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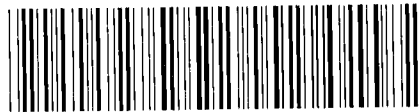
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PRESERVE FOR SELECT
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 INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

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 PENDING LITIGATION

See also Nos. 108, 129, 167, 396 210

217
 219
 104
 115
 277B
 277A
 167

Allegations of a possible conspiracy in the Sirhan B. Sirhan investigation were reported to this unit by Peter R. Noyes, a newscaster and writer for Station KNXT-TV, Channel 2. Listed numerically but not necessarily in sequence the allegations were:

ALLEGATIONS:

- #1. Michael McCowan is connected with a group of Arabs in the valley known as Ali-Baba and the Forty Thieves. The head of this group is an Arab named David Kassab, who was sent to prison on a land swindle. David Kassab employed Los Angeles Police Officers Harold Latham and other policemen on these land swindles. The Kassabs are somehow connected with the Sirhans.
- #2. Dr. Stanley Dubrin is connected with the Kassab clan.
- #3. Dr. Dubrin operates a medical clinic in the Big "A" Store in Canoga Park. Dubrin works for Joe M. Arnoff, who owns this building.
- #4. The Kassabs were working for an organization known as "El-Furate." The head of this organization is Dr. Dubrin, whose true last name is Kassab.

- #5. Joe M. Arnoff, a friend of Dubrin's, operates an office at 280 South Beverly Drive, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, under mysterious circumstances. The name of the company listed in this suite is the "Empire Oil Company."
- #6. Arnoff is associated with the Kassabs.
- #7. Somehow connected with Arnoff is Gerald Chase, who is also mentioned in the Councilman Tom Shepard bribery case.
- #8. Chase, Arnoff, and James Braden are all doing business at 290 South Beverly Drive, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, under mysterious circumstances with questionable corporations. Braden is the real head of this office, while Gerald Chase only fronts for him.
- #9. Braden is connected with the Kassabs.
- #10. Sirhad had a right-wing political view and was somehow connected with Dr. McIntire, Edgar Eugene Bradley, Dr. Swift, Dennis Mower and Keith D. Gilbert, all of whom are members of the Minutemen Society.
- #11. The American Council of Churches, a right-wing organization, is affiliated with the different churches that the Sirhan family has attended in the past.
- #12. Vincent Di Pierro, the maitre d' at the Ambassador Hotel is actually Victor Emanuel Pereira, an ex-convict and friend of Jim Braden.

- #13. Dr. S. M. El-Farra, the Medical Director for the Columbia Broadcasting System, is a member of the Al Fateh terrorist organization.
- #14. Braden is actually the person that the New Orleans District Attorney, Jim Garrison, is trying to question regarding the alleged conspiracy to kill President John F. Kennedy. Edgar Eugene Bradley's name was mistakenly substituted for Jim Braden who has used the alias of Eugene Bradley.
- #15. Several unpublished photographs, taken shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, depict two males being led away from the Texas School Book Depository Building by two policemen. These two subjects resemble James Earl Ray and Jim Braden.
- #16. Jim Braden is connected with the persons involved in the "Friars" cheating scandal.
- #17. Braden is somehow connected with the Beverly Ridges Estates which is controlled by the Mafia.
- #18. The assassination of Senator Kennedy was Mafia inspired. The principals in this conspiracy were the Kassabs, Jim Braden and the Mafia. The Mafia wanted Kennedy out of the way because of the pressure they and the Mafia group received from the then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.
- #19. Jack Fox, co-author with Noyes, of a book yet to be written about the assassination of Senator Kennedy, theorizes that

Michael McCowan is the person that has been placed in the courtroom by "Al Fateh" in order to keep Sirhan from talking.

#20. Sirhan, according to Fox, is under a post-hypnotic trance and is controlled by McCowan.

#21. Additionally, Fox believes that the killing of Senator Robert Kennedy was international conspiracy by the Arab world because of the Senator's stand with Israel.

MICHAEL MCCOWAN - DAVID KASSAB INVESTIGATION

In early February, 1969, Peter R. Noyes, a newscaster and writer for KNXT Television, Los Angeles, contacted this Department with a series of allegations regarding Sirhan B. Sirhan and possible conspiracies involving right wing political and religious organizations; the Mafia; "Al Fatah," an Arab terrorist organization, and Michael McCowan a former Los Angeles Police Officer and chief defense investigator for Sirhan. In several instances these individuals were allegedly linked to one another to form an intricate conspiracy which ultimately would reach Sirhan and a plot to kill Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

An intensive investigation was conducted into each of the allegations. It was established that the connections promulgated by Noyes were extremely tenuous. The investigation found no evidence which indicated the existence of a conspiracy to kill Senator Robert F. Kennedy, or that Sirhan was involved with any of the parties except members of his defense team and those only in their official capacity.

The following is an account of each allegation made by Mr. Noyes and the conclusions reached regarding their applicability to the Kennedy assassination. The investigation at one point became involved in alleged ties between J.F.K. and R.F.K. assassinations. This aspect of such a conspiracy allegation has appeared several other times during this investigation and was generally put forward by authors or newsmen seeking to sell a sensational story with the assistance of information gathered by law

enforcement agencies. It should be noted that Peter Noyes admittedly has been retained by a publisher to write a book regarding the Robert F. Kennedy assassination and his theories about a potential conspiracy. The F.B.I. has been apprised of information possibly involving the assassination of John F. Kennedy and is checking their records to determine if some of the findings of this investigation would be of assistance to them.

Michael McCowan and David Kassab

It was alleged that Michael McCowan, chief defense investigator, was involved in a 1962, land swindle scheme in the San Fernando Valley. McCowan, then a Los Angeles Police Officer, assisted another police officer, H. Latham, in dealings with a real estate salesman, David Kassab. Kassab, an Arab and leader of an Arab family group known as "Ali-Baba and The Forty Thieves," was subsequently convicted of Grand Theft and sent to prison. In the scheme, McCowan and several other officers applied for new home loans with Kassab as salesman. Each would receive from \$75 to \$200 for each purchase, and by manipulation of trust deeds Kassab would resell the homes at inflated prices. During this scheme McCowan was allegedly cheated of \$2,000. by Kassab and McCowan allegedly used strong arm tactics over a period of several months to regain his losses. No further business or social association can be shown between McCowan and Kassab after 1963. McCowan subsequently resigned from the Los Angeles Police Department in lieu of disciplinary action in 1965 after being arrested for theft and tampering with the United States mail.

Link to Conspiracy

The link to a conspiracy must now take a very complex road through several persons. Several assumptions were necessarily made by Mr. Noyes when he put forth his theory. Kassab was at one time a partner in the American Nile Corporation, a real estate company, with a Stanley Dubrin, M.D. Both were known to associate socially and in business ventures; and, they were connected in a scheme involving the fraudulent use of credit cards. Dubrin was also arrested, but not tried, on an abortion charge. He was also arrested on a grand theft charge similar to the land scheme for which Kassab was convicted.

In 1968, Dr. Dubrin rented office space at the Big "A" store in Canoga Park, California. The building was owned by a Joe M. Arnoff who was a close friend of Dubrin, who also was the Arnoff family physician. The Big "A" store subsequently went out of business.

Arnoff Association with Kennedy Assassination Figure

Peter Noyes contended that Arnoff had later taken office space, under suspicious circumstances, in an office building at 280 South Beverly Drive, Suite 402, in Beverly Hills. The name of the company in Suite 402, was Empire Oil Company owned by a James Braden.

James Braden allegedly was connected with the investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This aspect of this investigation will be discussed at length later. The F.B.I. has taken over the completion of the Braden investigation.

The investigation revealed that Suite 402, is occupied by the accounting firm of Chase, Bierman and Dunn, Certified Public Accountant's. Gerald Chase at one time handled the tax accounts of Joe M. Arnoff but terminated his business association with him in 1965, and presently is suing him for payment of monies due the tax firm. Arnoff's name was left on the marquee of the office building by mistake after he severed relationships with Chase. Chase stated that he and Arnoff were never close friends.

James Braden became a client of Chase's in 1964, before Arnoff and Chase severed business relationship. Braden's name, like Arnoff's, was placed on the marquee of the office building as a service to Chase's clients. Braden has never occupied office space in the building. However, he uses Chase's office to receive telephone messages and mail. Chase stated that Arnoff and Braden were not business associates nor did he believe that they knew each other. Their tax account work gave no record that they did business together.

The lack of an association between Arnoff and Braden is critical to Peter Noyes' allegation. Without a reasonable contact between Braden and Arnoff it is difficult to establish a connection with Dubrin, Kassab and eventually Michael McCowan. There was no reasonable connection indicated.

Dubrin Connection with Arab Terrorist Group

Peter Noyes suggested that Dr. Dubrin was the head of a local organization known as "El Furate" and hinted that this phrase was another name for "Al Fatah," the Arab Terrorist group.

Noyes also reported that Dubrin's name was actually Kassab. Investigators determined that the words "El Furate" meant "The River Euphrates" which Kassab intended as another name for the American Nile Corporation, of which he was a co-owner with Dubrin. Dubrin's name is not Kassab and he is not a member of the Kassab family. Dubrin is Jewish by birth and Kassab is an Arab of Jewish faith. Neither have any known association with the "Al Fatah."

Arnoff Connection With Kassab

To further establish that there could be a link between Braden and Kassab, Noyes alleged that there might be an association between Arnoff and Kassab. In an interview, Arnoff denied having any business or social acquaintance with David Kassab, or his family. Arnoff has been introduced to David Kassab by Dr. Dubrin. No other evidence of a potential connection between Kassab and Arnoff could be found.

Gerald Chase and Shepard Bribery Case

It was then alleged that Gerald Chase, who did tax work for Arnoff, was connected with the bribery indictment of Councilman Tom Shepard. This allegation was basically true since Chase was mentioned during the indictment proceedings and he did receive five percent of a corporation involved in the land sale of which the bribery indictment was the center of controversy. Arnoff received 45 percent of the stock in the same transaction. However, this connection did not establish a tie between Arnoff and Braden.

James Braden

Investigation into the activities of James Braden revealed that he had an extensive police record, that he had been involved in several confidence schemes and that he had served time in both Federal and State prisons. It was learned that Braden had been the head of an oil company named, Empire Oil Corporation. Braden was also in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, and was questioned by that jurisdiction after being arrested in a building in which he didn't belong. That structure was located across the street from the Dallas School Book Depository building from which the shots were fired at President John F. Kennedy. The speculation by Peter Noyes suggested that James Braden was actually the man being sought by District Attorney James Garrison of New Orleans instead of Edgar Eugene Bradley of North Hollywood, California.

Because of this possible connection between Braden and the John F. Kennedy assassination, Noyes hypothesized that Braden somehow established himself in a conspiracy through Arnoff, Dubrin and Kassab to Kill Robert Kennedy. Investigation revealed that the ties between the above persons were not sufficient to warrant support for Noyes' theory.

Particularly lacking in this hypothesis is any real connection between Sirhan and any of the other participants. The only known tie is that of Michael McCowan. There was no evidence to suggest that McCowan had ever had a contact with Sirhan prior to his employment as defense investigator. In addition, McCowan's association with the others was limited to Kassab and had ceased

after 1963. McCowan stated in an interview that he had had no recent contact with Kassab. Noyes' hypothesis was based upon the premise that McCowan was in some way involved in the assassination conspiracy and that he was hired as defense investigator to keep an eye on Sirhan. Therefore, the ties between McCowan and Kassab ultimately must be tied with James Braden and the John F. Kennedy assassination.

The investigation in no way supports such a tenuous premise and in fact the alleged ties between several of the parties are non-existent or superficial at best. No tie with Sirhan can be established, nor does Sirhan's personal history suggest possible ties with any of these participants.

In connection with Braden, several other allegations were suggested. One alleged that Vincent Di Pierro, an Ambassador Hotel employee and witness in the Sirhan trial, was actually named Victor E. Pereira, an ex-convict and associate of Braden's. This allegation was disproven.

In suggesting that Braden was at the scene of John F. Kennedy's assassination Noyes directed investigators to several unpublished photographs which showed two men being led away from the Texas Book Depository by two policemen. These two men allegedly resembled James Braden and James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Martin Luther King. James Earl Ray was in prison from March, 1960, until his escape in April, 1967. A comparison of the photographs and pictures of Braden revealed no resemblance.

Mafia Connection With A Conspiracy

Peter Noyes proposed several unrelated hypotheses with regard to James Braden and a possible tie with Sirhan and the assassination. Noyes' primary allegation required that there be some ultimate tie with McCowan. Noyes contacted investigators of the Department several times on the premise that he was hoping to assist the investigation. In this regard he would suggest various options which he felt might uncover a conspiracy. He advised investigators that he had "penetrated" the defense investigation staff through one of its members. Though he declined to name him he hinted broadly that the man was Robert Kaiser, the writer originally retained to write an inside story on Sirhan for a national magazine.

As the investigation progressed Noyes proposed that Braden had been somehow tied to the Friars Club card game scandal and in a real estate development controlled by the Mafia. From this premise Noyes conceived that the Robert Kennedy assassination was inspired by the Mafia and that Braden and David Kassab were the principals. Noyes felt that the Mafia would want Robert F. Kennedy killed because of the alleged pressure brought by Robert F. Kennedy on the Mafia while he was the Attorney General.

As with the potential Arab conspiracy allegation, investigators set out to establish the extent of Mafia involvement with Braden and Kassab and ultimately to prove or disprove any Mafia involvement with Sirhan.

Investigation revealed that both David Kassab and James Braden

have possible Mafia connections. The investigation of Kassab revealed that he had at one time been involved in a scheme to swindle a group of U.C.L.A. students during a European travel tour. An associate of Kassabs, George Dimitrovich, was subsequently convicted with Kassab for the swindle. Intelligence reports indicate that there was a tie between Joe Sica, a known Mafia figure, and Dimitrovich; and, though it was never proven, it was suspected that Sica received a part of the money taken in this scheme. The only other possible known connection between the Sica family and Kassab was a mutual acquaintance between them and Karl Hoogioian, a member of the Board of Directors of the San Fernando Trash Collection Association. This potential tie was found to be nothing more than a mutual acquaintance. This is the extent of Kassab's known association with the Mafia.

Braden has a slightly more extensive connection with the Mafia. While in prison, Braden corresponded with Anthony Smalldone, a known Mafia figure, regarding several small oil ventures in which Braden was interested.

Braden was also a business associate of Victor E. Pereira. Both were acquainted with the Smalldone brothers. Pereira and Braden had been involved in several swindles, one involving a large sum of money from one of Pereira's wives. In addition, Braden was shown to have had some association with a, Arthur Clark, Sr., now deceased, who was a one time member of the Detroit Purple Gang. This constituted the extent of Braden's known Mafia connections.

Except for the probable obvious connection between the Sica brothers and the Smalldone brothers in the overall network of the Mafia, the tie between Kassab and Braden within the Mafia itself is not well supported. As was previously shown, the tie between Kassab and Braden through Gerald Chase, Joe Arnoff and Dr. Dubrin was not well founded. The connection which is attempted within the Mafia must also rely on the strength of the other relationship and this was not found. In addition, the tie must ultimately hinge upon the Kassab-McCowan relationship which has been shown to have been weak.

If the assumption continues that McCowan was to be the inside contact with Sirhan, the existence of a previous association between Sirhan and any of the parties, including McCowan, must be shown. As discussed earlier, this relationship did not exist.

As shown earlier, Victor E. Pereira and Vincent Di Pierro, the trial witness, were two different persons. The potential tie from this angle was therefore broken.

Peter Noyes also learned of information which linked defense attorney Russell Parsons with the Mafia. The investigation substantiated his claim and revealed that Parsons had represented the Sica brothers in some legal matters dating back as far as the mid-1950's. This tie with the Mafia removes the necessity for a complicated series of contacts to Sirhan through Braden to McCowan. However, the same requirement is necessary to link the Mafia with Sirhan through Parsons or McCowan directly. That

requirement would be some prior association between Sirhan and any of the parties, especially McCowan or Parsons. This relationship has not been shown.

It should be pointed out that any conspiracy theory must show that Sirhan was sufficiently influenced to commit the crime. In order to exert such an influence the conspirator would require more than a superficial or chance relationship with Sirhan. The extensive background investigation into Sirhan's history does not suggest that such a relationship ever occurred or existed.

The investigation of James Braden, the Kassabs, and the Mafia was concluded at this point. No evidence was discovered which would strengthen the complicated hypothesis which Noyes had created. In fact, the investigation tended to weaken and disprove the allegation. However, due to the potential truth in the discovery that James Braden may have been the man wanted in the Garrison investigation in New Orleans, the F.B.I., was given all information on this matter. The investigation regarding Braden, his oil interests, Louisiana oil interests and the John F. Kennedy assassination is not within the jurisdiction of this Department.

RIGHT-WING CONSPIRACY ALLEGATION

At another point in the investigation of the allegations made by Peter Noyes, he constructed another set of circumstances. In brief his premise was that the Minutemen, an ultra-right wing group, formed a conspiracy to kill Robert F. Kennedy and

that they could be linked with Sirhan. Noyes first hypothesized that the Garrison investigation of Edgar Eugene Bradley involved the entire spectrum of the ultra-right wing especially the paramilitary organization, The Minutemen. He proposed that Bradley was somehow connected with Loren E. Hall, a suspected Minuteman mentioned in James Garrison's investigation; Reverend Dennis Mower and Reverend Wesley Swift, two ministers involved in the Minutemen Society; and, Keith Duane Gilbert, a Minuteman who was convicted for possession of dynamite. Gilbert was the Minutemen's expert on explosives and military weapons.

Noyes offered no concrete connection between Sirhan and the ultra-right wing individuals. His suggestion that Sirhan was sympathetic in some way with the right-wing was not supported in the background investigation of Sirhan. On the contrary, the writings in his notebooks and the statements of Sirhan's associates indicate that he held decidedly left-wing views. To further compound the weakness of Noyes' premise is the contention which he originally makes---that being that James Braden is actually the man being sought in the Garrison probe not Edgar Eugene Bradley. Nevertheless, an investigation was conducted in an effort to establish some link between the Minutemen Society and Sirhan, or any of the other persons previously named by Noyes.

The investigation revealed that there were actual ties between Gilbert, Bradley, Swift and Mower; all of whom are active in or associated with the Minutemen Society. In attempting to arrive at some link with any of the figures in either Noyes' allegation

or in the Sirhan trial itself investigators returned to the name of Officer H. A. Latham who was originally involved in the land sale scheme with Michael McCowan and David Kassab. It was found that Latham was associated with the John Birch Society. However, there was no evidence to suggest that his association stretched to other right-wing groups.

A weaker link was also uncovered which revealed that another Los Angeles Police Officer had been associated with the Minutemen. This officer knew Keith Gilbert and had been associated with two persons who were at one time close to Edgar Eugene Bradley. They subsequently broke with him during a power struggle within the Minutemen organization.

This connection was the only other one which could be found which might conceivably associate McCowan with the Minutemen. There was no evidence to connect the officer with McCowan. As stated previously, regardless of the potential tie between groups or persons who might have plotted Robert F. Kennedy's assassination it is necessary to have a concrete tie with Sirhan. McCowan represents that tie after the assassination -- no tie has been found before that date.

The last allegation provided by Noyes suggested that the American Council of Churches had contacted Sirhan through one of the several churches attended by the Sirhan family in Pasadena. The American Council of Churches is suspected of being affiliated with the ultra-right wing organization. Some members of the Council are known to be associated with the Minutemen and vise-

versa. Based on this premise Peter Noyes hypothesized that the plot originated in Sirhan's church background.

Investigation disclosed that some of the churches attended by Sirhan, or his family, were affiliated with the American Council of Churches, or any of the right-wing ministers mentioned in Noyes' allegations.

Peter Noyes provided investigators with a great deal of information, most of which was conjectural and nebulous. His intentions can not be wholly evaluated. He argued that he sincerely wished to assist the investigation. However, his efforts have on occasion seemed purposely vague and he seemed to be providing only what he wanted the investigators to know. His motives are further suspect in that he and another writer, Jack Fox, are researching for a book on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination. Aside from a great many hours of investigation, the results have been totally negative with regard to Sirhan B. Sirhan and a conspiracy with the aforementioned groups, or any other person or group.

The following is a detailed report of the findings encountered during the investigation into various allegations as related by Peter R. Noyes.

During the early months of 1962, Los Angeles Police Officer, M. A. McCowan, F. W. Hall, J. V. Gambee, J. R. Squires, and D. G. Rickards were approached by Officer H. Latham with a scheme whereby they would receive \$75.00 for each transaction that they entered into with him on a real estate purchasing venture. Latham was to be the go-between the officers and David Kassab, a non-licensed real estate salesman. Each officer was to apply for a new home loan. Through a manipulation of trust deeds, the property would eventually go to David Kassab who would resell the homes at an inflated price.

The method of this operation, employed by the Kassab group, was as follows: Master Escrows were opened with David Kassab as the buyer. The escrow provided for the sale of approximately 100 homes in the San Fernando Valley for the sum of \$18,200.00 each. On April the 19th, 1962, Kassab appointed two other individuals as his nominees in the above escrows. Individual escrows were subsequently opened on each house between the nominee, the sellers, and other persons who were part of the Kassab group. The "Companion" escrows provided for a selling price of those houses in the amount of \$22,950.00.

In each "Companion" escrow, a "dummy" buyer applied for a new loan based on the inflated selling price. The "dummy" buyer would then deposit a check into the escrow and simultaneously

sign an instruction authorizing for the immediate release of those funds to the seller. The escrows were concurrent in each house. This loan proceeding was then transferred to the original escrow from the "Companion" escrow.

A second trust deed was created on each of these houses. In some instances, the second trust deeds were sold to third parties and in other cases the second was sold directly through the escrow by a "dummy" buyer.

Individuals used by Kassab as "dummy" buyers included the aforementioned officers. Others included Dr. Stanley Dubrin and numerous other non-police personnel.

Kassab, working through Latham and McCowan told the officers that he, Kassab, did not have sufficient funds to undertake such a large purchase of the 100 houses which he was trying to purchase. Kassab proposed that the officers allow the American Nile Corporation to use their names and credit to acquire some of these homes. In exchange, the officers would receive \$75.00 for each home loan they applied for. Title to the houses would be in the officers names, and in case of any default in payment, they could take over the property.

Kassab told the officers that it would be necessary to deposit a check in escrow in the amount of \$2,000.00. In each case, none of the mentioned officers had the required \$2,000.00. However, Kassab assured them that the money would be put into their account to cover the "NSF" checks.

The purpose of using "dummy" buyers to purchase title was to run the properties through "Sham" title holders and increase the value.

In other instances David Kassab, through a manipulation of trust deeds, was able to obtain temporary title of the property in question before it cleared escrow. He would then sell a second trust deed to an innocent buyer. After a short period of time, the involved officer's "NSF" checks would bounce, causing the first trust deed held in abeyance in escrow. David Kassab would then buy back the second trust deed from the innocent victim at a 50% discount on the pretext that the foreclosure was imminent. If necessary, he would take the money from the second trust deed to cover the shortage in the officer's bank accounts.

David Kassab was eventually arrested and convicted of another embezzlement and sent to the state prison on a land swindle of a property known as "Little Lake" in Inyo County.

A lengthy detailed investigation of the officers' conduct in this matter was conducted by Internal Affairs Division of the Los Angeles Police Department. This matter was presented to the District Attorney's Office to determine if these officers should also be brought to trial.

Deputy District Attorney Robert E. Remer rejected a complaint against the officers stating that although there appeared to be a good prima facie case of grand theft, especially in the Latham

matter, there were practical difficulties in presenting the matter to a trial jury. Additionally, he added that the criminal causes of action against the officers were extremely weak, and suggested that the Department reconsider the matter internally.

Investigation into the business dealings each officer had with the Kassab Clan revealed that Officer Latham entered into 22 transactions directly through David Kassab. McCowan participated in 13 real estate purchases. One of McCowan's real estate transactions involved Officer G. B. Netzley, in which both attempted to follow the same scheme as did David Kassab. The remaining four officers conducted their real estate transactions through Kassab via Latham. The purchase of the various homes by the latter four officers varied from one to three transactions each.

A background check of each officer involved indicated that Rickards and Latham were affiliated with the John Birch Society in North Hollywood. Further investigation disclosed that some members of the Minutemen Society infiltrated this organization and recruited the more militant Birchers into their society. Among the Minutemen in this area, the following persons were found to be affiliated with that society. Dallas Roquemore, (deceased), Troy Houghton, Phillip E. Scheib, Edgar Eugene Bradly, Carol Aydelotte, Arthur Aydelotte, Keith D. Gilbert, Delos Lowell, Gerald L. K. Smith, Reverend Dennis Mower, Reverend Wesley Swift, Keith D. Templeton, James Thorton, and

Robert R. Romero. It was also learned that, now retired Los Angeles Police Officer C. W. White, was also closely associated with Gilbert, the Aydelottes, Scheib and Mower.

On February 25, 1965, 1400 pounds of stolen dynamite was located in the garage apartment residence of Keith D. Gilbert, at 419 Western, Glendale, California. The owner of this residence who lived in the front house was Mrs. Bernice Iverson, the sister of Officer White. During an interview with White, by the investigating officer in the dynamite burglary case, he admitted knowing Dennis Mower, a militant Minuteman.

A check of Gilbert's background was conducted to determine his involvement with Officer White. At the time the dynamite was located at his home, Gilbert was in possession of a business card with the inscription "Michael Wayne-Promoter."

Michael Wayne, it was speculated by this investigator, was the same young male caucasian who was at the Ambassador Hotel on June 5, 1968, when Senator Kennedy was shot. Shortly after the shooting, Michael Wayne was seen running from the kitchen area and was subsequently stopped and interrogated. During the interrogation, it was noted that he was in possession of a card bearing the name, Keith Gilbert. Due to the fact that Gilbert was an extremist in the right wing organization and Michael Wayne was seen leaving the scene of the shooting, an intense investigation was conducted to determine their association.

Keith Gilbert was interviewed in San Quentin Prison, April 1,

1969, with reference to Wayne's business card and his connection with the Minutemen. Gilbert admitted his membership in the Minutemen Society, but stated he did not recall the person who had given him the business card with Wayne's name. Gilbert indicated that he had acquired numerous business cards while in the fire-arms business in which he and other Minutemen, Robert R. Romero, were partners.

Gilbert, it was noted, was anxious to be truthful with the investigator as he did not want to hurt his chances for an early parole. Gilbert, it was learned, wrote a letter to Senator Robert Kennedy on March 1, 1967, from San Quentin Prison. In that letter he stated that he was a former member of the Minutemen Organization and had information connecting Lee Harvey Oswald to the Minutemen. This information, Gilbert wrote, was acquired while he was in the Minutemen Organization. He told this investigator that while he was in Canada avoiding prosecution for the possession of dynamite, he heard Dennis Mower make a statement that Oswald had been a Minuteman. Gilbert did not have first hand knowledge as he had indicated in the letter to Senator Kennedy.

Numerous pictures were shown to Gilbert which included persons he definitely knew. Wayne's picture plus other unrelated photographs were shown to him. Gilbert identified all the photos that the investigator knew that Gilbert was associated with. However, he failed to identify the picture of Michael Wayne. He emphatically denied having ever met Wayne but added that he may have received it from one of many people he met at a gun show in Yuma, Arizona.

Gilbert also related that Dennis Mower had told him that Edgar Eugene Bradley had been involved in the murder of Dallas Roquemore, whose death had been listed as a suicide.

An investigation into this alligation revealed that Roquemore, an acquaintance of Edgar Eugene Bradley was shot and killed accidentally by Frank A. Austin, in Weaverville, California on January 4, 1964. An investigation by the Weaverville Sheriff's Office and a polygraph examination proved that the shooting was indeed accidental. Edgar Eugene Bradley was in Southern California at the time of the shooting.

Michael Wayne was reinterviewed on April 1, 1969, to determine his knowledge of the card found at Gilbert's residence and of Gilbert's card found in his possession on the ^{evening} night of June 5, 1968. Wayne was given a polygraph examination by Lt. E. Hernandez in which he was asked about the business card and about his running from the scene of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel. Lt. Hernandez stated that in his expert opinion, Wayne was being truthful when he replied that he did not know Gilbert nor had he ever given a business card to Gilbert. Wayne denied ever having had a business card bearing his name. Wayne could not recall how he obtained Gilbert's card nor who had given it to him. The polygraph examination again indicated he was truthful. He was also truthful when he replied that he had never belonged to the Minutemen Society nor was he associated with them.

All the officers mentioned in connection with David Kassab have since retired with the exception of Rickards and Netzley. On January 6, 1965, McCowan, a ten year veteran for the Los Angeles Police Department, resigned in lieu of disciplinary action when he was arrested for theft and tampering with the United States mail.

In this particular case, McCowan, through false pretenses retrieved a package containing a diamond ring from the post-office which he and Jean Ortiz had mailed earlier that day.

Miss Ortiz, on learning that the package had not arrived at its intended destination immediately notified the postal authorities. The postal investigators quickly determined that Michael McCowan, had returned to the post-office and had retrieved the package on the pretext that it was evidence.

On January 24, 1966, McCowan was found guilty of theft of U.S. Mail under Title 18, Section 1708, U.S. Code. This was the second of two trials. The first trial ended in a hung jury. The jury was eleven to one for acquittal. On January 29, 1968, after an appeal, the sentence of five years was reduced to three years probation. It was during McCowan's second trial that he was represented by Attorney Russell Parsons.

Prior to his resignation from the Los Angeles Police Department, McCowan had been attending Law school at Southwest School of Law, in Los Angeles. It was at this school where he first met Ron Allen, the owner of a private investigating firm.

After his resignation from the Police Department, Ron Allen offered McCowan employment as an investigator for the Allen Firm. Although McCowan was denied an investigators license by the State, he continued to work for the Allen Firm as an employee which did not require a license.

McCowan was asked to be the defense investigator by Parsons after the latter was retained as one of the defense attorneys. McCowan explained that his expenses for the investigating came from a fund which was part of \$17,000 that Robert Kaiser had gotten as a retainer for writing a book about Sirhan. According to McCowan, Cooper put up several thousand dollars to help with the expenses. Other money came from Life Magazine for an article which appeared shortly after the trial began. Again, according to McCowan, after Kaiser writes his book, Kaiser will receive one-third of the royalties; a third will go to the Sirhan family and the remainder to the attorneys. Of the latter two-thirds expenses will be taken out before dividing up the money. The three attorneys, Russell Parsons, Grant Cooper and Emile Zola Berman, according to McCowan, each signed a contract with Kaiser agreeing not write a book. McCowan, however, refused to sign that contract.

On July 3, 1968, Jacquelyn Caporizzo notified the detectives at the Van Nuys Station that she was in possession of numerous guns which belonged to Michael McCowan. She related that McCowan had given her the guns approximately six months prior to keep in her home for safekeeping. He told her that he had confisgated them

from Jean Ortiz who had been involved in a burglary with her husband and that the guns were possibly stolen. Los Angeles Police Detectives took four rifles, two shotguns, 8 pistols, and one automatic .25 caliber pistol into custody. These items were checked through gun records locally and through C.I.I. where it was determined that there was no crime report outstanding on these weapons. Investigation into the true owners of these weapons is still in progress.

An intensive financial background check of McCowan's bank accounts have failed to disclose any unusual large deposits or withdrawals prior to and after the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy.

On May 17, 1968, McCowan filed for a divorce from his wife Catherine Leona McCowan. She crossfiled and obtained custody of two minor children. In the divorce suit, neither showed the other in possession of a large sum of money. McCowan's wife, Catherine, had \$3,000.00 in her possession according to the divorce suit. McCowan's assets were almost nil at that time.

Several weeks prior to the close of the Sirhan trial, McCowan had a conversation with Sirhan in the County Jail. McCowan related to the investigators that Sirhan indicated that if he were found guilty of first degree murder, he would let it be known that President Johnson put him up to the shooting of the Senator. When McCowan told Sirhan that this would be a "Stupid sounding story," and how easy it would be to check this out, and how ridiculous Sirhan would look after this allegation was

cleared up, Sirhan changed his story. Sirhan then stated that he would then involve "Hoffa."

McCowan alleges to have Sirhan's confidence and intends to write a book on his portion of the investigation.

Officer Harold Latham, now retired was a personal friend of David Kassab. On September 2, 1968, it was discovered that Latham and Kassab had joint bank accounts at the California Bank in Conoga Park. David Kassab and Latham have known each other since 1955. They became close friends after Kassab sold a house for Latham.

Due to a large court judgement levyied against Kassab in a case involving grand theft, he could not hold property in his own name without a lien being placed on it. In May, 1962, Latham purchased property for Kassab in his name. Both Latham and Kassab's wives developed a close friendship.

In 1963, Marilyn Meyer, an owner of an apartment house, was in the process of looking for a prospective buyer when she was introduced to David Kassab at the California State Escrow Company by an escrow clerk, Joan Whitehouse. After several meetings and dates with Miss Meyer, David Kassab convinced her that she should sell her apartment houses and reinvest her money in individual homes. He convinced her that although she sold the apartment house to a police officer, the original title would be reverted to her after obtaining enough money from the resale of the individual houses.

Including her savings, she invested \$48,000.00 into 31 separate dwellings. She and David Kassab opened joint accounts. Kassab collected the rent on the homes and pocketed the money instead of paying the loan company. Eventually she lost all the homes. She managed to salvage \$10,000.00.

Officer Gambee, it was learned was the "dummy buyer," who purchased the apartment house belonging to Marilyn A. Meyer who was eventually bilked out of \$38,000.00 by David Kassab.

During the time that Miss Meyer and David Kassab were in partnership, she had office space in the American Nile Corporation Office. She worked for David Kassab as a paid employee. It was noted that the majority of the real estate transactions were conducted through a Diamond Escrow Company at 20036 Saticoy. The president of that company was William Rigby. Rigby was also a suspect in the Kassab case and was a material witness in the case of People verses Dr. Stanley Dubrin.

The case involving Dr. Stanley Dubrin was similar to that for which David Kassab was tried and convicted. William Rigby was never brought to trial nor were charges filed against him. Late in 1963, William Rigby filed a Civil Suit in the amount of \$350,000.00 against Stanley Dubrin, David Kassab, Michael McCowan and Las Vegas General Enterprise Incorporated plus numerous other persons stating fraud as the reason for suit. This suit was in connection with the land swindles by David Kassab while Rigby was the president of Diamond Escrow Company. On July 31, 1968, the suit was dismissed.

David Kassab, born in Bagdad, Iraq, is the third of seven children of his natural parents. His family was forced to flee their home because of anti-Jewish feelings in that country. Kassab listed his religion as Hebrew and his wife as a Methodist. His mother died of a heart attack in 1942, after an uprising against the Jews. David Kassab was born in Iraq and lived in Bagdad from 1940 through 1948. During the years 1948 and 1949, the family lived in Urban Teheran Iran. He has lived in the United States, namely Los Angeles, California, from 1949, to present. He has been married twice and divorced twice. The latter, Madeline Gickman, divorced him on July 23, 1968.

His occupational background indicates that he was in real estate from 1955 to 1963. His arrest record dates back to August 28, 1959, when he was arrested for Grand Theft. He was found guilty on June 13, 1962, and received a five year probation, and one year in the County Jail. In this case, Kassab was involved in a Travel Agency sham with co-defendant George Dimitrovich. Both were doing business under the name of Europa Travel. They advertised air-transportation in local newspapers at greatly reduced rates. The prospectus was that the planes would be leased from a Mexican Airline and flights would operate to Europe, Israel and waypoints from Mexico. By doing so, they could subsequently undersell American Airlines. A round trip flight to and from Europe was advertised at \$545.00. As a results of this advertisement, Stanley Wells, a student at the University of California at Los Angeles, collected \$30,000.00 from 80 students who planned to take the trips that Kassab had advertised.

Wells turned the money over to Kassab. Neither of the co-defendants secured the permission of the Mexican government to operate planes from Mexico in any form. The money was not returned to the purchasers.

In December 1963, David Kassab was found guilty of grand theft money and sentenced to the state penitentiary in a case involving a complex sale of property known as "Little Lake" in Inyo County. Interviews of the Judge and the District Attorney who handled the latter case both agreed ^{that} the defendant Kassab had been involved in a series of complex frauds. The property stolen in this particular matter was in an excess of \$100,000. Kassab was regarded as an extremely clever and dangerous swindler.

In 1965, David Kassab was released from prison on parole. He immediately obtained employment with the Lawee Development Corporation headed by a relative, Daud Elani. Elani had also been involved in land sales with David Kassab. Elani listed himself as the president of the El Furate Corporation, 18040 Sherman Way, Encino.

David Kassab's past indicated that he was involved in numerous money making schemes involving real estate. Investigation into Kassab's past both financially and business failed to disclose any connection with the Sirhan family or Sirhan B. Sirhan.

David Kassab was in partnership with David Elani and Dr. Stanley Dubrin in the American Nile Corporation, a real estate office. Dr. Stanley Dubrin was arrested on February 28, 1963, and

charged with one count of Grant Theft. In this case, a first trust deed was inadvertantly reconveyed to Dubrin who although had this knowledge sold the property as "Free and Clear". He then dissipated the funds.

On October 14, 1966, Dr. Dubrin was arrested for the crime of abortion. In this case, the Deputy District Attorney rejected the complaint on insufficient evidence and Dubrin was released.

On June the 14th, 1963, Los Angeles Police Department was advised that Dr. Stanley Dubrin had propositioned Clyde Edward Field, an ex-con to murder his wife, Catherine Dubrin, aka Ink. Field volunteered to assist the Homicide Investigators in the matter. However, after conferring with his attorney, Field declined to become involved because he was due to be sentenced on a burglary charge and his attorney thought it unwise for Field to take a chance of getting into any trouble. Without this witness the investigation into the solicitation of murder had to be discontinued.

Dr. Dubrin was a close friend of David Kassab and a business partner in the American Nile Corporation. A check of Dubrin's financial background failed to disclose any connection with Sirhan B. Sirhan. However, a financial check did indicate that he is in debt to various lending organizations in an excess of \$100,000.

Dubrin rented office space from Joe Arnoff the owner of the "Big A" stores, 8341 Conoga Boulevard, Conoga Park, in connection

with his medical practice. Dubrin and Joe Arnoff have been close friends since 1962 and their families have visited socially. Dr. Dubrin is also the Arnoff family physician. Dubrin admitted their friendship and their one time business venture. Although Arnoff was introduced to David Kassab by Dubrin, they did not become acquainted any further.

Arnoff was involved in the bribery case concerning Councilman Tom Shepard to the extent that he, Arnoff, had seven acres of land in the Valley which was to have been rezoned for the purpose of a building development. Arnoff received 45% of the building corporation stock as his dividend for the use of the land. Councilman Shepard was later indicted on a bribery charge in connection with this rezoning. In the first Shepard trial the jury failed to reach a verdict. At this writing, the Shepard case is under submission to the Judge in a court trial.

Another figure in the Shepard case was Wallace White who received 45% of the corporation's stock for putting up the money in the land development.

Arthur Toll, an attorney for this development corporation received 5% of the stock as part of the legal fee.

Gerald Chase a Certified Public Accountant received the remaining 5% for handling the account of this same corporation.

Gerald Chase is a business partner in the accounting firm of Chase, Bierman and Dunn at 280 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, California. Chase was the accountant for Arnoff

which included the account of the "Big A" stores. They terminated their business association in March 1965. Their relationship at that time was business only, they never became close friends. At present, Chase is suing Arnoff for back pay owed to him.

The following report is a condensed summary of the Kassab investigation as outlined in the chart accompanying this report.

During the early months of 1962, Los Angeles Police Officers M.A. McCowan, D. G. Rickards and three other officers entered into a sham real estate purchasing venture with Officer Latham whereby they received from \$75.00 to \$250.00 for each transaction that they entered into with him. Latham was the go-between the officers and David Kassab, a non-licensed real estate salesman. Kassab applied for purchase of approximately 100 homes in the San Fernando Valley for a sum of \$18,200.00 each. Individual escrows were immediately opened on each house. The officers acting as "dummy" buyers applied for new loans based on an inflated price. In some cases, second trust deeds were sold to unsuspecting buyers before title was cleared through escrow. When the "non-sufficient funds" checks, submitted by the officers earlier as down payment on the property bounced, Kassab would buy back the second trust deed at a 50 per cent discount on the pretext that a foreclosure was imminent.

David Kassab was born in Bagdad, Iraq. He is the third of seven children who was forced, with his parents, to flee their homeland because of anti-Jewish feelings in that country. He and his family lived in Bagdad from 1940 to 1948. During the years of 1948 and 1949 his family lived in Urban Teheran, Iran. He came to the United States in 1949 and has been living in Los Angeles ever since. He has been in the real estate business since 1955.

Kassab's arrest record dates back to August 28, 1959 when he was arrested for grand theft. This case involved a

a travel agency sham with a co-defendant, George Dimitrovich. Both were doing business under the name of Europa Travel. They advertised air transportation at greatly reduced rates. The prospectus was that a plane would be leased from a Mexican Airline and flights would operate to Europe from Mexico. The round trip flight was advertised at \$545.00. Both David Kassab and Dimitrovich collected over \$30,000.00 from 80 UCLA students. They pocketed the money and did not fulfill their contract. Intelligence reports indicated that both David Kassab and Dimitrovich were probably in partnership with Joe Sica, in this travel agency. Although there were strong indications of the Sica connection, positive proof could not be established.

Working with David Kassab, while involved in the home buying sham, was Dr. Stanley Dubrin. Dubrin listed himself as the Vice-president of the American Nile Corporation, a real estate office. David Kassab listed himself as a co-owner of that Corporation. Other Kassab family members affiliated themselves with that organization as did several relatives of the Kassab Clan.

Dr. Stanley Dubrin's arrest record dates back to February 28, 1963 when he was charged with grand theft. In this case, a first trust deed was inadvertently reconveyed to him. Although he had knowledge of this error, he sold the property as "free and clear," then dissipated the funds. On October 14, 1966, Dubrin was arrested for the crime of abortion but was released due to insufficient evidence. On June 14, 1963, the Los

Angeles Police Department was advised that Dr. Dubrin had propositioned an ex-convict to murder his ex-wife, Kathy Dubrin, aka, Ink. Dubrin was not brought to trial or arrested for this solicitation of murder due to the informants lack of cooperation with the investigators. Without that persons testimony, a case could not be established.

In 1966, Dubrin rented office space from Joe M. Arnoff the owner of the "Big A" stores at 8341 Conoga Blvd., Conoga Park, in connection with his medical practice. Dubrin and Arnoff have been close friends since 1962. He was also the Arnoff family physician.

Arnoff eventually went bankrupt at the "Big A" stores and severed his business relationship with Dr. Dubrin. Both, however, remained on friendly terms and still meet socially on occasion.

Arnoff was introduced to David Kassab by Dr. Dubrin but did not become acquainted any further.

Arnoff was involved in the bribery case concerning Councilman Tom Shepard to the extent that he, Arnoff, was one of the owners of a seven acre parcel of land in Conoga Park which was rezoned in 1964 for the purpose of constructing multiple dwelling units. Councilman Shepard was later indicted on bribery charges in connection with this rezoning. Arnoff owned 45 per cent of the building corporation stock.

Another figure in the Shepard case was Wallace White who received 45 per cent of the corporation's stock for putting up the initial cash investment. Arthur Toll, the attorney for this corporation, received five per cent of the stock as his fee for legal services rendered. Gerald Chase, a C.P.A., received the remaining five per cent for handling the tax account of the same corporation.

Gerald Chase is a business partner in the accounting firm of Chase, Bierman and Dunn at 280 S. Beverly Drive, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, California. Chase was also the accountant for Arnoff while the latter was doing business at the "Big A" stores. Both parties terminated their business association during March 1965. Their relationship at that time was strictly business. They never became close friends. At present, Chase is suing Arnoff for back pay owed to him during the time he was handling the "Big A" account.

Among the numerous tax accounts that Gerald Chase handles is a person named Jim Braden. He has handled Braden's Empire Oil Corporation account since 1963 or 1964.

Note: See the detailed report of Braden's entire investigation at the end of this report.

Braden has been associated with Victor Pereira for numerous years. Both were sent to federal prison for grand theft. In this case, both had conspired to bilk Pereira's former wife out of a large sum of money. Both Pereira and Braden are acquainted with the Smallldone Brothers who belong to the "Mafia."

Another mutual acquaintance of Braden and Pereira was a person named Arthur Clark Sr., who is now deceased. Clark was a former member of the Old Detroit Purple Gang. Pereira, when released from prison, was given employment by Earl Scheib of the car painting fame. Intelligence reports indicate that Pereira was also associated with Paul Billings who was closely associated with Mafia members such as the Battaglia Brothers. In 1962, Pereira had an active financial interest in a New York business firm named Grouth Industries. He handled new stock issues for Accurate Electronics. He sold Fred and Alfred Sica \$4500.00 worth of this stock and retained the shares in his name. Investigation indicated that this was a hoodlum operated company headed by the Colletti Brothers.

The background investigation of Officers Latham and Rickards indicated that they were active members of the John Birch Society in 1963. The John Birch Chapter in the North Hollywood area, was closely associated with the Minutemen Society of which Edgar Eugene Bradley, Carole Aydelotte, Arthur Aydelotte, Keith Gilbert, Dennis Mower, Phillip Scheib and other right wing extremists were members.

In checking the background of these Minutemen members, Officer C.E. White's names was mentioned as a friend of Keith Duane Gilbert. On February 25, 1965, 1400 pounds of stolen dynamite was located in Gilbert's garage apartment at 419 Western, Glendale, California. The owner of the residence who lived in the front house was Bernice Iverson, the sister of Officer White. During an interview with White, by the investigating officers in the dynamite burglary

case, he admitted his acquaintance with Gilbert. He also admitted attending a Minutemen rally several months prior where Troy Houghton, the West Coast Director of the Minutemen, spoke. He also admitted knowing Dennis Mower, a militant Minuteman.

An investigation into Gilbert's background indicated that a business card with the inscription "Michael Wayne, Promoter" was found in Gilbert's residence when the dynamite was located.

This Michael Wayne, it was speculated by this investigator, was the same young male Caucasian who was at the Ambassador Hotel June 5, 1968 when Senator Kennedy was shot. Shortly after the shooting, Michael Wayne was seen running from the kitchen area and subsequently stopped and later questioned by Los Angeles Police Detectives. During that interrogation, it was noted that he was in possession of a card bearing the name of Keith Gilbert. Due to the fact that Gilbert was an extremist in the right wing organization and Michael Wayne was seen running from the scene of the shooting, an intensive investigation was conducted to determine their association.

On April 1, 1968, Gilbert was interviewed in San Quentin prison with reference to Wayne's business card and his connection with ultra-extremist groups. Gilbert admitted his own membership in the Minutemen Society, but could not recall the persons who gave him the business card with Wayne's name. Gilbert indicated that he had acquired numerous business cards while in the firearms business in which he and another Minuteman, Robert R. Romero were partners.

Note: Although Wayne's card was one of many found in Gilbert's residence, at the time of the dynamite discovery, the name Wayne could not be found among any of Gilbert's other papers.

Gilbert, it was noted, was anxious to be truthful with this investigator as his parole investigating officer was present during this interview. Gilbert stated he did not want to lie and hurt his chances for an early parole.

Gilbert, it was learned earlier, wrote a letter to Senator R.F. Kennedy on March 1, 1967 from San Quentin prison. In that letter, he stated that he was a member of the Minutemen Organization and had vital information connecting Lee Harvey Oswald to the Minutemen. When questioned about this letter, Gilbert stated that he had received this information from Dennis Mower and that he, Gilbert, did not have actual knowledge that Oswald was a Minuteman.

Numerous photographs were shown to Gilbert which included persons he definitely knew. Among these pictures was a photograph of Michael Wayne. Gilbert identified all the photographs that the investigator knew Gilbert was associated with. However, he failed to identify a picture of Michael Wayne. He emphatically denied having ever met Michael Wayne but added that he probably received the business card from one of many people he met at a gun show in Yuma, Arizona.

Additionally, Gilbert related that Dennis Mower had informed him that Edgar Eugene Bradley had been involved in a murder of a person known as Dallas Roquemore, whose death had been listed as suicide.

A later investigation into this allegation revealed that Roquemore, an acquaintance of Bradley, was shot and accidentally killed by Frank A. Austin in Weaverville, California on January 4, 1964. An investigation by the Weaverville Sheriff's office and a polygraph examination proved beyond a doubt that the shooting was accidental. Edgar Eugene Bradley was in Southern California at the time of that shooting.

Michael Wayne was reinterviewed on April 1, 1969 to determine his knowledge of the "Wayne" card found at Gilbert's residence and also of Gilbert's card found in his possession on the morning of June 5, 1968.

Wayne was administered a polygraph examination by Lt. E. Hernandez in which he was asked about the business cards and about his running from the scene of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel. Lt. Hernandez stated that in his opinion, Wayne was being truthful when he replied that he did not know Gilbert, nor had he ever given him a business card, nor had he ever had a business card bearing his own name. He could not recall how he obtained Gilbert's card, nor who had given it to him. The polygraph examination also indicated he was truthful in replying that he had never been a member of the Minutemen, nor was he associated with them.

During an investigation into the membership of the Minutemen Society in North Hollywood area, it was learned that Phillip Scheib was also a member. Phillip Scheib is the son of Earl Scheib. Phillip Scheib was also a personal friend of Officer C.E. White.

Earl Scheib was a close associate of Victor Pereira and of Paul Billings, who had Mafia connections. Earl Scheib's background indicates close ties with numerous other underworld figures such as the Sica Brothers, Jim Braden, Anthony Tuccelli, Harold Metzger, Vincent J. Meallo and numerous others.

Joe Sica, a Mafia member, is known to have associated with Karl Hoogoian who is a member of the Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley Rubbish Collectors Association. Hoogoian in turn was known to associate with David Kassab.

Russel E. Parsons, the attorney for Sirhan B. Sirhan, is known to have associated with Joe Sica in the past. Besides being the Sica attorney, indications are that Parsons was a personal friend of the Sicas.

In 1966, Parsons defended Michael McCowan in the latter's criminal retrial when he was charged with "theft of U.S. mail." McCowan was convicted and received a probation sentence of three years. Shortly after Parsons was retained as the attorney for Sirhan B. Sirhan, he contacted Michael McCowan and hired him as a chief investigator for the defense in that case.

The following is a detailed report on the background investigation of Jim Braden. Jim Braden's name first came to the attention of this investigative unit from Peter Noyes, a newscaster and writer. Noyes indicated that Braden was probably the person that Jack Garrison, the District Attorney from New Orleans, was looking for instead of Edgar Eugene Bradley in connection with an alleged conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Braden has an extensive criminal record dating back to May 15, 1934 when he was convicted for burglary in Kansas. His last arrest was for shoplifting in Los Angeles on February 9, 1964.

In 1951, Braden and Victor Pereira joined together to commit fraud. The victim in this case was Pereira's ex-wife. Braden and Pereira were convicted of interstate fraud and conspiracy and sentenced to 12 years in a federal penitentiary. Braden was in prison from March 1954 until February 1959 at which time he was released on parole in Los Angeles, California.

After leaving prison, he began working for the Morgan Brown Oil Corporation at 9251 Wilshire Boulevard as a clerk and oil consultant. Pereira, who was also on federal parole had an office in the same building where Braden worked.

Braden worked for the Morgan Brown Corporation for several years. He frequently traveled with Mr. Morgan Brown as his consultant on trips to Louisiana and Texas. Morgan Brown knew of Braden's past prison record.

On October 10, 1960, Braden, twice divorced, married a fifty-five year old widow, Mildred A. Bollman, an heiress to the Swift Meat Company estate.

In 1962, Braden and his wife Mildred, formed the Matador Oil Corporation in Matagorda County, Texas and Opelousas, Louisiana. In 1962, Braden showed his parole officer an oil dividend

check for \$19,000.00 which he stated was from a quarter interest in the Matagorda County Texas Oil Company.

In 1962, Braden told his parole officer that he and his wife had been threatened by Arthur Clark Jr. because Clark believed Braden owed him money for "services rendered" when Braden and Robert Bollman formed a cattle venture in Chicago. In that same year, Braden and Bollman opened a \$25,000.00 bank account at the First Stockyard Bank, Chicago, Illinois in the name of the "B and B Cattle" account. Clark, according to Braden, was described as an oil promoter. Braden and Pereira's association with the Clarks began in 1953.

In 1963, according to parole reports, Braden, through the Matador Oil Corporation became associated with the Bauman Drilling Company of Dallas, Texas who were drilling a well for him in Landry-Parish, Louisiana.

Braden's association with Roger L. Bauman dates back to their association with Arthur Clark Sr. who was a member of the Old Detroit Purple Gang.

During Braden's parole, he made frequent trips to Texas, Louisiana and Florida. In the months of October, November, and December of 1963 he made trips to Dallas and Houston, Texas.

On November 18, 1963, Braden received permission from the Los Angeles parole office to leave for Dallas, Texas on November 20, 1963, and then to proceed to Houston, Texas. Braden

estimated this trip would take him approximately ten days.

Braden reported to the parole officer in Dallas, Texas on November 21, 1963 at noon stating that he was going to be in Dallas for several days working on oil deals and conferring with Lamar Hunt.

On November 26, 1963, the Houston, Texas parole office reported that Braden had left that date for Los Angeles.

A check of Braden's record indicated that he used the following aliases: Gene Hale Brading, Gene Brady, Eugene Hale Brading, Harry Eugene Bradley, James Bradley Lee and James Lee Cole. His true name is Eugene Hale Brading.

A check with the California Department of Motor Vehicles revealed that Eugene Hale Brading requested a name change on his operator's license to read Jim Braden. This request was made on September 10, 1963.

On March 11, 1963, Jim Braden opened an account with the City National Bank, Beverly Hills, by depositing two cashier's checks for \$11,500.00. One drawn on the City National Bank for \$8,000.00 and another drawn on the Crocker Citizen's National Bank for \$3,500.00.

On March 28, 1963, Braden made a checking withdrawal of \$10,000.00. This was found to be three cashier's checks all made payable to Jim Braden for amounts of \$5,000.00, \$3,000.00 and \$2,000.00.

Cashier's check #217883 for \$5,000.00 was endorsed by Jim Braden