

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM
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CONSPIRACY THEORIES, CIA

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MC ILVAIN, JUDD

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COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

Washington, DC 20500

MEMORANDUM:

TO: The File

FROM: David W. Belin

SUBJECT: Interview with Mr. Judd McIlvain

Belin: Okay, I'm going forward here and trying to record our conversation as we go forward so I'm going to ask you to state your name and your phone number, If I can please.

McIlvain: Okay, my name is Judd McIlvain. My phone number in Houston is (713) 526-8811, that's my office phone number.

B: And you're with the television station there?

M: I'm with KHOU-Television and I'm in the news department. I am an investigative reporter.

B: Okay, now let me stop a minute and see if this thing is working here, if we can.

M: All right.

B: Well, it's working but not very well, so we'll go forward and hope we can get it down here. As I understand it, you said that some time ago, you better give me the approximate time it occurred, that there was a woman that came to your office.

M: Right. That's what--to the best of my knowledge and the knowledge of our former news director, in January or February of 1968 a woman, whose name we cannot determine now, came to our offices and wanted to talk to us. I was assigned to sit down and talk to this woman. She was a woman in her late forties or early fifties, kind of heavy set, I think a Jewish woman. She said

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she was from Dallas, Texas, originally in real estate business and she had been employed by the CIA as a payroll courier or clerk, and she would courier [sic] money from Dallas, Texas to operations of the CIA in Mexico City or other areas in Latin America. She only mentioned Mexico City specifically though, and she showed me papers at that time which I looked at and they seemed authentic from a prison in Mexico City, the women's prison in Mexico City D. F. and those papers indicated that she had been in prison, as I recall, for four years serving a term for illegal use of a credit card specifically an American Express credit card which she said she was using as a CIA credit card. I wasn't clear if it was issued to her or the CIA but she said she used it for all her business expenses for the Government and she sat down and told me a story that was very detailed and she outlined the story of, you know, with all the facts and figures that really surprised me that anyone would have those facts and figures in their hands if they had been in prison for the last four years in Mexico City and they dealt with the Kennedy assassination and specifically with events leading up to the assassination in the summer before the assassination.

B: Okay, now that was the summer before the assassination, that would be the summer of 1963?

M: Yes sir.

B: Okay, and what did she say with regard to these events?

M: Well, with regard to these events - first she stated that she just couldn't understand what the mystery was about the Kennedy assassination and she said let me, you know, she says I'm a CIA employee, let me explain to you what I was doing and she said I just can't quite understand how, you know, the United States could accept the Warren Report. She was very concerned about that and then she outlined what she had been doing. She said in the summer of '63 she was courieing money back and forth from Dallas, Texas.

B: At what intervals was she courieing money?

M: To the best of my knowledge it was something like on a monthly basis. It might have been a bi-weekly basis, I know it wasn't every week. I don't remember, it was either, it was probably a monthly basis.

B: Okay.

M: I just, that wasn't a point that we stuck on, you know, on real hard.

B: It was not more often than every other week and you think probably was once a month but it may have been once every two weeks that she supposedly went down there?

M: Right. Now, she said that she would go down on a normal basis and she would meet people at different locations that would be pre-arranged and she would simply give them the check. They'd open the check, look at it, and give her a receipt that they received the check. She said on different occasions she had met persons at a, you know, an old race track, or at least a race track that wasn't being used at that time. I think she said south of Mexico City. I know she said just outside of Mexico City, I think was south, and she said she met him there at one time and paid off several people, you know, at one spot and she noticed at that time that they were using the race track to put a car - drive a car down the track; they would have - they had some people on the ground on the track with walkie-talkies and some people up in the stands and they were using binoculars and walkie-talkie - and rifle sighting, you know, sites to site down on the car and they were doing some timing and moving the car up and down. She said, you know, I just took it for granted they were working on some plan to, you know, assassinate someone. You know, she said this very straight forwardly like, you know, she didn't find that as a surprise, she knew what her job was and that it didn't surprise her at all. So, she said she had just heard rumors and talk around and she thought it was a plan to assassinate Castro. That's what she told me. But, she said though she didn't know that as a fact and no one had told her that as a fact, it was just information that she picked around - and picked up around and that's what she thought it was and it didn't surprise her. So, she continued paying them through that summer and then...

B: She continued paying whom through the summer?

M: The different - the different agents, I guess. The people that she made the varied deliveries to, she didn't name anybody but Oswald.

B: But, all right, go ahead.

M: Of course, I wouldn't have known anybody but Oswald.

B: Okay, go ahead.

M: Then she said she met Oswald once in a little coffee shop, you know, like you sit out on a plaza reforma or something like that, she may have said the Plaza Reforma and she sat down and they both had a cup of coffee, and she gave him his check and he opened it up and he was concerned about the amount and made some mention to her, or something, and she said, you know, she said the standard thing she always says, you know, I have nothing to do with the amounts or anything like that, I just deliver the money and he was unahppy about it, and then the next time she met him at the same location. . .

B: Now, you mean the next time, you mean on the next trip she took?

M: The next trip, right. The next regular pay period whenever that was and gave him his check again and he opened it up and this time he was more vocal about his displeasure about what was the amount of the check and that's when he made his comment about if X number of dollars were not in the next pay envelope or the next check then Kennedy is not going to die on schedule. I almost remember her saying that on schedule and then she was very concerned because she know - she knew she showed some surprise, that she didn't mean to, she was trying to keep her composure and not show any surprise but she was, you know, surprised because she didn't know anything about that or hit her as a surprise. She was afraid that Oswald then realized that she was, you know, on the inside and she didn't know and that was according to her very frightening because she didn't know then who she could trust and she went back to Dallas and continued on and didn't do anything about it I think for several weeks and then she decided to write a letter to the only person in government she said she'd ever met and that was - who did I tell you it was? I forgot who it was.

B: You mentioned to me it was Adalai Stevenson.

B: And was that within a few weeks after this trip down in the summer of 1963 or was this after the Kennedy assassination that she supposedly wrote...

M: Okay, now, listen, again I'm working from my memory. I don't honestly remember if she said she wrote the letter before or after, I really don't remember.

B: It was either before the Kennedy assassination...

M: It had to be, it had to be before she went to prison. She went to prison before - so it had to be before the Kennedy assassination. If he actually died then, I don't know when he died, I have no idea when he died.

B: Well, she said though, that he died and didn't return the correspondence, or what did she say?

M: She said he died and she was concerned about, you know, what happened to the correspondence and whose hands it might fall into, and that concerned her quite a bit.

B: Well now, did she say she went to prison before the Kennedy assassination?

M: Repeat the question, I'm sorry I didn't understand it.

B: Did she say she, that she went to prison before the Kennedy assassination?

M: As I understood it, yes.

B: You better repeat because, as to what the occasion was of her going to prison because I don't think we have this down on the tape because I think that's something you mentioned before I had started taping the recordings.

M: Right.

(End of tape 1)

M: Now, you see now these times are not my times they're her times...

B: I understand.

M: The way I remember then so if I'm a little shakey on the times going from about five years and you know second or third hand, well second hand from her. Okay, she said she was concerned; she wrote the letter and then he died and she wasn't sure whatever happened to the correspondence; she was concerned about that but apparently not enough concern to quit work and she continued her regular job and, then one night, in Mexico City with her roommate, as I said she worked with another woman, they worked in pairs, in a pair, and they were in their apartment, or hotel room, I don't know which one it was, and someone broke in; there was a fight and there were shots and as far as she knows her roommate was killed because, you know, she fled, she didn't stay around to see if she was dead or not but as far as she understood the woman was dead. And, she went to a hotel; she stayed there for a week and then she was arrested by Mexican authorities on charges of misuse of a credit card. She went to jail; she called the U.S. Embassy or the Consular section of the Embassy in Mexico City; they said don't worry about it, we'll get you an attorney and we'll send someone from the Consular Section and they'll meet you in court and all that sort of thing. She said that she went to court and the man from the Consular section was the man that had broken into the apartment and that was the only person she knew in the whole room and that made her very concerned because she realized that, she really had a problem and her Mexican attorney pleaded her guilty, or something like that, and she said that she didn't understand too well because there was a lot of Spanish and she doesn't speak Spanish, but they were translating for her. But she said her Mexican attorney hired by the U.S. Embassy made the judge angry and the judge got very angry and the judge asked her if she would rather just deal with him and she said yes and so she dealt directly with the judge. Apparently the judge didn't seem to think that she was getting very good representation or something on that order. That's very foggy in my memory and she didn't dwell on that, she just kind of went right by it. Anyway, then she went off to prison for a sentence of apparently four years because that would make it just about the right time she would come out of prison and be in Houston, Texas the beginning of '68.

B: And, as I understand it, then in the beginning of '68, then after she got out of prison, she then contacted you.

M: I don't, I don't know the time frame from the time she got out of prison to the time she got to Houston. As I recollect it wasn't a long period of time that she flew to Houston. I said why didn't you go to Dallas if you have friends and stuff in Dallas and she said that was one of the reasons she wasn't going to Dallas because all her contacts and the people she had worked for were in Dallas and she named off quite a few people that had since been killed or had accidents or something like that you know. And, of course, can't remember the names of those people. I didn't even know the too well then because I'm not a scholar on the Kennedy assassination by any means at all but, she ran down quite a few names of people that had been involved, and I had read about, that they had been killed or something happened them; the strange deaths and she said she didn't want that to happen to her and that's why she hadn't gone back to Dallas and I asked her what she was going to do with the information because I couldn't use it because it was nothing to prove there which were all allegations and she said well, she didn't know really what she'd do with it. That she had, oh wait, I missed, I missed a vital point there. While she was in prison she had written some letters to Garrison and she was very unhappy with Mr. Garrison because she said that he used the information she had given him in personal letters for sensationalism and everything and she was very down on him. She didn't want publicity or anything like that she was like (ha, ha) if I may use the word like a "civil servant" type person, you know, with the government, you know, no publicity or anything like that - that type and she was very unhappy with the information that she claimed Garrison had used from her letters and she said that's why she quit writing him about it. --she was corresponding.

B: Did she say anything else?

M: She sat and talked for an hour and forty-five minutes. I'm doing the best I can to recall.

B: One thing before I start taping, you mentioned that Oswald had a job down in Mexico City or of the two different trips she was down there to see him, was he working there or what?

M: Well, as I understood from her he was working for the CIA.

B: Was he working for the CIA in Mexico City?

M: Right. That's why she was down there paying him. Right. She never - that's what she was so amazed; she kept saying, I'm so amazed, he has been an employee of the CIA for so long, you know, what, you know, how come someone can't find this out.

B: Well, what I'm trying, in other words, we're trying to take a look at the allegations that would theoretically bring the jurisdiction of our Commission, as I understand what you're saying, she claimed that Oswald was working for the CIA in Mexico City...

M: That's right.

B: And that she was in Mexico City that she saw him on two different occasions which would have then, if not at least one month apart, at least two different weeks apart. In other words, during the summer of 1963 she saw him on at least two different occasions.

M: Right. Then also saw him in combination with several people out there at that race track.

B: Would that have been on another occasion she was down there or...

M: No. On another occasion, right. On two occasions were at the sidewalk cafe. Another occasion she told me about was earlier, before the sidewalk cafe.

B: All right. That would be at the race track where they were supposedly sighting with guns with telescopic sites?

M: Right, and they were running a car down this, down like down between the bleachers, you know, and they had people in the bleachers. She said they talked on walkie-talkies and they moved up a couple of bleachers and moved down a couple of bleachers. They, she said, they had a couple of people sitting on the - in the, on the ground you know...

B: And that basically means that Oswald, if her trips were once a month, that means that Oswald then would have been in Mexico City at least two months. If her trips were every two weeks, that means Oswald would have been in Mexico at least one month. There will be three trips, two weeks apart.

M: I got the idea there were several months, I'm sorry, I didn't - God, I wish I had asked her how often did you pay the man, but I didn't ask her then, but I got the idea it was several months. It wasn't just like one month, or anything.

B: Did she say she paid him in cash or in checks?

M: Oh God. I'm pretty sure she said cash.

B: Now, when you say the summer of 1963, what month are you talking about, or was she talking about?

M: She talked about the summer. I don't think she prayed much to it, if she did I've forgotten. I don't remember the specific months. She might have said, telling, you know, I think I asked her something, how long was this going on, you know, and I think she might have said, well, that's what she talked about, she said the race track, well, you know, I've been down there, you know, many times, something like that, that's when they were doing the race track situation - trying to give me some idea of the timing involved - how many months. So I know it wasn't just one month or something like that.

B: All right. So, it would appear there were several months that he was down there, according to her. Now, when did she say, again, she went into prison? Do you know if she wrote to Stevenson and then she said she that Stevenson died, or something like that?

M: Yeah. As I remember she said you know the man died and...

B: Was she in prison then at the time of the Kennedy assassination?

M: Yeah. Apparently yes, she was in prison at the time of the assassination. And this is the way I recall the sequence of events.

B: And, did she say how long after she wrote to Stevenson, let's see, well, you had better give me the sequence of events on that again.

(End of tape 2)

M: As I recall, she found out about it, that, she could, you know, from, by mistake from Oswald, and then she continued her job and she, if you don't mind, I'm sorry, I'm thinking dates, its been a while. Well, as I was saying, she continued to work as normal, she was trying to pretend like she didn't know anything, but she was, you know, just, you know, getting the word about everybody, she was worried that someone would think that she did know and that she wouldn't look right, you know, or that she'd do something wrong, suggest she'd do something and she was very bothered about it. Then she said she wrote a letter to Adalai Stevenson and then, as I remember, she said he died. I should have checked right then, I guess, to figure out when he died but...

B: Then after he died, then what happened?

M: Well, then, then she continued and then she went to Mexico City on one of these trips and she was staying in the hotel or the apartment with her roommate and that's when them, or someone broke in, and there was a gun shot and everything and her roommate, as far as she knows, is dead, or was killed that night, and she fled. She said she fled out a window.

B: And then what?

M: Then she went to a hotel and she didn't have, you know, hardly any clothes or anything; she went to the hotel...

B: Did she tell you what hotel?

M: Well, if she did, I don't remember, you know.

B: All right.

M: She used a credit card at the hotel because she didn't have any cash and she lived on the credit card for about a week and then the Mexican authorities showed up and arrested her for misuse of the credit card. They said it had been cancelled.

B: Then what happened.

M: Then she went to jail; called the U.S. Consul or the Embassy, one of the two, I think she said she called the Consular section of the Embassy and explained that she was a CIA agent, you know, an employee, she never said - she never used the word agent, she used the word employee, and that she had been picked up for misuse of a credit card, which was issued her as an employee. But I never got it straight if it was in her name of CIA's name. And, they said, well there must be a misunderstanding, don't worry about it, we'll have somebody from the Consular section come over, he will get you an attorney and the whole thing. And she said she didn't hear from him for a day or so and then she went to court, and they were in court, and they had an attorney, a Mexican attorney, to represent her.

B: The Mexican attorney really didn't represent her, you told me.

M: Right, well that was her - that's what she said...

B: Right, and then she said...

M: And that the judge seemed to be upset because the Mexican attorney wanted to plead her guilty without any defense and then she, I remember she used the term "I threw myself on the mercy of the court" and she used that term. I don't know if she really did that or not. She was very upset about this. She said, you know, she was really being railroaded, so, she was a little, not emotional about it, just stating the game, but she was explaining to me like, you know, they were railroading me and I threw myself on the mercy of the court; the judge dealt with me directly and gave me four years, which I think is a long time.

B: And she was in prison, she was in prison at the time of the Kennedy assassination after that?

M: Apparently so, right.

B: Anything else that you can think of, whether I've asked it or not, that you can think of that would be in any way relevant to this woman or her story?

M: Well, the things that can be relevant - the reason that I haven't said anything about this for a long long time is because I kept raising the fact that, you know, she's a Madam X, nobody knows who she is. But, then, we started thinking about this; maybe she should be traced down and there could be, you know, I was thinking of the different ways we could trace back to the prison; through the U. S. Consular section in Mexico City, they couldn't have had that many citizens of the United States, U.S. Government employees go to prison.

B: She was in her forties or fifties, she was Jewish, she was an American, she lived in Dallas, she supposedly worked with the CIA. Can you remember what her physical description was?

M: Yes, she was kind of a portly woman. She may not have been Jewish, that may be just a bad memory of mine but I thought she was - I didn't say "are you Jewish?" Maybe I got that from her name but I can't remember her name now so that wouldn't help me. She said she had worked in real estate.

B: All right, then...

M: She said, you know, I was a pretty well known person in Dallas real estate business and she said to me, she said I'm not just a kook or a nobody, I was pretty well known and that's why I worked with the CIA and that's how I got my job.

B: All right, now, supposedly Oswald said that Kennedy wasn't going to be killed on schedule. Did he mention that it was in Dallas or not?

M: She said Dallas, right. Kennedy was not going to be killed on schedule in Dallas if they didn't come through with the money they promised him. So she mentioned the amount because I remember she mentioned the amount but now I can't remember...

B: Was it more than a thousand or less than a thousand.

M: It certainly was more than a thousand, but I can't remember how much.

B: Was it more than five thousand if you recall?

M: Sorry, I really can't remember a figure because it was like there were supposed to be so many thousands added to each check over a period of time that's why he was saying - hey, they didn't do it this time, they didn't do it last time, they still haven't done it, just like, you know, they were supposed to add so mucy money to his regular check over a certain period of time, that's why I don't have the exact figure.

B: So the check, each check was to be one or more, several thousand dollar more than it was, is that what you're saying?

M: Yeah, something like that, right.

B: Okay, anything else you can think of, whether I've asked it or not?

M: I'm trying to think, but this woman, she had, she looked like she was somebody's grandmother, you know. But, she looked like a businesswoman in a way, you know. She did have the paperwork from the Mexican prison, release papers. I happen to read and write Spanish and speak Spanish and the release forms said that she was being released from the woman's prison and she had served her time, in which in Mexico you serve the whole thing, no good time off, she s erved the whole period of time and she was being released and she had no friends. Now that, she showed me that, that's the only paper-work the woman had. She was in Dallas, I don't think she was married. If she did, she never said anything about it, or if she was, she was diverced a long time ago and she worked with another woman employee out of Dallas; she said she was good friends with the police chief in Dallas and she knew a lot of people in the police force in Dallas and she just smiled when I asked her about Tippet, Officer Tippet, or her police department involvement and, you know, they were so involved how could they not be involved in it and the part about Officer Tippet and Oswald, you know, was only guess work on her part but she said that because Oswald had been giving them so much trouble and, you know, just wasn't playing the game the way he was supposed to be and he was complaining and getting in a lot of trouble that she felt that - now these are just her thoughts about it, you know, she's just guessing at this - that they set him up too because, you know, to take the fall, as she put it, to take the fall in the Kennedy assassination because he was, you know, giving them so much trouble and then she thought how

ridiculous it was for anyone to think that one person would do this. She pointed out that in any professional operation they certainly wouldn't have one marksman, they would at least have three, if not more, because if they were a professional group - she went through all this, laid all this out for me, you know, she kept saying over and over, "how can anyone believe that this is how it happened because it just doesn't make any sense." Of course, she had a lot more information that a normal person would have probably.

B: Anything else you can think of?

M: Well, let me qualify this all by remembering what this woman told me.

B: I understand.

M: Only a second hand _____ first hand knowledge. I have to admit, and this is why I'm probably repaying it, she did impress me. I went down to the news directory and said, you know, if this woman is a kook or, you know, just making all this up, boy, she's convincing, she really has it down pat and since she was in prison and she must have done a hell of a lot of studying of U.S. newspapers or something to get all these facts down and, but, because she was so genuine about it, I asked her "what are you going to do?" And she said, "I'm just going to disappear." She said, "Disappear, or if I make an issue, I won't last very long."

B: Anything else that you can remember?

M: I think you have pretty well sucked out my brain. I'll probably remember a dozen more things when I...

B: Now, you got my name from someone in the White House....

M: Yes, I didn't know whether -- Pete Rossell and Pete works at the Political Section, Advisory Section to the President and I forget who else set this up.

B: Who else do you think it might have been?

M: What do you mean?

B: Was there anyone else at the White House or is that who you think it was?

M: No, that is who it is.

B: All right, well....

M: Pete, I talked to Pete about this and he said "well you know you really ought to talk to someone on the Commission," and I said "Yeah, but I don't want to call somebody out of the blue, they'll think some idiot is calling from Houston." I said, "I don't want to do that," and so he said "Well let me, let me get to Dave." He said he was going to talk to you at your office.

B: Well, let me now see if I have this, if this is really recording. I hope I can. Just a second. Can you hold the phone another minute or two?

M: Sure.

(Pause)

B: Just to put your mind at ease, we have - we have investigated, of course, every allegation that's been made alleging CIA involvement in the assassination. Thus far, I've said that we have found no criminal evidence which shows that the CIA was involved and that Oswald was in any manner an employee or agent of the CIA. There have been other people that have alleged this although no one has claimed that someone had actual conversations at the personal _____ of the CIA employee and what I'm going to do is to try and run down this allegation to see if the....

M: If you can find out, this Pete, just call Pete Rossell at the White House if you don't mind, but not at the -- that's where you are. I keep thinking you're not there. You are at the White House right?

B: Well, I'm at, I'm within a half block of the White House.

M: All I know is the switchboard answers "White House." when a c

B: Right.

M: If you don't mind, you might want to talk to Pete about me so that you have some understanding what this is all about. I feel kind of strange explaining this to you because I have no proof. I don't even remember the lady's name. You know, I can kill myself; as an investigative reporter that I didn't have the lady's name.

B: Well, I wish you did have the lady's name because it would make our job here easier to try and run down a specific name as opposed to a general name. The problem is basically with your story is several fold. Number one, the Warren Commission knew where Oswald was during the summer of 1963 and he was in New Orleans that entire time and didn't leave for Mexico City until he was in there the latter part of September, the last few days of September and he only made one trip down there so he wouldn't have been down there on a so-called track or running assassination sitings on some kind of a race track with rifles. So that is something that the Warran Commission found and I think _____ he had almost pay-check-by-pay-check and they also had different people at the farm during the summer of 1963. The other thing is that ...

M: Did you get paid by check then and not by cash?

B: Pardon?

M: Did he actually sign a pay check?

B: When I said pay check?

M: Yeah, who do you mean by paycheck?

B: I mean that Oswald would have gotten - we know where he was and where he worked during the summer of 1963.

M: Oh, I see now.

B: And when he worked he would have gotten paid by check, I believe. Now, I was not intimately involved in that aspect of the Warren Commission investigation as to the summer of 1963 except that I do know from the lawyers that were involved from the Warren Commission that he was in New Orleans during

the entire summer of '63. The other aspect of it, apart from the fact that it's inconceivable, of course, to believe that a government agency would be doing that, you'd still have to check the rumors. But there are a number of other discrepancies in the woman's story when with the facts that, I mean independent facts, that you related which would mean that the story would not check out and that undoubtedly the story is inaccurate, but nevertheless, I'm still going to ehck out to see whether or not they had any people in Dallas during 1963 who were couriers for money in Mexico...

M: I'd hate to think you'd pin me too close to the month because boy, I'm just doing this from a very shakey memory but I do tend to remember it was sometime in the summer. It may have lapped over but I'm sure she was talking about summer or summer months and maybe it lapped over into the fall.

B:] Well, there are ether inaccuracies in the factual statements that you related to me but in any event I am going to check out to see whether or not the Agency had any, without checking out, you know, I'm not going to go through the whole story. I'm going to go forward and find out first of all whether or not the people had any couriers that were courieing money down to Mexico City from Dallas in 1963 without relating it to the Kennedy assassina-tion just to find out what those facts were and do some independent investigation on that. If they have none I think that would probably cooberate at least the fact that this - probably a story of which there were many. I remember from the Warren Commission days there were all kinds of people that had all kinds of stories that were practically fantasy.

M: This is the first person I ever heard though that claimed that they were employees. That's what - that would be easy to check.

B: Well, I'm going to check that one out and I appreciate your taking the time to call it in. We will check it out.

M: Would you mind telling me if anything comes of it. I'd sure like to know.

B: Yes. If anything comes of it I will let you know.

M: Okay, I'd like to call you back in about a month or so just to check with you if you don't mind.

B: That's fine.

B: That's fine.

M: All right.

B: All right....

M: If you want to get ahold of me I'm at that phone number, right.

B: Right.

M: Okay. Thank you very much.

B: Bye, Bye.