 12, 1967

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

PRESENT: MR. JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
MESSRS. JAMES ALCOCK, RICHARD BURNES, ASSISTANT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

JOHN WILLIAM CANCLER, JR.

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Reported By:  
Maureen B. Thiel  
Secretary  
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

JOHN CANCLER, witness herein, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

MR. RICHARD BURNES:

Q. Please state your name for the record?

A. John William Cancler, Jr.

Q. Before you testify I want to advise you that you need not answer any questions which tend to incriminate <sup>you</sup> / and which would tend to show that you are guilty of a crime, any crime. These are your rights under both the State Constitution and the United States Constitution's Fifth Amendment. You have the right to refuse to answer any question which tends to incriminate you. This would apply not only to any charges that you may be presently facing but to any crime. Do you understand?

A. I do.

Q. The second thing I wish to advise you is that if you answer any question falsely on material facts and with knowledge that it is false that would constitute perjury, which is a crime. Do you understand that?

A. I do.

Q. The other two points which I wish to advise you on is if you say I do not know an answer when you do know an answer, that would be a false statement and perjury, do you understand that?

A. I do.

Q. If at any time a question which seems to you would appear to show that you are guilty of a crime, it would be proper for you to take the Fifth to say that I refuse to answer on the ground that the answer would tend to incriminate me. Do you understand?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Where do you presently reside?

A. 2313 Seventh St.

Q. And you are presently incarcerated in Parish Prison, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you recently make some statements to a newscaster for NBC television?

A. I refuse to answer on grounds that it may tend to incriminate me.

Q. I don't know about explaining rights to refuse to answer on grounds that it would incriminate you if it does not show that you are guilty of a crime, making a statement, is that still your same position?

A. I refuse to answer on grounds that it may tend to incriminate me.

Q. Did you talk to a newscaster in Parish Prison?

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds that it would tend to incriminate me.

Q. Did you make any statements to the press in reference to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy?

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds that it would tend to incriminate me.

Q. Have you appeared on TV recently?

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds that it would tend to incriminate me.

Q. Do you know Mr. Richard Townley?

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds that it would tend to incriminate me.

Q. Do you know Mr. Walter Sheridan?

A. I refuse to answer on grounds of possible self incrimination.

Q. How long have you been in Parish Prison?

A. I refuse to answer on grounds of possible self-incrimination.

MR. GARRISON:

Q. Were you offered any sort of reward by Walter Sheridan?

A. I refuse to answer on grounds of possible self-incrimination.

Q. MR. BURNES:

Let me put it this way. We know you have made public statements accusing certain persons of asking you to plant evidence in Clay Shaw's residence. Is there anything you would like to tell the Grand Jury about this?

- A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.
- Q. My question was do you wish to tell the Grand Jury something, not to point out what happened, now do you wish to tell them or do you not wish to tell them?
- A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.
- Q. During the time you were incarcerated in Parish Prison before you posted bond were you taken out of Prison by anyone from the District Attorney's Office?
- A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.
- Q. During the time subsequent to the burglary prosecution of you in Section F, were you contacted by anyone from the District Attorney's Office while you were in Parish Prison?
- A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.
- Q. Were the statements you made on national television during the course of the NBC show on June 19, I think it was, of this year, true?
- A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.
- Q. MR. ALCOCK:

I ask that the Foreman of the Grand Jury address that question to Mr. Cancler, and if he refuses to refuse to answer take him down to Judge Bagert's court and have him cited for contempt.

FOREMAN:

Was the statement you made on the national television show on NBC on June 19, 1967, true?

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.

MR. ALCOCK:

Mr. Foreman, this witness is obviously not going to answer any questions other than his name and address, therefore as legal advisor to the Grand Jury I would ask that the Grand Jury go to the court room of Judge Bagert and have a copy of this question addressed to him by Judge Bagert to see whether or not he has the right to refuse to answer that question.

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COURT ROOM, SECTION "H"

MR. ALCOCK: (addressing the Court)

Your honor, to clarify the record I would like to state to the Court that John Cancler, the man seated before the bar here was called to testify before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, pursuant to a legally executed subpoena, and he did appear before the Grand Jury and in response to a particular question propounded to him by the Foreman of the Grand Jury, he refused to answer alleging that the said answer would incriminate him.

He therefore pled his right under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and I would ask that the Foreman read that question to the Court.

JUDGE:

May I ask Mr. Cancler, do you agree with that statement?

A. Yes, I do, sir.

Q.. Mr. Foreman, please repeat the question.

FOREMAN:

Was the statement you made on national television during the National Broadcasting Company show during the month of June past true?

JUDGE:

Answer the question.

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.

Q. I order you to answer.

A. I refuse to answer on the grounds of possible self incrimination.

Q. Is that all you have to say, or that you want to say?

A. Yes sir.

Q. I find you in contempt of Court. I sentence you to pay a fine of \$500.00 and serve 6 months in Parish Prison and in default I sentence you to one year in Parish Prison which will run consecutively with your present term. Would it do any good to return you to the Grand Jury Room, would you do any differently?

A. No sir.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the preceding transcript is a true and correct copy of the testimony given, under oath, in the preceding matter, before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 12th day of July, 1967, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thiel