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DATE: 11-14-2017

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 6/8/2015

Agency Information

AGENCY: FBI
RECORD NUMBER: 124-90134-10017
RECORD SERIES: HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER: CR 62-92991-43X

Document Information

ORIGINATOR: DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FROM: DOJ/CRIM
TO: HQ
TITLE:

DATE: 03/21/1952
PAGES: 12

SUBJECTS:
EDWARD PIERPONT MORGAN
[Restricted]

DOCUMENT TYPE: PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION: Confidential
RESTRICTIONS: Consulted
CURRENT STATUS: Withhold
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 09/25/1998

OPENING CRITERIA: APPROVAL OF DOJ

COMMENTS: MEMO, REFERRED TO DOJ

DATE: 11-14-2017

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
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Mr. Clegg	
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Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
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Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : James M. McInerney, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Lois Paula Christensen
Bribery

DATE: March 21, 1952
JMM:JFC:cd
146-41-15-161

CONFIDENTIAL

Mrs. Roy Christensen

Reference is made to your memoranda of February 14, March 1, and March 18, 1952, relative to the subject matter. You state that in November, 1951 the subject was arrested in Marin County, California on a bad check charge, and subsequently made lengthy statements to the County District Attorney concerning her alleged association with the Walter Butler Corporation, and certain Government officials, transcripts of which statements (attached to your memorandum of February 14, 1952) you advise were furnished to the Bureau by Senator Richard M. Nixon.

As you are aware, some of the activities involved in Mrs. Christensen's statement to the Marin County, California officials were the subjects of investigation in 1950, the results of which were incorporated in the reports of Agent Milton L. Snyder, made at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 17 and November 8, 1950, and the report of Agent Rosser L. Nalls, made at Washington, D.C. on October 19, 1950. Based upon the information submitted at that time it was concluded that the subject's described conduct was not in violation of any Federal law, and you were advised on November 29, 1950 that no further investigation of the matter was desired at that time.

In view, however, of the present allegations made by the subject about officials of the Butler Corporation, as well as various Members of Congress and Government officials, it is desired that further investigation be made to determine whether there is evidence of the substantive violation, or a conspiracy to violate, any Federal law, particularly 18 U.S.C. 201, 202, 204, 205, 216, 218, 432 and 433.

In conducting the interviews involved in this requested investigation, consideration should be given to the questionable reputation of the subject for moral conduct, integrity, truth and veracity. The departmental files reveal the following background information about the subject:

Lois Paula Christensen, nee Lois Paula Lauckner, was born in Auburn, Michigan, on September 12, 1919, the youngest of three children. Her mother states that as a child the subject was headstrong, untruthful, self-willed and bent upon having her own way. The subject attended high school in Saginaw, Michigan from 1934 until May, 1938 when she quit without graduating. Upon inquiry, an official of the high school, by letter of December 4, 1941, stated of Lois Lauckner:

*new to Ladd's - McInerney
referred 4/4/52*

*Set to W70
cc S. A.
Minneapolis
4-2-52
JCL*

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62-92991-*AB*
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Rosen
Stokes

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While she attended our high school, Lois was considered very silly, boy crazy, and overly mature physically. She was dishonest and unreliable. Her excuses for absences were usually quite fantastic. It was rumored around the school that she indulged in liquor and drugs so that we were not sorry when she left school.

According to the Parole Report of Agent J.P. Gleason, dated January 2, 1942, at New York City, the subject advised that during the period February, 1938 to February, 1939, she carried on an affair with a married attorney of Niagara Falls, New York. In January, 1939 she was hospitalized in Saginaw, Michigan and received medical treatment for complications resulting from an abortion. In February, 1939 she married one Carl Bose in Indiana, whom she claims to have left after three weeks, obtaining a divorce in September, 1939.

Upon interview, subject stated that following her divorce in 1939, she renewed relations with the attorney in Niagara Falls and became pregnant around December, 1939. It appears from Lauckner's statement that the attorney was fearful of his reputation, and that he paid her \$10,000 on condition that she would never see him again. The subject states that she accepted the \$10,000 and went to Detroit, Michigan, where she gave birth to a daughter in a private hospital on August 28, 1940, and thereafter arranged through the attending physician for the child's adoption.

While in ~~Detroit~~, Michigan the subject states she met an attorney by the name of ~~"Vince."~~ She says that she moved to New York City in September, 1940, and thereafter lived at an apartment hotel, during which time "Vince" regularly gave her \$150. per month. Subject states that she never had a steady job and never tried to obtain one during the time she was in New York City. She admits that ~~during~~ December, 1940 and January, 1941, she was employed by ~~Polly Adler~~, operator of a house of prostitution in New York City, which employment has been verified by a co-worker. She also claims to have worked in New York during this period as a model and night club entertainer, but according to her probation report did not supply any verifiable information of legitimate employment.

During the spring of 1941 some of the employees at the apartment-

hotel where subject was living concluded that she was possibly a call girl because of her drinking activities and the number of men who visited her rooms:

She was described by some of the tenants in the building as a girl who used foul language and who was constantly endeavoring to interest men in her. Investigation at a number of bars and grilles frequented by Lauckner indicated that she was a general nuisance, a terrible liar, and a thorough tramp. She was also described as being noisy and objectionable after drinking and it appears from the number of different stories which she told that she was an inveterate and consummate liar.

It is reported that of this period "she tells fantastic stories of being wined and dined in 'cafe society,' of meeting an elite crowd that knew gay times. According to her account, life was a series of cocktail parties, penthouse gatherings, and men waiting to serve her pleasure. *** In order to give herself notoriety, she identified herself with the German sea-raider in the last war, Count Von Lauckner, claiming to be his cousin. (All connection with the Count has been disqualified by subject's sister who maintains that this was but another of subject's lies in order to gain publicity.)"

Subject claimed that from "Vince" she learned sufficient legal jargon to enable her to talk in a lawyer's vernacular. She used various aliases during this period, and under the name of Carol Hille began representing herself to be an attorney in the Lands Division of the Department of Justice. In June of 1941 subject was badly sunburned while at the beach and upon returning to her apartment fell and injured her hip. She was hospitalized at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York for a period of eight days. Upon being presented a hospital bill of \$160.69 she gave a bad check in payment and induced the hospital officials to accept it upon the representation that she was an attorney in the Lands Division of the Department of Justice. Upon discharge from the hospital subject went to Saratoga, New York, where she was arrested on August 21, 1941 for impersonating a Federal officer. It is reported that from the time of her arrest until the date of her trial on October 23, 1941, the subject took advantage of the circumstances to obtain publicity for herself. She was convicted in the Southern District of New York, on three counts of impersonating a Federal officer and was sentenced by Judge Grover M. Moscowitz, on October 30, 1941, to be imprisoned for one year and a day in the Federal Reformatory for Women, at Alderson, West Virginia, and to be placed on probation thereafter for a period of three years.

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The following comments are made in the pre-sentence probation report submitted to Judge Moscovitz:

Defendant herself admits having indulged in promiscuous sex activities, but claims to have been "discreet" in her choice of "customers." Defendant also reluctantly admits that she drank heavily, but is inclined to look upon this as part of her assets as a "glamor girl." Defendant is completely egocentric. She considers herself beautiful and "photogenic" and is proud of her attempts to live "dangerously." Her present offense she feels is unimportant except as it contributes to her publicity as a desirable figure in so-called "cafe society." She appears to have no intention of altering this sordid way of life unless authoritative means are used. **** She drank heavily, indulged in promiscuous sex activities and committed this offense with no thought of consequences to herself, to her family and upon others whom she involved. She appears to be utterly conscienceless and completely without remorse. *** Defendant is obviously not material for probation. She is in need of medical and social treatment in a controlled environment.

Following conviction the United States Attorney submitted the usual report on convicted prisoners in which he stated that he regarded the subject as an habitual criminal and that neither he nor the Judge considered parole advisable in the case.

Subject was admitted to the Federal Reformatory for Women at Alderson, West Virginia, on November 13, 1941, and in her Admission Report it is stated:

The subject gives the impression of one who has been a problem to her family since childhood; who has been willful, and has deliberately lived a daring life. She has projected her wilfull thinking into situations, and has wished to identify herself with social and professional circles. Self-centered, untruthful, egocentric, independent, unscrupulous and an impressionist. Subject can unmask, can discard her mannerisms and affectations, and be an unassuming, pleasant person. She has warped ideas on social conditions and needs insight regarding her conduct, morals, and standards. This sentence has come as a bitter experience yet the publicity and notoriety has been but a part of the thrilling adventure;

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she fails to comprehend the seriousness of her offense. Until subject realizes the necessity of working legitimately, can overcome her passion for telling untruths, and the desire for decent standards is aroused, it is felt that she will continue being a social parasite.

On January 15, 1942 the subject made application for parole to which she became eligible under the law on March 1, 1942, and after a hearing on February 4, 1942 by the Parole Board her application was denied on March 6, 1942.

In a Progress Report to the Parole Board, dated January 31, 1942, it is stated:

Subject has been a problem since admission. Her many untruths and fantastic stories regarding herself have made her very unpopular with the inmate groups. Correction makes no impression and she profits little by reprimand. Her desire for attention, both from the girls as well as the officers, makes her most annoying at times. She is affable, has a sense of humor, and can be pleasant when she drops her many affectations. She has projected her wilful thinking into situations, and has wished to identify herself with society and professional circles for so long, that she is unable to shed this cloak of imagery.

In a Special Progress Report dated May 21, 1942 it is stated:

She tells such big tales that some girl is always calling her down and then there is an argument to settle. No one in the dining room wishes to eat with her because of the tall tales she tells of her past experiences. She is courteous to the officers, but this is merely on the surface. She is not popular with the group because of her concentrated efforts to make out that she is so much better than anyone else.

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In a Release Progress Report dated August 13, 1942 it is stated:

1. Custodial: Continued assignment in the Dairy until July 19, 1942. Did not do satisfactory work and because of her inefficiency was moved from one department to another, but on every occasion it was still like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. She is capable of doing good work, but is so enamored by her own estimated good looks and pretty hands that her work is done in a neglectful and haphazard way. When reprimanded always has her alibis fixed up, which in her own opinion is sufficient to explain her failure. In the cottage she is an unstable type, who cannot be depended upon to perform any of her duties without the maximum amount of supervision and direction. She does not keep a neat room and is usually untidy about her personal appearance. She misquotes both officers and inmates, thus often causing friction. Cannot be depended upon for self direction, much less to assume responsibility for others. Warnings, reprimands and other forms of discipline slide right off her back as easily as the proverbial "water off a duck's back." She typifies the ogomaniac.

2. Social: **** It is not believed that this sentence has made much of an impression on subject. She does not like to work and will hope to find some man to support her so that it will not be necessary for her to work. It is not expected that she will ever make a satisfactory adjustment to society and that she will again be in difficulty with the law.

3. Training: --- Because of subject's difficult personality, it was necessary to excuse her from the formal classes which had been assigned.

4. Psychiatric: Patient is a psychopath utterly incapable of handling her emotional reactions. Possesses no judgment and her life will be one difficulty after another.

The subject became eligible under the law for conditional release from confinement on August 19, 1942, at which time she moved to her mother's home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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Available information indicates that after her release from prison in August, 1942, the subject lived at the home of her parents until October, 1942, at which time she was employed as an inspector and later as a tool designer by the Detroit Tool Engineering Company, Detroit, Michigan, engaged in the performance of Government contracts. While so employed, it appears that she met ~~Roy Christensen~~, an army engineer, assigned to work at the company; that the subject married Christensen in 1944 and shortly thereafter accompanied him to California where he was assigned to Hamilton Field, California. After the war subject returned with her husband to Chicago, Illinois in 1946, where Mr. Christensen was employed in the engineering department of the Socony-Vacuum Company.

The allegations in the testimony of the subject given on November 30, 1951 and January 19, 1952, to the Marin County, California officials, as to which investigation is requested, are summarized as follows. In formulating your investigation, however, it is desired that recourse also be had to the testimony itself, and exhibits.

In April, 1950, because of her connections in Washington, D.C. subject was made president of the National Management Corporation of Chicago, a holding company formed for the purpose of procuring Government construction contracts, and in June, 1950 she came to Washington for the purpose of securing such contracts. She heard that a clique of leading Senators in Congress, including ~~Brien McMahon, Scott Lucas, Millard E. Tydings, and Tom Connally~~, together with ~~Gordon Dean~~, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, controlled the award of contracts for the construction of a proposed hydrogen bomb plant to cost \$245,000,000, and that the entree to this clique was through ~~Ed P. Morgan~~, member of the law firm of ~~Welch, Mott and Morgan~~, of Washington, D.C., who was then serving as general counsel to the Tydings Investigating Committee. She retained the firm of ~~Welch, Mott and Morgan~~ as legal counsel, at an annual fee of \$20,000, in order to secure hydrogen bomb plant construction contracts, and ~~Morgan~~ told her in the presence of ~~Dick Paxson~~ and ~~Vincent Welch~~, his partner, that contracts could be obtained by paying off \$100,000 to \$150,000 to the "boys on the hill." She returned to Chicago with ~~Dude Paschen~~, her associate, to lay before the officers of National Management Corporation the matter of opening a Washington office, but the proposal was turned down because of the prohibitive cost.

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She returned to Washington, D.C. in July, 1950, and Morgan told her he was glad National Management did not approve her plans as she could form her own corporation and represent the Butler Corporation of Minneapolis, Minnesota, headed by Robert Butler, the Ambassador to Cuba, which company was interested in securing atomic energy contracts. Morgan told her not to worry about financing as that could be arranged through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which arrangement was later confirmed to her by the Chairman of the R.F.C., in the presence of Morgan. In Morgan's office, in the presence of Dick Paxson, she then called the Chicago firms affiliated with National Management, and obtained their consent to forming her own corporation, such conversations being preserved on a tape recorder.

Morgan and a former Bureau agent took her to Senator Tydings' office around August 6, 1950; the Senator was told of her interest in getting contracts for atomic energy construction and said that he would be happy to be of any assistance he could, and his office made an appointment for her to see a Mr. Williams, head of construction for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Around August 11, 1950 Ed Morgan and Senator Brien McMahon took subject to lunch at the Occidental Restaurant, in Washington, D.C., where they discussed the award of atomic energy construction contracts to the Butler Corporation. Senator McMahon stated he could be helpful because he was on the Senate Atomic Energy Committee and his former law partner, Gordon Dean, was chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, who he felt would look favorably on the Butler Corporation.

The necessary papers were then prepared and Christensen Corporation was organized under the laws of Delaware on August 18, 1950. Shortly thereafter she telephoned the Butler Corporation in Minneapolis, but Robert Butler was not in; thirty minutes later Robert Butler called her from Cuba and said he would immediately send a representative from Minneapolis to Washington to see her. That evening "Andy" (Longbotham), chief engineer of Butler Corporation, met her in the offices of Welch, Mott and Morgan, at which time Paxson, and Welch were also present.

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Morgan told "Andy" the ~~Christensen Corporation~~ could be instrumental in getting Government contracts for Butler Corporation and indicated that because of his dealings with Senators McMahon, Tydings and Connally, no difficulty would be experienced. That evening a further conference was held between the same parties, attended also by a Butler Corporation attorney from Virginia near Washington, D.C., who was also a newspaper publisher and bank president. The Butler attorney remarked that subject would have to make large campaign contributions to the Senators involved, and also discussed the fee to be paid him. Shortly thereafter the subject went to the Butler Corporation offices in Minneapolis and discussed the matter with ~~Robert Butler~~, his son Walter Butler, "Andy" (Longbotham) and ~~E. A. Eriksen~~, treasurer of the Butler Corporation, as a result of which a contract was entered into between Christensen Corporation and Butler Corporation under which Christensen was to act as Washington representative for Butler in consideration of 10% of Butler's net profits on Government contracts procured, plus an additional 5% for expenses. Robert Butler told her, "how you buy your groceries, I don't care at all; that is your business, you are there to represent me and to do it."

On August 18, 1950 the subject drew a draft on the Merchandise National Bank of Chicago in the amount of \$20,000, payable to Welch, Mott and Morgan for legal fees. While she did not have sufficient funds on deposit at that time to cover the draft, the bank had been advised that a \$30,000 deposit was on its way, which amount had been loaned to her by a friend. The draft was not put through for collection and she later cancelled it. Around this same time she also entered into negotiations for a lease of office space in the World Center Building, Washington, D.C., at an annual rental of \$6,600, for which she gave a check but later recalled it when the proposed deal fell through.

In the latter part of August, 1950 she met Robert Butler and Ed Morgan in her suite at the Mayflower Hotel, at which time Morgan informed her that she was to be the pay-off man. The pay-off to Senators Connally, Tydings and Lucas was to

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be made by the Butler Corporation through Christensen Corporation to Welch, Mott and Morgan, and the law firm in turn was to issue stock in a gas well corporation controlled by Morgan to the Senators. This arrangement was confirmed by Vincent Welch to Dick Paxson, general manager of Christensen Corporation.

On August 31, 1950, subject gave a cocktail party in her suite at the Mayflower Hotel, attended by Senators Brien McMahon and Tom Connally, together with Paxson, Welch, Mott and Morgan, and their wives, Stuart Symington, Simon Kaplan, Jeff Neiff, a Hearst reporter, and others.

Around September 1, 1950 the subject met with Robert Butler, Butler's secretary, Morgan and Mott in her suite at the Mayflower Hotel for the purpose of confirming the fee to be paid to the Christensen Corporation, at which time Morgan said he had started the ball rolling and that it would be just a matter of a couple of weeks until the contracts could be signed.

Between September 1 and 11, 1950, Senator McMahon mailed to subject a memorandum at her hotel suite, in which he summarized the procedure to be followed by Butler Corporation in securing Government contracts on the hydrogen plant project (included as an exhibit to the transcript of subject's testimony).

On September 10 or 11, 1950, subject met Robert Butler in his suite at the Mayflower Hotel for the purpose of securing brochures to substantiate the construction responsibility of Butler Corporation, at which time she gave him a memorandum, dated September 11, 1950, setting out information to be supplied to her by Butler Corporation (included with the transcript of subject's testimony as an exhibit). Butler, his secretary, G.A. Meyer, superintendent of Butler Corporation, and subject's secretary, Dee Dew, were present.

Between September 11 and 13, 1950, subject was told by Morgan that it would be necessary for her to make campaign contributions to the Senators involved, and she decided not to go through with the transaction. Paxson tried to persuade

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her to continue in the deal, but on September 13 she telephoned the Butler office in Minneapolis that she was withdrawing. The following day she received a telegram from Butler Corporation stating that all connections between it and Christensen Corporation were severed. Subject was later informed by Paxson and Dee Dew that the deal was ultimately consummated and the pay-off made through the Virginia attorney for Butler Corporation, mentioned above. She stated that Paul Leach, a newspaper reporter in Washington, told her that he knew there was a tie-up between Senators Brien McMahon and Tydings with Les Biffle, Stuart Symington, Robert Butler, and the law firm of Welch, Mott and Morgan.

The investigation heretofore conducted by the Bureau in 1950, indicates that the allegations by the subject are completely unfounded; that R.G. Paxson, the law firm of Welch, Mott and Morgan, and officials of Butler Corporation, were led to believe the subject was the head of a responsible engineering company and that they promptly severed connections with her when, after a brief association, they found she was a "phony"; that she never met or had any transaction with any of the Members of Congress involved in her allegations; that according to reports the subject was a "blackmailer" intent upon selling her story to the Republican Party, press columnists, radio commentators, or anyone else who would buy it.

In the light of the background of the subject as summarized above, and the investigation already conducted by the Bureau, it is apparent that the allegations in her statements to the officials of Marin County, California are entitled to no credence unless supported by credible corroborative evidence. Because of the serious and detailed charges made by the subject, however, it is desired that a full investigation into her accusations be made as expeditiously as possible. The persons implicated by the subject in her statements to the Marin County, California officials should be interviewed. In view of the previous investigation conducted, it is believed the present inquiry may be initially limited to ascertaining the existence of corroborative evidence in support of the subject's charges. It is suggested that the Members of Congress involved should be initially questioned only as to whether or not they knew the subject, and whether or not they were ever asked to intercede in any way on behalf of her or the Christensen Company with any Government agency. Where any corroboration of subject's charges appears, of course, the investigation of such phase should be pursued without limitation to its logical conclusion.

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Although it is not requested at this time, the Bureau may, if deemed advisable, interview the subject at any stage of the requested investigation.