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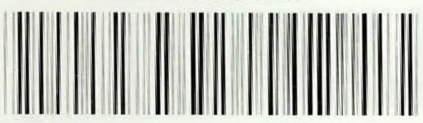
FBI - CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER

LA - LOS ANGELES

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PRESERVE FOR SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

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DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION

See also Nos. 129, 198, 167, 396

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

DATE: 2-18-25 BY: 6-39m48170

¹
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING OLIVER
B. OWEN, WHO ADVISED LOS ANGELES
POLICE DEPARTMENT HE HAD PICKED UP
A HITCHHIKER HE BELIEVED IDENTICAL
TO SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN IN LOS
ANGELES ON JUNE 3, 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/10/68

OLIVER B. OWEN, also known as Jerry and Curly, 1113 N. Mar-Les Drive, Santa Ana, California, telephone 839-0123, appeared at the FBI for interview with prior arrangements for the interview having been made through his attorney, GEORGE T. DAVIS. OWEN appeared at the office with BEN HARDISTER, a private detective and WESLEY GARDNER, a former Deputy Sheriff in Napa County. Both of these men were acting as body guards for OWEN. Prior to the interview, GARDNER advised that OWEN had been under sedation and was somewhat tired. OWEN was interviewed out of the presence of HARDISTER and GARDNER.

At the outset of the interview, OWEN was advised that he was being interviewed concerning his knowledge of an individual whom he had identified to his attorney DAVIS and the press as possibly being identical with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN and the fact that he has stated that he had received threatening calls from persons unknown.

OWEN furnished the following information:

On June 3, 1968, he was in downtown Los Angeles on business between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. He explained that he has part interest in a fighter named RIP O'RILEY. He also is a minister and has been since 1937. He said that he has approximately fifteen ponies which he keeps at his ranch at Santa Ana and takes these horses around to shopping centers to give free rides to children to get them to come to church. He said that his church is located in Oxnard, California, and that he kept some of the ponies at his ranch in Oxnard. His purpose for being in Los Angeles on June 3, 1968 was to pick up some sporting goods for O'RILEY at the United Sporting Goods Store. He picked up a pair of boxing shoes, a white robe, some trunks and other equipment.

He had purchased his merchandise at the sporting goods store and was proceeding on Hill Street. He stopped

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On 7/8/68 at San Francisco, California File # SF 62-5481 & LA 56-156

SAs ROBERT B. HERRINGTON and
by H. ERNEST WOODBY / rvn Date dictated 7/10/68

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HEW:rvn

at a stop light and two individuals approached his truck. He said he was driving a 1942 Chevrolet pick-up truck which had a large palomino horse ornament on the hood. When the two young men approached his truck, the taller of the two asked if he was going out Wilshire Boulevard and when he said that he was, this individual asked if they could ride in the back of the truck, to which OWEN agreed. He described these individuals as follows:

Number 1

Age	Early twenties
Height	5'8" to 5'10"
Build	Slender
Hair	Black, bushy
Complexion	Dark, appearing to be of Latin American origin
Wearing	Sandals, two-tone Mexican type jacket, possibly a vest and a chain around his neck with a medallion thereon.

Number 2

Age	Early twenties
Height	5'3"
Build	Slender
Hair	Dark, bushy
Complexion	Dark, with Latin American appearance
Wearing	Dark colored khaki levi type pants, dark gray sweatshirt and wearing tennis shoes.

They proceeded west on Wilshire Boulevard. At the intersection of Vermont and Wilshire, OWEN stopped for a traffic light and as he did so, both men got out of the truck. Number one went directly to a bus stop near where the truck stopped and greeted a man and woman. The man was about thirty to forty years of age and dark complected, possibly Mexican. The woman was dressed in slacks with long dirty

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blond hair, light complexion, possibly a hippie. Number two started to follow Number one but turned around and came back to the truck. He opened the door and asked to ride up front to continue toward Hollywood. When OWEN nodded approval, he climbed in the front seat. They proceeded on leaving Number one at the bus stop.

During the ride, the conversation of horses came up and Number two asked OWEN if he owned horses and he said that he did. Number two remarked that he use to work at a race track and at present needed a horse. OWEN said that he had horses for sale and offered to sell him one for \$300. They talked some more about buying and selling a horse and Number two asked OWEN if he could stop for a short time so that he could see a friend who worked in a kitchen nearby where they were at the moment. OWEN said he turned off Wilshire Boulevard onto a side street, the name of which he does not know. He described the street as a deadend street that was several blocks long. He parked the truck and waited while Number two went to see his friend.

After a wait of about ten minutes, OWEN decided that Number two was not going to return so he began to turn the truck around and leave. As he was doing this, he observed Number two come through an opened gate in a fence behind which was a tall building with many rooms. OWEN said that he was later advised by a police officer of the Los Angeles Police Department, University Station, that this building was the Ambassador Hotel.

When Number two got back in the truck, OWEN again began making conversation and asked the man if he was Mexican. He told him that he was not, saying that he was from Jordan having either come from Jordan thirteen years ago or when he was thirteen years old. OWEN could not recall which he said. He said that his name was JOE and gave a surname which OWEN did not understand, but which OWEN believed sounded like ZAHARIAS. OWEN said at about this time, he was arriving at his destination, that is a shoe shop and tailor shop where he was going to leave the boxing shoes and the robe for O'RILEY to have shamrocks put

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on. He said that he parked the truck in the Hollywood Ranch Market's lot and took the shoes to a bootblack named SMITTY. While he was conducting this business, Number two stayed in the truck. He returned to the truck and drove a few blocks and let Number two out on the corner of Wilshire near a bowling alley and a go-go topless bar. Before he left Number two agreed to meet OWEN at 11:00 p.m. on the same corner at which time he would have the money to buy the horse.

He met the fighter O'RILEY that evening and left him shortly before 11:00 p.m. and arrived back at the agreed meeting place and observed a 1958 or 1959 Chevrolet, off-white in color, in which there were three men and a girl. OWEN believed that one of the men and the girl may have been the same couple that Number one was talking to earlier at the bus stop. He could not get a good look at the second man in the car. Number two came over to the truck and showed him a \$100 bill saying he would have the rest of the money the next day early in the morning. OWEN told him he would stay overnight in Los Angeles and pointed out a hotel which was either St. Mark's or St. Martin, which would be where he would stay. He registered at this hotel as J. C. OWEN and requested the clerk give him a call at 8:00 a.m. However, he said that he was up at 7:00 a.m. and just as he was leaving the hotel he received a call from a man asking if he was the man with the pick-up and horse. OWEN acknowledged that he was and said he would meet him in a few minutes at the truck. As he was going to the truck he saw the same white car as before parked at the curb and Number one and the girl whom he saw before, were sitting in the car. The man who had been at the bus stop was standing by the truck and as OWEN approached he said "JOE could not make it". He offered OWEN a \$100 bill and asked if he could bring the horse to the same location that night at which time the remainder of the money would be available. OWEN did not take the money and explained that he would not be able to deliver the horse that night because of a prior commitment that he had in Oxnard. He left the man, giving him his business card, which had his home address and an unlisted telephone number and requested that JOE call him if he was interested in the horse. OWEN then proceeded to Oxnard on business and returned to Los Angeles the morning

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of June 5, 1967.

OWEN said he went to the Coliseum Hotel to see a man, BERT, who owns the restaurant and bar in the hotel. He had, at this time, three ponies in his trailer, which he had obtained in Oxnard. While in the restaurant he learned of the KENNEDY shooting hearing it on television. Someone gave him a copy of the "Hollywood Citizen News", which contained a picture of SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, which he noted looked like the man he knew as JOE. He discussed this with BERT and other of his friends in the restaurant and they suggested that he go to the Los Angeles Police Department, University Station, which was nearby and tell them what had occurred. At first he said that he did not want to do this, but they convinced him that as a good citizen this would be the thing to do. That same day, he went to the Police Department and gave them the same story that he was now relating. He said that he was at the station from about 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

On June 6, 1968, several phone calls were received at his residence which were answered by his wife and daughter and on each occasion, the person calling hung up without saying anything. When the phone rang again, OWEN said he answered it and the caller said "Keep your mother blanked blank mouth shut about the horse deal". He believes the caller was a man but his voice was not familiar.

On June 18 or 19, 1968, OWEN received a call from the Los Angeles Police Department requesting that he come downtown to the Detective Bureau on the third floor between 1:30 and 2:30. He took another man named PERKINS with him. When he arrived, the officer on duty asked him to wait, saying that the officer who wanted to interview him was going to be a little bit late. OWEN explained to them that he was on his way to Phoenix and desired to proceed with the interview if possible. After a few minutes wait, the interview proceeded. He said he was handed a number of pictures and asked to pick out the picture of the man who looked like the one who had ridden with him in the truck. He said that after looking through the pictures, he picked out one stating that this man looked similar to the man whom he had given a ride. He recalls that PERKINS asked

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the officer if the picture was SIRHAN B. SIRHAN and the officer said that he could not answer this question. At the time of this interview, he told the officer that he had received a threatening call and that he would be staying in Phoenix for approximately one week.

On June 22, 1968, OWEN said that he received another call with the caller again using profanities, stating something to the effect "Keep your mother blankedy blank mouth shut or your family may be hurt". OWEN stated that no further calls or threats have been received.

7-12-68 256 JTB

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

4 261 906

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Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 261 906

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	Civil print from Calif St Bu #S-31697 was identified with this record and returned to contributor 9-24-59			
	Civil print from St Athletic Comm Sacramento Calif #17724 was identified with this record and returned to contributor 8-27-62			

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

John Edgar Hoover

¹
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ALLEGATION
THAT SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN WAS SEEN ON
JUNE 2, 1968, AT RESIDENCE OF MR. AND
MRS. BENJAMIN BEN-EZRA, LYNWOOD, CALIFORNIA

1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

It was previously reported that in the early afternoon of June 2, 1968, an individual resembling SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN visited a family at 11247 Duncan Avenue, Lynwood, California.

JACQUELINE TRIVISONO, 11244 Duncan Avenue, Lynwood, was the individual furnishing this information, and according to the records of the Lynwood, California, Police Department, she is a well-known and notorious police complainant.

Lynwood Police Department records indicated she had numerous arrests dating back to 1937 and has in the past operated as a madam and is generally regarded by the police as being a "nut."

Investigation determined that the BEN-EZRA family reside at 11247 Duncan Avenue, Lynwood, and had recently come from Israel. A neighbor observed the photograph of SIRHAN and stated he had never visited the BEN-EZRA residence to his knowledge.

Following are results of an interview with Mrs. ESTHER BEN-EZRA:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 9/19/68

Mrs. ESTHER BEN-EZRA, 11247 Duncan Avenue, Lynwood, California, was interviewed and supplied the following information:

Mrs. BEN-EZRA advised that she and her husband, ELISHA, reside at the Duncan Avenue address with their daughter, MARY. She stated that she has been in the United States only for a period of about four and one-half years, having immigrated to this country from Isreal.

She advised that she also has four sons in the Los Angeles area who visit them frequently. She gave their names as DAVID, HIM, RHAMIN and EZRA BEN-EZRA.

She stated that she has never known SIRHAN SIRHAN or any member of his family. She said that any relationship between her family and the SIRHAN family would be extremely unlikely due to her family's Jewish origin.

Mrs. BEN-EZRA stated that they seldom had any visitors other than her sons as they knew very few people in the Los Angeles area.

Upon being shown photographs of the SIRHAN family, she advised that she had never seen any of these individuals before.

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On 9/17/68 at Lynwood, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA GEORGE M. KLING/lav Date dictated 9/17/68

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING WILLIAM
ERTL, WHO WAS REPORTED IN
ANONYMOUS LETTER ADDRESSED TO MRS.
ETHEL KENNEDY AS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR KENNEDY

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

On August 13, 1968, U. S. Secret Service, Washington, D. C., made available an anonymous letter addressed to ETHEL KENNEDY, Greenwood Avenue, Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, postmarked Chicago, Illinois, August 6, 1968. The unknown letter writer stated that a Mr. WILLIAM ERTL, 1402 Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, was responsible for the assassination of the late Senator KENNEDY.

CG 89-61

NEB:jeo

1

The following investigation was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, by SA NELSON E. BOSE on dates indicated:

On August 19, 1968, it was determined, through Leonard's Street Guide of Chicago and Suburbs, the Chicago address 1402 Greenwood is non-existent.

The Chicago Telephone Directory lists no individual, WILLIAM ERTL.

On August 21, 1968, a credit and arrest check conducted by IC RALPH MC CLAIN with the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Credit Bureau was negative regarding WILLIAM ERTL, 1402 Greenwood, Chicago.

The Chicago indices are negative regarding ERTL and contain no reference regarding a large robbery or theft of cashier's checks, from the University National Bank, Chicago.

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING HOWARD PHILLIP
ETHRIDGE, WHO REPORTEDLY TOLD TWO
WOMEN WHO HAD PICKED HIM UP AS HITCH-
HIKER ON AUGUST 13, 1968, THAT HE HAD
"BEEN IN" ON KILLING OF KENNEDY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 16, 1968

Mrs. RACHEL WHITE, South 2503 Teko, Spokane, Washington, furnished the following information:

WHITE advised that during the summer she is residing with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. HOWARD FOSTER, South 2503 Teko, Spokane, Washington, while her husband is working in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. She stated that during the school year she and her husband reside at 12D South Fairway, Pullman, Washington.

WHITE stated that on August 13, 1968, she and her sister-in-law, BONNIE WHITE, were returning from Milton-Freewater, Oregon, en route to Spokane, Washington. She stated that as they left Walla Walla, Washington, at approximately 11:30 PM, they observed a young man beside the road hitchhiking in the direction of Spokane, Washington. She stated that they felt sorry for the young man due to the time of night and decided to pick him up. The man gave his name as PHILLIP ETHRIDGE, age 19, and stated that he had come from Alaska and was on his way to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He stated that he had been hitchhiking and as he had no place to sleep in Walla Walla, Washington, decided to keep going en route to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

WHITE stated that ETHRIDGE got into the back seat of the 1967 Chevrolet two-door hardtop, and sat behind BONNIE WHITE who was sitting on the passenger side of the front seat. WHITE stated that the vehicle in which she was driving belongs to her father, Mr. HOWARD FOSTER.

WHITE stated that at the time ETHRIDGE got into the vehicle, he had only a small creme-colored suitcase. She stated that she did not observe how he was dressed.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Colfax, Washington, ETHRIDGE twice asked how far it was to Spokane, Washington. She stated that at approximately 15 miles from Colfax, Washington, he asked how far it was. She stated that this time BONNIE WHITE was dozing, and after telling ETHRIDGE that it was approximately 15 miles, she

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On 8/15/68 at Spokane, Washington File # SE 26-26371-4

by SA JAMES T. DAVIS /mm Date dictated

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heard him moving around in the back seat and assumed that he was getting in a more comfortable position.

She stated that approximately three miles from Colfax, Washington, he again asked how far it was. She once again told him that it was about three miles to Colfax and from there about an hours drive to Spokane. WHITE stated that at this time ETHRIDGE informed them that he had a gun pointed at BONNIE's head and that he was naked and if either girl looked back he would shoot. He told RACHEL WHITE to continue driving. WHITE stated that he did not tell her where to drive and so when she reached Colfax, Washington, she turned towards Pullman, Washington, instead of going toward Spokane. She stated that the reason she turned toward Pullman was that the traffic is usually heavier between Pullman and Colfax and there are more farm houses between Pullman and Colfax than there are between Colfax and Spokane.

WHITE stated that while going through Colfax, Washington, they observed a Colfax policeman and this seemed to make ETHRIDGE extremely nervous. He attempted to cover himself up and keep low as to not be observed. She stated that he also did not notice as they went through Colfax, Washington, that they were proceeding toward Pullman instead of Spokane. She stated that when he was aware that they were going toward Pullman it did not seem to upset him.

WHITE stated that after ETHRIDGE informed that he had a gun, he made several statements to convince them of his seriousness and, it seemed, to build up his own ego. WHITE stated that he informed them that he had killed two policeman and had wounded more men. WHITE stated that she asked him if he did this to everyone that gave him a ride and he informed her that it had just been men in the past that had given him trouble and that he didn't like to kill women. WHITE stated that he then asked them if they had heard of the KENNEDY assassination and the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHITE stated that they had informed him that they had and he then stated that he had been in on those killings and so he was not afraid to use a gun.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Pullman, Washington, ETHRIDGE informed them that he was going to have

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WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Pullman, Washington, ETHRIDGE informed them that he was going to have

them undress and take their car and their money. ETHRIDGE emphasized the fact that he was not going to in any way molest either of them.

WHITE stated that outside Colfax, Washington, they passed a dirt road and at this time he ordered her to stop the vehicle and back up. She stated that she told him that she could not back up and then he informed her to turn around. WHITE stated that she turned the vehicle around and headed back toward Colfax, Washington. As they passed a road, now known to her as the Albion Road, he told her to turn. She stated that they drove about five miles up the road away from the highway at which time he ordered her to stop the vehicle.

WHITE stated that ETHRIDGE told her to get out of the vehicle and go to the left side of the road. She stated that ETHRIDGE then got out on the same side of the vehicle, the driver's side. He told BONNIE not to look but at this time BONNIE turned around to see what was happening and he then ordered her to get out of the vehicle on the driver's side of the car. Both girls were told to cross the road while ETHRIDGE stayed by the car. He then told them to undress. WHITE stated that they did as they were told and while undressing she noticed that ETHRIDGE had a gun in one hand and had a pair of dark pants on but did not have a shirt on. She stated she did not observe whether he had shoes on.

WHITE stated that after undressing, he then ordered the girls to leave their clothes where they had piled them on the side of the road and to walk in the direction of what is now known to them to be Albion. She stated that the car had been left running and the headlights were left on. She stated that they walked away from the vehicle until they were out of sight of the car headlights and then moved off the road in to the ditch where they stopped walking and sat down in an area which was hidden from the road. WHITE stated that at no time had ETHRIDGE made any advances whatsoever toward either girl. She stated that at the time they had undressed and were walking down the road, she looked at her watch and it was 2:30 AM, August 14, 1968.

WHITE stated that she and BONNIE remained in the side ditch for approximately ten minutes and didn't hear any sounds coming from the direction of the car. She stated

that she then heard what they thought was the trunk being closed and a short time after that the vehicle moved in their direction. She stated that ETHRIDGE drove past them and did not appear to notice either girl hiding in the ditch. She stated that he proceeded in the direction of Albion, Washington, and this is the last time that she had seen either ETHRIDGE or the vehicle.

WHITE stated that after ETHRIDGE drove past she and BONNIE proceeded down the road toward the Colfax Pullman Highway. She stated that they observed a road leading off the Albion Road and followed it to a farm house, reaching the farm house at approximately 3:00 AM. She stated that they knocked on the door until the people of the house answered. She stated that they were given clothing and the farmer called the Whitman County Sheriff's Office and reported the incident. A short time later Deputy BERT EATON of the Whitman County Sheriff's Office came to the farm house and began investigation of the incident.

WHITE furnished the following description of the individual known to her as PHILLIP ETHRIDGE.

Race	White
Sex	Male
Hair	Black
Height	5' 7"
Weight	150 pounds
Build	Medium
Complexion	Dark complected and had Indian features
Speech	Spoke with a lisp and had a very distinguishable voice.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date August 16, 1968

Miss BONNIE LOUISE WHITE, 1303 South Crestline, Spokane, Washington, furnished the following information:

WHITE advised that on August 13, 1968, she and her sister-in-law, RACHEL WHITE, were returning from Milton Freewater, Oregon, to Spokane, Washington. She stated that at approximately 11:30 PM they left Walla Walla, Washington, and observed a man standing on the side of the road hitchhiking near what is known as the Bacon Road. WHITE stated that she has hitchhiked before and therefore understands that it is hard to get a ride, especially late at night, and therefore they decided to offer assistance to the individual hitchhiking. She stated that the man got into the back seat of the vehicle and told them that his name was PHILLIP ETHRIDGE and that he was 19 years of age. She stated that when he entered the car he had with him a small creme-colored suitcase.

WHITE stated that ETHRIDGE told them that he was going from Alaska to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he had employment in a lime plant.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded toward Colfax, Washington, she was dozing in the front seat of the car but she heard the man ask RACHEL several times how far it was to Spokane, Washington. She stated that she also heard some moving in the back seat of the car but did not think anything of it. She stated that she then heard the man state that he had a gun at the back of her head and was naked and if either girl looked back he would shoot. WHITE stated that this was a short distance outside Colfax, Washington.

WHITE stated that as they proceeded to Colfax, Washington, the man made several statements which seemed to be an attempt to scare them and to build up his own confidence. She stated that he told them that he had killed two policemen and had wounded other men. She stated that he also asked them if they had heard of the KENNEDY assassination.

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On 8/15/68 at Spokane, Washington File # SE-25-2637T

by SA JAMES T. DAVIS /mn Date dictated _____

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and the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHITE stated that they informed him that they had and he then told them that he had participated in the killing of these individuals and was therefore not afraid to use a gun. WHITE stated that she then asked him what kind of a gun he had, and he told them that it was a .36 Mauser which was larger than a policeman's gun and had a hairpin trigger.

WHITE stated that when they went through Colfax, Washington, they observed a policeman's car and this seemed to frighten ETHRIDGE a lot. She stated that he attempted to get out of sight and to hide in the back seat. She stated as they proceeded through Colfax, and toward Pullman, Washington, he emphasized the fact that he did not intend to molest either girl but was going to have them undress, take their car, and their money.

WHITE stated that following the man informing them that he had a gun pointed at her head, she heard some noise coming from the back seat that sounded like he was loading the gun, and possibly opening his suitcase which was on the seat beside him. She stated that he had warned them not to look back so she could not observe what was going on in the back seat.

WHITE stated that outside of Colfax, Washington, ETHRIDGE told RACHEL to stop after they passed a dirt road. RACHEL stopped the vehicle and turned around and proceeded back toward Colfax, Washington. When they passed a road leading toward what is now known as Albion, Washington, he informed RACHEL to turn up the road. WHITE stated that they proceeded down the road three or four miles at which time he informed RACHEL to stop the vehicle. He then informed RACHEL to get out of the vehicle and walk to the other side of the road. WHITE stated that the man told her not to look but at this time she had decided to look as the man obviously was going to use the gun on them or abandon them in the country. She stated that she turned around to see what was going on and at that time he ordered her to get out of the vehicle and join RACHEL on the other side of the road. She stated that he stood beside the vehicle and told both girls to undress. WHITE advised that they did as he ordered and he then told them to proceed down the highway. She stated that they walked away from the car toward Albion, Washington, until they were out of sight of the vehicle,

SE 26-26371

at which time they left the road and hid in the ditch beside the road. She stated that they stayed in the ditch for over ten minutes and during that period of time they heard what they decided was the trunk of the vehicle being closed.

WHITE stated that after ten to fifteen minutes the vehicle passed them and proceeded toward Albion, Washington. She stated that after ETHRIDGE drove past them they then got back on the road and proceeded to the Pullman-Colfax Highway. She stated that when they found a road leading off the Albion Highway up to a farm house, they proceeded to the farm house, beat on the door until they got the people of the house up, and informed them of what had happened. She stated that this was at approximately 3:00 AM. The people of the house gave them clothing and notified the Whitman County - Sheriff's Office.

WHITE furnished the following description of the individual known to her as PHILLIP ETHRIDGE:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Hair	Black
Height	5' 7"
Weight	157 pounds
Build	Medium
Complexion	Dark complected like an Indian or Eskimo
Speech	Spoke with a lisp and had a very distinguishable voice.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/23/68

HOWARD PHILLIP ETHRIDGE was advised of the personal and official identity of SA STEINAR E. GORUD, FBI, and Lieutenant E. L. LUCAS, Lewiston, Idaho Police Department. He was advised that he was being interviewed about his participation in the theft of a 1967 Chevrolet two door, Washington license CHX 332 from Colfax, Washington to Lewiston, Idaho.

ETHRIDGE was warned of his rights and waived them as shown on an executed rights and waiver form.

He furnished the following signed statement:

"Lewiston, Idaho
8/14/68

"I, HOWARD PHILIP ETHRIDGE, furnish the following voluntary Statement to Steiner E. Gorud, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the FBI and to Lt. E. L. Lucas, Lewiston Police Dept., Lewiston, Idaho.

"I have voluntarily signed a rights and waiver form.

"I was hitchhiking from Bullingham, Washington to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I left Bullingham on Monday 8/12/68. I got a ride to Walla Walla, Washington arriving here about 12:30 PM the night of 8/13/68.

"I was hitchhiking north out of Walla Walla headed for Coeur d'Alene when I was picked up by two women traveling in a 1967 red Chevrolet 2 door sedan, on the outskirts of Walla Walla, Wash. They picked me up about 12:30 AM 8/14/68. They said they were headed for Spokane, Wash.

On 8/14/68 at Lewiston, Idaho File # BT 26-22889

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by SA STEINAR E. GORUD/imv/dld Date dictated 8/19/68

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BT 26-22889

"When we got close to Colfax, Washington, I told the women I had a gun and I told them not to turn around. I ordered the woman who was driving to drive off the main highway onto a side road. This was pretty close to Colfax, Washington. We drove for about 5 or 6 miles and I ordered the driver to stop the car.

"I then ordered both women to get out of the car. I had a gun in my right hand, pointed at the ground.

"I then ordered both women to take all their clothes off. They took their clothes off and placed their clothing on the ground. I then told them to start walking, the same direction the car was headed.

"I picked up their clothing and put them in the back seat of the car. I drove along the road the same direction the women were walking. I must have passed the women because I did not see them after I started driving the car.

"I drove for about 3 miles and got back on the main, blacktop, highway, the highway between Colfax, Washington and Pullman, Washington.

"I drove along the highway, towards Pullman, for about 5 miles where I stopped along the right side (west) of the highway. I got out of the car with the womens clothing, walked across the highway and tossed the clothing along the left side (East) of the highway.

"I then drove through Pullman, Washington and South toward Lewiston, Idaho.

3
BT 26-22889

"Just after I left Pullman, police cars started chasing me. I was traveling down a hill near Lewiston, Idaho when I was arrested.

"I stole the gun I used against the women at Monroe, Washington while on my trip from Bellingham, Washington to Coeur 'dalene, Idaho.

"I stole a white suit case, clothing, movie camera, clock radio, electric clock and items of jewelry at Bellingham, Washington just before I left here on 8/12/68.

"I wish to state that the only items of clothing I took off, while I was with the two women, was my shirt. I took my shirt off because it was stuffy in the car.

"I have read this statement, consisting of this page and two other pages. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

n "/s/ Howard P. Ethridge

"Witnesses:

"/s/ Stehar E. Gorud, Special Agent, FBI
"/s/ E. L. Lucas Lt of Police"

ETHRIDGE was shown the 7.65 Hauser Automatic Pistol, Serial Number 817,199, and he admitted that this was the pistol used by him when ordering the two women to disrobe.

4
BT 26-22889

Prior to furnishing the above signed statement, ETHRIDGE said that he had stolen the 1967 Chevrolet at Walla Walla, Washington, about 11:30 p.m., on August 13, 1968. He also claimed that he had purchased the items in the suitcase, which was in his possession when arrested.

The following is the physical description of ETHRIDGE as obtained from interview and observation:

Race	Half Indian
Sex	Male
Birth Data	[REDACTED]
	Rosland, Washington
Height	5'9½"
Weight	160
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Black
Tattoos	"HOWARD" - upper left arm; Letter "E" - left forearm
Arrest Record	Admits one arrest at Sunnyside, Washington over one year ago for vagrancy
Father	VERNON ETHRIDGE Deceased
Mother	VIOLET HOY
Home Address	Everson, Washington Route 1
Remarks	Everson, Washington ETHRIDGE claims to be one-half Cherokee Indian

¹
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ALLEGATION
THAT SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN WAS WELL
KNOWN TO THE WAITRESSES AT THE RED
LION RESTAURANT, POMONA, CALIFORNIA

1
LA 56-156
JOS/rem

Information was received by the Los Angeles Office of the FBI in late June 1968, that SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN had eaten at the Red Lion Restaurant in Pomona, California, on a number of occasions. It was further indicated that SIRHAN was well known to the waitresses at the Red Lion Restaurant.

1
LA 56-156
JEH/dey

The following investigation was conducted by SA
JAMES E. HOFFER:

AT POMONA, CALIFORNIA

Various attempts were made to contact LOUISE KALSO (phonetic) at the Red Lion Restaurant, Foothill Boulevard, and North Garey Avenue.

On July 30, 1968, CAROL TAVER, head waitress, Red Lion Inn, Foothill Boulevard and North Garey Avenue, advised that LOUISE KELLIS is a waitress employed by the Red Lion Inn, however she is on an extended vacation in the east and it is unknown exactly when she will return.

Mrs. TAVER was asked regarding her knowledge as to the information that SIRHAN SIRHAN was well known to the waitresses at the Red Lion Inn. Mrs. TAVER stated that this is strictly a rumor inasmuch as there was an individual who had eaten at the Red Lion Inn on several occasions prior to the murder of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY and that they have not seen the individual since the murder. She stated that after pictures came out in the newspapers of SIRHAN SIRHAN, there were remarks made that the individual who had eaten there resembled SIRHAN SIRHAN very much and it was felt possible by some of the girls that this was SIRHAN SIRHAN. She stated, however, that none of the waitresses at the restaurant were personally acquainted with the individual other than having waited upon him several times and that none of the waitresses know any personal background or any personal information whatsoever about this individual, in fact they do not even know his name, nor do they know that this is the same individual known as SIRHAN SIRHAN.

Mrs. TAVER stated that she is quite certain that LOUISE KELLIS has no further information than any of the rest of the girls regarding this individual.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 8/28/68

LOUISE KELLIS, waitress, Red Line Inn, Foothill Boulevard and North Garey Avenue, advised she heard other waitresses talking about seeing a patron at this location resembling SIRHAN SIRHAN, however, she said she had never seen such person and had no first hand knowledge of him.

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On 8/20/68 at Pomona, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA FERD J. RAPP JR. /vld Date dictated 8/27/68

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LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ADA BUTEAU,
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, WHO TELE-
PHONICALLY CONTACTED THE WHITE HOUSE
ON JUNE 28, 1968, AND STATED SHE
KNEW A PERSON WHO ASSISTED SIRHAN
IN KILLING SENATOR KENNEDY

¹
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

On July 6, 1968, U. S. Secret Service, Washington, D. C., advised that at 3:44 p.m., June 28, 1968, ADA BUTEAU, 51 Congress Street, Hartford, Connecticut, telephonically contacted the White House. BUTEAU was extremely upset and advised that she knew a person who assisted SIRHAN in killing Senator KENNEDY. BUTEAU stated she was walking on Congress Street on June 27, 1968, when this person, who identified himself as MERRILL ROGERS, came up beside her and followed her home and into her apartment.

ROGERS told BUTEAU he was a communist, and when BUTEAU asked him a question about Senator KENNEDY, ROGERS allegedly told her that he knew both President KENNEDY and Senator KENNEDY and that he helped SIRHAN kill Senator KENNEDY.

BUTEAU further stated that ROGERS had left a pocket knife on the table when he left on which appeared to be dried blood.

Following is result of an interview with ADA BUTEAU:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/5/68

1

Mrs. ADA BUTEAU, who resides on the second floor at 51 Congress Street, Hartford, Connecticut, was interviewed and furnished the following information concerning her experiences on the evening of June 28, 1968:

She stated during the early evening of June 28, 1968, she was alone at the Metropole Restaurant on Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, having a few drinks. She stated she later met a couple of friends at the bar and conversed with them briefly. A short time later, a man about 30, who was drinking at the bar struck up a conversation with her and a short time later asked if he could accompany her home. She stated she agreed and they walked to her apartment at 51 Congress Street, Hartford. BUTEAU stated that at the apartment he talked quite a bit and his line of conversation frightened her. She maintained that while both she and her guest had been drinking, they were not staggering or incoherent in their speech. She advised that he said he was a communist, of Arabic origin, and was "against the KENNEDY family". BUTEAU stated he claimed to know SIRHAN SIRHAN, the man who assassinated Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. BUTEAU stated she became very concerned for her safety and in order not to agitate the man, kept agreeing with him. She stated he was not rude while with her and made no "passes" at her. She advised that after about one half hour in his company at the apartment she asked him to leave because she had things to do. She stated he left without argument.

BUTEAU advised that the man left a penknife on the kitchen table. She exhibited the knife which was about two inches long of stainless steel with three blades, one of which is a combination can opener and screwdriver, one a nail file and the remaining a blunt knife blade. The knife bears the following inscription on the handle: "Palmdale Service Station, MERRILL ROGERS, PH 23631, P. O. Box 1200". The knife appears to be the type given customers for advertising purposes. The name MERRILL ROGERS is probably the owner of the service station. No stains were noted on the blades.

On 7/31/68 at Hartford, Connecticut File # NH 62-2477

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by SA JACK U. RICHARDSON/clf Date dictated 8/1/68

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²
NH 62-2477

BUTEAU stated the unknown male never furnished his name. She stated she has never seen him before or since. She described him as about 5 foot 8 inches or 5 foot 9 inches, 150 pounds, dark curly hair, dressed in slacks and sport shirt. She stated he had a dark complexion, and if he had not said he was Arabic, she would consider him to be of French extraction.

She stated he spoke very slowly and distinctly with a definite foreign accent. which accent she could not identify as to nationality. She recalled that the unknown male had advised that he had no formal religion, but worshipped the Sun God.

BUTEAU stated she was very nervous following the man's departure and about an hour later, called [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] a neighbor, to come up and discuss the matter. She stated they then decided to call the White House and report the information. She stated she placed the call, but was nervous and turned the telephone over to SLATER, who carried on the bulk of the conversation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.Date July 18, 1968

Records of the Hartford Police Department, Hartford, Connecticut, searched on July 16, 1968, reflected that ADA BUTEAU, 51 Congress Street, Hartford, was born December 31, 1935, and has the following arrest record:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
9/3/64	28	Intoxication	10 days, execution suspended
9/28/64	28	Intoxication	10 days, execution suspended
12/15/65	29	Intoxication	30 days, execution suspended
4/18/66	30	Breach of Peace	Nolle

With the record of the last arrest there appeared the notation "Mental outpatient".

The records of the Hartford Credit Rating Bureau contained no information concerning BUTEAU as of July 16, 1968.

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On 7/16/68 at Hartford, Conn. File # NH 62-2477

by SA EDWARD R. WHALEN/clf Date dictated 7/17/68

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1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
STATEMENT BY JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA
MEMORIAL DAY, 1967, THAT HE HAD A
CONTRACT OUT ON SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
STATEMENT BY JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA
MEMORIAL DAY, 1968, THAT HE HAD A
CONTRACT OUT ON SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

1
LA 56-156
JOS/pjc

Information was previously reported that about Memorial Day, 1967, while confined in the U. S. Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA was alleged to have made a statement that he had a contract out on Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, and if he, KENNEDY, ever got in the primaries or ever got elected, the contract would be fulfilled within six months.

Results of interviews of JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA and other inmates at the U. S. Penitentiary at Lewisburg have previously been reported.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date June 17, 1968

EDWARD HUGH POLE was interviewed at the El Paso County Jail, Colorado Springs, Colorado. On this occasion, POLE described himself as follows:

Date of Birth	May 25, 1941
Place of Birth	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Height	5'9½"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Marital Status	Separated from wife
Wife	KATHLEEN KRAFT, age 22, street address unknown, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
Son	One son, 22 months
Permanent Address	Route #1, Box 257, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Parents	Deceased

POLE stated he has resided at Colorado Springs for the past six months, residing at 117 South Limit Street, and has been employed by the El Paso Garage, Security, Colorado, as an auto mechanic.

POLE advised that on June 13, 1968, he pled guilty to a charge of forgery involving the theft of a payroll check from his employer and expects to receive an extensive sentence to the Colorado State Penitentiary, Canon City, Colorado. He pointed out he was previously convicted in July, 1961, U. S. District Court, Lake Charles, Louisiana, for a violation of the Dyer Act. He stated under the Federal Youth Corrections Act, he received a sentence of 60 days to 6 years. He pointed out he served 29 months at the Federal Reformatory, Chillicothe, Ohio; was paroled; violated his parole four months later; was sent back to Chillicothe and served approximately one year; again was released on parole; was out 7 months; violated his parole again; and on December 31, 1966, was incarcerated at the Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Federal Penitentiary, from which he was released after completion of his

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On 6/14/68 at Colorado Springs, Colorado File # Denver 62-2416

by SA ALVIN W. BERRY;
SA RANSOM A. WHITTLE:pmb Date dictated 6/14/68

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DN 62-2416
AWB & RAW:pmb
2

sentence on July 19, 1967.

He stated that on or about Memorial Day, 1967, he was in the dining hall at the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary and at the table next to him was JAMES HOFFA, who was talking to the two following-described individuals:

#1:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American, of Italian descent
Name	Unknown
Age	55-58 years of age
Height & Weight	Approximately the same height and weight as JAMES HOFFA

He pointed out that this man used to run at the prison track with Mr. HOFFA.

#2:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American, of Italian descent
Name	(FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) deJOSEPH
Age	Early 40's
Height	5'10"
Build	Heavy build
Peculiarities	Heavy, dark beard even after shaving

He stated on this occasion, he overheard HOFFA state to these two individuals that, "I have a contract out on KENNEDY and if he ever gets in the primaries or ever gets elected, the contract will be fulfilled within six months." He pointed out that sitting with him, POLE, and who also overheard this conversation, were the following individuals:

#1:

Name	JAMES JOSEPH O'BRIEN
------	----------------------

O'BRIEN was being transferred in June, 1967, to the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia.

DN 62-2416
AWB & RAW:pmb
3

#2:

Name	Unknown
Sex	Male
Race	White
Nationality	American
Age	Early 30's
Height	5'8"
Build	Slender
Hair	Black

He stated this individual had robbed a bank at Cleveland, Ohio; had been at Lewisburg for seven years; had been paroled; and after two years on the outside, had violated his parole and was back at Lewisburg. He pointed out this individual resided in D cellblock and was originally from St. Louis, Missouri, and would have been eligible for parole back to St. Louis about the present time.

Approximately two weeks after this conversation, POLE stated he was working in the clothing store and was there early in the morning prior to the store opening, and that JAMES HOFFA came to the gate. Recalling the prior conversation, he asked HOFFA what he thought about KENNEDY. He stated HOFFA immediately began an emotional tirade over KENNEDY's use of wire-tapping and HOFFA's conviction and incarceration at Lewisburg. He ended the conversation by stating, "Right now KENNEDY's in no danger; but if he gets into a primary or gets elected, I won't say how or when, but he'll get knocked off." POLE stated there were no witnesses to this conversation.

POLE advised that in view of HOFFA's power and influence in this country, he feared for his life and under no circumstances would he testify to the above information.

CV 175-16

SEP/klg

1

The following investigation was conducted by SAs EDWARD M. HARGRAVE and STANLEY E. PETERSON at Youngstown, Ohio:

ROBERT M. WALKER, U. S. Probation Officer, Youngstown, was contacted on June 28, 1968, and he advised FRED COOPER is currently residing at 212 Broadway Avenue, Youngstown, with his mother.

FRED COOPER, 212 Broadway Avenue, Youngstown, advised on June 28, 1968 he had met JAMES HOFFA at the U. S. Penitentiary, Lewisburg, Pa., but stated they were not friends, and he had never engaged HOFFA in any conversation at any time. He stated he knew who HOFFA was, and recalls that when HOFFA entered the penitentiary, possibly in March, 1967, he overheard him say, "Well here I am, there's nothing I can do about it, and I'm just going to have to make the best of it." HOFFA also indicated that it was just a piece of paper that tripped him up, which resulted in his conviction, however, COOPER never heard what it was.

COOPER was questioned specifically about the statement allegedly made by HOFFA on or about Memorial Day, 1967, and COOPER stated that if HOFFA made such a statement regarding the late ROBERT KENNEDY he, COOPER, did not overhear the statement, and never at any time heard anyone comment about such a statement. COOPER added that he never heard the name of KENNEDY mentioned by HOFFA at any time.

1Date 9/5/68

DONALD L. GEORGE, 1007 Gordon Street, Lafayette, Louisiana, advised as follows:

From about April, 1966, to April, 1968, he worked as an investigator for J. MINOS SIMON, attorney, who has recently represented EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, Business Agent, Teamsters Local 5, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. When he became unable to carry on his relationship with SIMON because of personal disagreements, he obtained a position in May, 1968, as investigator for F. LEE BAILEY, attorney, Boston, Massachusetts, who has been retained by interests representing JAMES R. HOFFA.

He has never talked to anyone who claimed to have heard HOFFA say he "had a contract out on KENNEDY and if he ever gets in the primaries or ever gets elected, the contract will be fulfilled within six months", or any similar statement concerning Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He has had no direct contact with HOFFA at any time.

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On 8/26/68 at Lafayette, Louisiana File # NO 173-994

by SA's DONALD L. HUGHES and Date dictated 8/27/68
RICHARD A. SMALLWOOD/DLH/cem

Date 7/10/681

JACK S. MARTIN, SR., 1836½ Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, voluntarily appeared at the New Orleans Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in connection with another matter at which time he was questioned concerning the letter he sent to CHARLES D. WINTERS, Teamster Representative in New Orleans, wherein MARTIN asked, "Why did HOFFA once put out a 'contract' on both of the KENNEDY boys?".

MARTIN stated he has no first hand information that any "contract" was put out on either JOHN F. KENNEDY or ROBERT F. KENNEDY and that he merely made such a statement in his letter to WINTERS as a means of irritating WINTERS. MARTIN stated he merely wanted to see what the reaction of WINTERS would be.

MARTIN emphatically denied that he had any positive information that a "contract" had ever been put out for either of the deceased KENNEDY's.

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On 7/8/68 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 173-994
by SA EDWARD J. CARNEY, JR. and
SA WILLIAM E. DENT, JR. WED/kmt Date dictated 7/10/68