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Tribler
London

Mr. Wick

2-24-67

M. A. Jones

**WILLARD ROBERTSON
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

~~DO NOT FILE~~
~~RETURN TO RM. 4204~~

Pursuant to Mr. Tolson's request, the following is set forth from Bufiles regarding captioned individual, millionaire Volkswagen distributor reportedly financially backing District Attorney James Garrison in New Orleans.

By communication dated 10-18-63, the New Orleans Office related that an informant, one Frank Hegeman, a public relations man with a notorious reputation for passing bad checks and associating with various gambling figures, was contacted on 9-16-63. During this interview, he stated that Willard Robertson, a prominent and wealthy New Orleans businessman, was currently supporting John McKeithen, a Louisiana gubernatorial candidate in the state Democratic primary. Robertson reportedly had been extremely active in local New Orleans politics and had raised large sums of money for previous political campaigns, particularly that of Mayor Victor Schiro. Hegeman attributed these political activities to Robertson's desire for a good Government.

Hegeman further stated that Robertson had recently learned that McKeithen was being actively backed by Carlos Marcello, a Jefferson Parish racketeer, who was attempting to raise campaign funds by promising contributors influence in various state appointments. It was currently felt in political circles that if Robertson were to withdraw his support, McKeithen would stand little chance of election. Among those reportedly interested in removing Robertson as the backer of McKeithen was United States Senator Russell Long, who supposedly was upset over Marcello's support of McKeithen rather than that of candidate Speedy Long, favored by Senator Long. Speedy Long was regarded as the Democratic administration candidate and was considered the choice of the national Democratic Party. Hegeman advised that if McKeithen were elected Governor of the State of Louisiana, it was commonly felt in political circles that the state would become wide open insofar as gambling and other racketeering influences were concerned. John J. McKeithen was elected Governor of Louisiana in 1964.

1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Tolson TDR:jo

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan 395-10015
(CONTINUED)

DATE: 11-14-2017

1 - Mr. Tolson
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. J.P. Mohr

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

2-23-67

Mr. W. A. Branigan

1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. J.R. Malley
1 - Mr. Lonihan
1 - Mr. C.G. Sullivan

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963
DALLAS, TEXAS

In accordance with Mr. Tolson's instructions, there is set out herein information obtained from Bureau files identifiable with James C. Garrison, District Attorney, Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Louisiana.

BACKGROUND:

James C. Garrison was born 11-20-31, Iowa. He attended elementary and high school in New Orleans and received an LL.B degree from Tulane University in 1949. He was admitted to the Louisiana State Bar in June, 1949. He served in the U. S. Army from January, 1941, to March, 1946, both as an enlisted man and officer. He was honorably discharged. He served as a Special Agent of the FBI from March 5, 1951, resigning on July 24, 1951, to reenter military service. His services were considered satisfactory.

Garrison was elected District Attorney of the Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, taking office in May, 1962. He immediately became involved in a dispute with the New Orleans Police Department over his professed desire to clean up the so-called "minor vice" in New Orleans. On November 1 and 2, 1962, the New Orleans "Times-Picayune" carried statements by Garrison charging that the parish-criminal court judges were clogging up the city jails and delaying justice by taking excessive vacation periods. Following such charges, the judges involved instituted a defamation suit against Garrison. The trial received nation-wide publicity and Garrison was found guilty on 2-4-63 of the charges and fined \$1,000. Garrison appealed his conviction and on 11-24-64 the U. S. Supreme Court reversed this conviction. The Supreme Court held that the element of deliberate malice was lacking in the statements attributed to Garrison.

DEROGATORY DATA:

Bureau files disclose we have unsubstantiated allegations against Garrison and the office of the District Attorney

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Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

of Orleans Parish. They are set out as follows:

On 3-29-63 Aaron M. Kohn, Managing Director, Metropolitan Crime Commission, New Orleans, advised there was no indication that Garrison, as District Attorney, was involved in any illegal graft. However, on 2-28-65 Kohn said he had received information that Pershing Gervais, Chief Investigator of the New Orleans District Attorney's office, was involved in a bribery situation. Gervais was a controversial appointment of Garrison's as he had been dismissed from the New Orleans Police Department in 1959 for conduct unbecoming an officer. Both are close personal friends based on World War II military service. (62-9-33-381; 62-9-33-336)

NO 1227-C-TE advised he had been arrested in February, 1965, charged with pandering. Subsequently, on 3-18-65 he was contacted by a representative of the New Orleans District Attorney's office and told that for \$2,000 the case against him would be dropped. This source had previously advised a Louisiana State Legislator had been interceding for a well-known New Orleans madam and he learned from this madam that for \$10,000 the New Orleans District Attorney's office would not prosecute her or her prostitutes. (65-6353-3674)

On 7-27-66 NO 1438-C advised District Attorney Garrison allegedly had purchased a bar in New Orleans and set up one Jackie Lee as manager. Lee, according to the source, is a homosexual. Source also said that Garrison is known to have associated with prostitutes in New Orleans. (62-9-33-617)

NO 1380-PC advised on 10-21-66 he had learned that Carlos Marcello on at least one occasion in the past had paid round-trip air transportation for Garrison to Las Vegas, Nevada. Garrison, while in Las Vegas, stays at the Desert Inn Hotel and his bills are paid by that hotel.

Marcello is a New Orleans gambler and La Cosa Nostra hoodlum. He recently attended a meeting with twelve other hoodlums in New York City 9-22-66, which received wide-spread publicity in the New York City area. On 9-30-66 he assaulted a Special Agent of the FBI and is awaiting Federal trial on this charge.

NO 1309-C has told the New Orleans Office that Garrison is politically ambitious and plans to run for Lieutenant Governor in Louisiana during the Fall of 1967. (137-14333-5; 62-2713-437)

ACTION:

For information.

DATE: 11-14-2017

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- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

2-1-67

Mr. V. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lohan

Mr. W. A. Branigan

WARREN COMMISSION REPORT

By letter dated 1-23-67, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) informed the Bureau that it had received a report from one of its sources that "The New York Times" is working on a special project involving a full-scale expose of the Warren Report. According to CIA's source, the project will find that the Warren Commission's original findings were not as reliable as was first believed.

CIA's source in this matter is Richard Thomas Gibson. Gibson supposedly received the data from Peter Kihss, a friend, who is a "New York Times" reporter working on the special Warren Commission project.

Richard Thomas Gibson was formerly head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Based on pro-Cuban activity, he was placed on the Security Index. He has an unsavory reputation and is considered a highly unreliable character. He previously offered to serve as a Bureau informant solely for the money involved and when rejected he offered his services to CIA. CIA is in contact with him. Gibson left the United States prior to 1962 and has lived in Africa and Europe. He was last reported residing in England.

Our files disclose that Peter Frederick Kihss has been a reporter for "The New York Times" for a number of years. Our files also disclose that Kihss has had contact with individuals who have been subjects of security investigations conducted by this Bureau. Included are: William Albertson, Labor Secretary of the New York State Communist Party; Fred Fine, member of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party; and Juliusz Katz-Suchy, a former Polish Government official in the United States.

ACTION:

None. This is for information.

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