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Date 12/5/63

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DL 89-43  
EDK:BJD

RICHARD K. MARKS, Assistant Cashier, Republic National Bank, Dallas, Texas, on December 3, 1963, advised SAs W. HARLAN BROWN and EDWIN D. KUYKENDALL that he met BERNARD WEISSMAN and WILLIAM M. BURLEY on about November 12, 1963, when BURLEY was at the Republic National Bank considering opening a bank account. He understood WEISSMAN was only there with BURLEY and was not engaged in any business transaction himself although WEISSMAN was heard to remark that he might want to open an account later at that bank. BURLEY told Mr. MARKS on about November 26, 1963, that he thought the check he has used in opening his account at the bank might possibly be returned because of insufficient funds; that his father might not have enough funds in his account in North Carolina to cover same.

Mr. MARKS understood that BURLEY and WEISSMAN were in the armed forces together and were good friends. He believes they are both friends of one LARRIE H. SCHMIDT, an employee of Mutual of New York, Dallas, Texas. He believes SCHMIDT would know a great deal about BERNARD WEISSMAN's background and activities. He said SCHMIDT is a "right winger" and has been very outspoken in his thinking as a "right winger". He said SCHMIDT is a friend of WARREN CARROLL, 4326 Mc Kinney Avenue, Dallas, a writer employed by "Lifeline", an enterprise believed controlled by H. L. HUNT, a wealthy Dallas oil man.

Mr. MARKS said LARRIE SCHMIDT on December 3, 1963, told him that he thought BURLEY had gone to South Texas "for the holidays" and presumed WEISSMAN may have gone with him.

Mr. MARKS stated he has no information indicating WEISSMAN and BURLEY are affiliated with any specific organizations. Mr. MARKS does not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY and has no information that would indicate any association between WEISSMAN and BURLEY with either OSWALD or RUBY.

LARRIE HENRY SCHMIDT, 5735 Center Avenue, Apartment E, Dallas, Texas, advised that he is employed as an insurance salesman by Mutual of New York, 2805 Turtle Creek Boulevard, Dallas. He advised that BERNARD WEISSMAN and WILLIAM M. BURLEY are two friends of his who served in the U. S. Army with him at Munich, Germany, during 1962. All three then were attached to the Headquarters, Southern Area Command, U. S. Army, at Munich. They spoke then about Dallas and how well he, SCHMIDT, liked Dallas. BURLEY and WEISSMAN said that they would like to come to Dallas and at least visit SCHMIDT there after they got out of service. SCHMIDT originally resided at Lincoln, Nebraska. SCHMIDT entered the Army in 1954 and was discharged in 1957 as an enlisted man. He then worked for a while in 1959 as editor of the Culver City Citizen, Culver City, California. After that he again served in the U. S. Army from 1959 to October, 1962. SCHMIDT has resided in Dallas since October, 1962. He has on occasions corresponded with his friend, BERNARD WEISSMAN who after being released from the Army in about August, 1963, resided at Mt. Vernon, New York. Recently WEISSMAN and his wife separated and WEISSMAN decided to come to Dallas more or less toward seeking a new location because of his domestic difficulties and pending divorce proceedings. WEISSMAN, accompanied by WILLIAM BURLEY, arrived in Dallas around the first of November, 1963. WEISSMAN had been employed as a salesman at or near Mt. Vernon, New York. His permanent home address was 439 South Columbus Avenue, Mt. Vernon, New York, c/o his father, name unknown.

He said that he (SCHMIDT) at about the time BERNARD WEISSMAN and BURLEY arrived in Dallas, conceived the idea of placing an advertisement in a newspaper pertaining to President KENNEDY's visit to Dallas on November 22, 1963. He exhibited a newspaper clipping entitled "Red Tag Denied by Demonstrator" which article had appeared in the "Dallas Times Herald", Dallas, Texas, October 27, 1963.

He said that article pertained to a demonstration put on by college students when ADLAI STEVENSON, United Nations Ambassador, visited in Dallas shortly before that date. The article identified himself as the leader of the collegiate demonstrators. SCHMIDT said he had told the "Dallas Times Herald" that the 14 students participating in that demonstration

—Commission Exhibit No. 1814—

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on 12/3/63 at Dallas, Texas File # 89-43  
by Special Agent W. HARLAN BROWN and  
EDWIN D. KUYKENDALL/BJD Date dictated 12/5/63

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were from the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas. He said these students did some picketing at the time of ADLAI STEVENSON's appearance in Dallas but these students were not the ones who struck or "spat" upon STEVENSON at that time. SCHMIDT said the students were only picketing in an orderly manner. SCHMIDT said he himself is not a student.

SCHMIDT described himself as a "conservative" and felt that no demonstration such as picketing should be given at an appearance of a President of the United States but he felt that some type of activity should be engaged in which would indicate disapproval of President KENNEDY's policies. He therefore conceived the idea of inserting an ad in the newspaper instead of engaging in any other type of a demonstration. He first considered placing his own name in the ad. BERNARD WEISSMAN appeared in Dallas at about the time he was thinking about this ad. He said BERNARD WEISSMAN is a "good conservative" and is of the Jewish Faith. SCHMIDT said on numerous occasions "anti-Semitism charges" had been made against "conservatives" and he thought the use of BERNARD WEISSMAN's name in the ad would to some extent counteract the anti-Semitism charges that had been leveled against "conservatives". He believed the appearance of the name of a person of the Jewish faith in such an ad might attract persons of that faith to reply to the ad. Also SCHMIDT said he was interested in finding out if replies would prove "left wing" persons are just as anti-Semitic as persons in the "right wing". It was decided, therefore, that BERNARD WEISSMAN's name with his permission would be placed in the ad. He said the ad was written as if an organization known as The American Fact Finding Committee had inserted it with BERNARD WEISSMAN being shown as its chairman. SCHMIDT said that there is no such organization as The American Fact Finding Committee; that it is simply a name thought of by him for this advertisement. He said no organization participated in the preparation or placing of this ad in the "Dallas Morning News" which appeared on November 22, 1963. He said it was written by himself at his apartment at 5735 Gaston and was assisted some in its preparation by JOSEPH P. GRINNAN, 1640 Southern Bell, an independent oil man who has an office in the Wilson Building, Dallas. He said he began writing this advertisement by himself about a week before it was taken.

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to the "Dallas Morning News"; that he and GRINNAN took it to the "Dallas Morning News" four or five days before the ad appeared. The ad cost \$1463. The funds to pay for same were solicited by Mr. GRINNAN from prominent Dallas businessmen. That amount of money was said to have been contributed by five or six prominent Dallas businessmen whose names he does not know. He denied that any organization backed this ad and said it was handled by himself and GRINNAN only as individuals.

SCHMIDT stated Post Office Box 1792, Dallas 21, Texas, was rented by BERNARD WEISSMAN one or two days before the ad was placed. SCHMIDT said it was felt there was a "great basis for the ad" but said the ad would never have been placed had they known what they know now. He said "conservatives" are not pro-KENNEDY but certainly they did not wish him any personal harm. He said he and GRINNAN wanted to place tough questions in the ad in order to put President KENNEDY on the spot regarding such questions, but certainly there was no desire to cause him any physical harm.

SCHMIDT said WEISSMAN and BURLEY did not come to Dallas specifically in connection with the placing of this ad and in fact had nothing to do with the ad until after they had arrived in Dallas. SCHMIDT said he and JOSEPH P. GRINNAN are both members of the John Birch Society but their activities in connection with this ad were solely as individuals. SCHMIDT does not know if GRINNAN is affiliated with any other organizations but knows of none. SCHMIDT said he (SCHMIDT) also is a member of Young Americans for Freedom, which has headquarters at Washington, D.C., Post Office Box 1731. He identified it as a national "conservative" organization, the primary function of which is to inform and interest young persons of high school and college age concerning "conservative" politics. He said by "conservative" he means conservation of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights; preservation of our freedoms and our traditional way of life; and preservation of individual responsibilities rather than collective responsibilities.

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He said President KENNEDY has put it beautifully as "not what your country can do for you but what you can do for it", and further defining the word "conservative" he said responsibility should start with the individual and be retained on a family or local level as opposed to the "big brother" aspect of "welfare state at the Federal Government level". SCHMIDT identified the John Birch Society as a patriotic organization, the basic function of which is to fight Communism by informing people of the threat of Communism at the grass roots level.

SCHMIDT stated WEISSMAN and BURLEY left Dallas on November 27, 1963, and as of the time of this interview were supposed to be in El Paso, Texas, visiting BURLEY's brother, full name unknown. He said BURLEY has in the past resided at Baltimore, Maryland. They left Dallas because the reaction to the advertisement bearing WEISSMAN's name was far greater with the assassination of President KENNEDY than it would have been otherwise. He said WEISSMAN was employed by Carpet Engineers of Dallas but lost his job there. The Jewish Welfare Committee in Dallas was trying desperately to find WEISSMAN and numerous other persons were trying to get in touch with him. He said BERNARD obtained the mail from Post Office Box 1792, Dallas, the first time after the ad appeared and found 25 correspondents who favored the ad and 27 who opposed the ad. SCHMIDT said those favoring the ad were written prior to the time of President KENNEDY's assassination and those opposing were written subsequent to the assassination. The second time WEISSMAN obtained the mail from that Post Office box a large man wearing a "ten gallon hat" appeared to be waiting for him and tried to follow him from the Post Office. He said WEISSMAN did not know the man's identity. He said BERNARD told him "if there are the kind of nuts on the other side who don't hesitate to attack and kill the President of the United States, there are some who wouldn't hesitate to do the same to me". SCHMIDT said WEISSMAN being afraid of possible physical harm to himself left Dallas. SCHMIDT recalled WEISSMAN also had been interviewed by a representative of the "Dallas Morning News" on November 23 following which an article appeared in that newspaper on November 24, concerning that interview with WEISSMAN.

SCHMIDT stated he does not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY. He further stated that BERNARD WEISSMAN, WILLIAM BURLEY and JOSEPH P. GRINNAN do not know either OSWALD or RUBY so far as he knows.

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Identifying data pertaining to LARRIE HENRY SCHMIDT as obtained by interview and observation is as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Birth	December 29, 1936 Oakland, California
Height	About 5'8"
Weight	165 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Medium
Marital status	Married
Relatives	Father, REUBEN SCHMIDT, died 1958; Mother, LUCILLE SCHMIDT, nee STALL, died 1937; (Parents prior to death resided at 345 F Street, Lincoln, Nebraska) Wife, BARBARA KAY ORR SCHMIDT, 5735 Gaston, Apartment E, Dallas.

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