

06C67-1822

Mr. Ramsey Clark  
The Attorney General

September 22, 1967

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.                      and J. Walter Yeagley  
Assistant Attorney General              Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division                              Internal Security Division

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

On Thursday, September 21, 1967, at 11:15 a. m., two of the attorneys representing Clay L. Shaw, who has been indicted in New Orleans, Louisiana, for conspiring to assassinate the late President Kennedy, came to the Department of Justice to confer with Mr. Nathaniel E. Kossack, First Assistant, Criminal Division, about procedural problems and their strategy in the forthcoming trial. Mr. Kossack advised them that although their requests would be received and considered, no assurances or commitments of cooperation could be made at this time. In the course of their conversation, the Messrs. Irvin Dymond and Edward F. Wegmann indicated that they desired assistance from the Department of Justice in several matters:

1. To ascertain whatever contact existed prior to or on the date of the assassination between the Central Intelligence Agency and the following individuals:

- a. Donald P. Norton
- b. David L. Ferrie
- c. Lee Harvey Oswald
- d. Clay L. Shaw
- e. Gordon Dwane Novel
- f. Burton Klein
- g. Irvin Dymond
- h. Edward F. Wegmann
- i. William J. Wegmann
- j. Lee Odom
- k. Steven Plotkin

(Dymond and Wegmann stated that they might later submit the names of other individuals about whom they had similar questions.)

cc: Mr. Houston, CIA

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2. To learn whether Federal Bureau of Investigation "rap sheets" would be available on named individuals.
3. To learn whether Perry Raymond Russo had ever been interrogated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
4. To learn whether Clay L. Shaw had been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the course of the inquiry into the death of President Kennedy.
5. To learn whether Clay L. Shaw had been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation since March 1, 1967, regarding the strength and merit of District Attorney Garrison's charges against him. More specifically, to learn whether an FBI agent visited and interviewed Mrs. Artrel Kirk Trelford, of Houston, Texas, concerning her social contacts with Shaw subsequent to her purchase of his property at 525 Duaphine Street, New Orleans.
6. To determine the whereabouts of Lee Odom, who vanished with the \$3,000 proceeds from a bullfight he had promoted for the July 4, 1967, Optimists' Club of Irving, Texas. Odom's last known address was P. O. Box 174, Irving. And to learn if the FBI had investigated Odom after Garrison announced that he had found in Shaw's personal notebook the same number as he claimed could be decoded from a number in Oswald's notebook. Shaw has claimed that the number in his notebook is that of a post office box used by Odom for a business he previously operated.
7. To determine the whereabouts of Jack L. Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald during the period September 1 - September 5, 1963. More specifically, to determine whether either of them could have been in the Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge during that period.
8. To determine the financial situation of Lee Harvey Oswald during the month of September, 1963: i. e., when and where he cashed his regular unemployment checks.
9. To determine the whereabouts of George Senator, who was Jack Ruby's roommate in November, 1963.

10. To ascertain the FBI's willingness to conduct an investigation of Perry Raymond Russo for its psychological effect alone--i. e., to "shake up" Russo so that he would repudiate his allegedly perjurious testimony given at the preliminary examination March 14-17, 1967.

Mr. Kossack made direct answers to only two of these requests: he stated that the "rap sheets" referred to in paragraph 2 are covered by a statutory restriction, and may be distributed only to persons associated with law enforcement agencies; and he advised that Russo would be interrogated (paragraph 9) only in connection with an investigation of a violation of Federal law within the FBI's investigative jurisdiction.

Messrs. Dymond and Wegmann speculated that they might file a complaint with United States Attorney Louis LaCour stating that Shaw's civil rights have been violated through a conspiracy by Garrison, Dr. Esmond Fatter and Perry Raymond Russo, to present false testimony at Shaw's preliminary examination, and through such a complaint draw the FBI into the matter and prompt an interrogation of Russo. Mr. Kossack referred them to Mr. John Doar, Assistant Attorney General, or Mr. Robert Owen, First Assistant, Civil Rights Division, for further comment on the federal civil rights statutes.

After speculating that they might seek a change of venue to another Louisiana parish, and commenting on the alleged chronic intoxication of Judge Haggerty and the apparent liaison between Judge O'Hara and the Teamsters, the two attorneys left at 12:15 p. m.