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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

Stenographic Transcript Of

HEARINGS

Before The

014031

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS E. BECKHAM

HAM

[014031]

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

May 24, 1978

New Orleans, Louisiana

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1 UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION

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Mr. Beckham United States Federal Courthouse
Room 648
Ms. Veronica Wickes, C. S. 600 South Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
Wednesday, May 24, 1978, 3:15 p.m.

THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM

APPEARANCES:

JAMES E. MCDONALD, Senior Counsel/JFK
U. S. House of Representatives
Select Committee on Assassinations
Washington, D.C. 20515

JONATHAN BLACKMER, Staff Counsel
U. S. House of Representatives
Select Committee on Assassinations
Washington, D. C. 20515

ALSO PRESENT:

BOB BURAS
Room 648
600 South Street
Federal District Courthouse
New Orleans, Louisiana

SWORN TESTIMONY OF

THOMAS E. BECKHAM

[014031]

[e 27]

P R O C E E D I N G S

1 A. MR. MCDONALD: Good afternoon. My name is
2
3 James E. McDonald, Senior Staff Counsel for the House Select
4 Committee on Assassinations, U. S. House of Representatives,
5 and I have been designated, pursuant to House Resolution 222
6 and Committee Rule 4, a designated Counsel, empowered to
7 take statements under oath.

8 Q. Mr. Beckham, you've been previously sworn by
9 Ms. Veronica Wicker, U. S. Magistrate, Room 320, 600 South
10 Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

11 Whereupon, That's right, because they said nothing was

12 used against THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM

13 having been duly sworn by Ms. Veronica Wicker, U. S. previously
14 Magistrate, Room 320, 600 South Street, New Orleans,
15 Louisiana, testified as follows:

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. MCDONALD: these are the blue pieces of paper that I

18 Q. For the record, would you please state your
19 full name. (Documents handed to witness.)

20 A. Thomas Edward Beckham.

21 Q. And is the statement you are are about to
22 give to the Committee being given voluntarily?

23 A. Yes. It is.

24 Q. Okay. Are you under subpoena to appear here
25 today?

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (AG 133)

1 A. Not that I know of.

2 Q. You would know if you were under subpoena?

3 A. Right. They would have served it.

4 Q. So the answer to that question is --

5 A. No. I am not under subpoena.

6 Q. Okay. As I pointed out to you in the Com-

7 mittee Rules, specifically Rule 4.3, you do have the right

8 to have an attorney present, and I take it by the absence of

9 such attorney, by the absence of any attorney, that you

10 don't wish to have an attorney present here today.

11 A. That's right, because they said nothing can

12 be used against me.

13 Q. That's correct. Mr. Beckham, I have previously

14 given you a copy of the Committee Rules and House Resolutions

15 222, 433, and 760.

16 A. Have you had time, had a chance to look

17 through these? These are the blue pieces of paper that I

18 let you read before.

19 (Documents handed to witness.)

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And I have previously handed you a

22 copy of the Committee Rules, specifically pointing out to

23 you Rule 4.

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And you understand them?

[014031]

[Exhibit 1 of 2]

1 A. Correct. I read them.
2 Q. And you understand them?
3 A. Yes. I do.
4 Q. Mr. Beckham, as you can see, this deposition
5 is being transcribed, and upon the transcription of this
6 deposition we will provide you with a copy so you can read
7 it, and make any grammatical error changes, or whatever --
8 A. Okay.
9 Q. --that you find in the record.
10 Q. Again, for the record, please state your full
11 name. A. I see.
12 A. Thomas Edward Beckham.
13 Q. And your age?
14 A. Thirty-five.
15 Q. And your present address?
16 A. 1624 Ellwood, two "L's" in it, Louisville,
17 Kentucky 40204.
18 Q. All right. And your occupation?
19 A. I own Kentucky Bureau of Investigation, and
20 I'm a special bailiff for the Jefferson County Circuit Court.
21 Q. And for how long have you been employed?
22 A. Just recently.
23 Q. How recently is "recently"?
24 A. I'd say four, five, six months, something
25 like that.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 Q. Okay. What is the nature of this business?

2 A. Well, I have an investigation agency, which is
3 one agency. And I have the other one just serving subpoenas
4 for the Jefferson County Circuit Court.

5 Q. Okay. And how many people are employed at
6 your agency?

7 A. Just me.

8 Q. I see.

9 A. The Court has other special bailiffs out of

10 their office --

11 Q. I see.

12 A. -- that serve subpoenas.

13 Q. Okay. And what is the address of your

14 current occupation, your current new business?

15 A. It's right at the same place, 1624 Ellwood.

16 Q. All right. Is that your home, as well?

17 A. Right.

18 Q. All right. And, Mr. Beckham, you have been

19 asked to come here today to relate information that you have

20 previously given to staff members of this Committee regarding

21 the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

22 I'm going to give you an overview of what we

23 intend to ask you here this afternoon, and then I am going to

24 go back and question you in detail about the various elements.

25 Q. We are going to be asking you questions about

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 your association and/or acquaintance with an individual by
2 the name of Jack Ruby. ~~That was it. That's how I met~~

3 ~~Jack Ruby.~~ We are going to be asking you questions
4 regarding your knowledge and acquaintance with an individual
5 by the name of Lee Harvey Oswald.

6 Q. We are going to ask you specific questions
7 about some information that you gave to our Committee ~~it~~.
8 investigators regarding a meeting in the Algiers Section of
9 New Orleans. ~~That was back in. I don't know, probably '62,~~

10 ~~don't know.~~ We are going to be asking you about some infor-
11 mation that you have given to us regarding a trip you made
12 to Dallas, Texas in the early 1960's, I think it was 1963,
13 and also a trip to Miami. ~~the exact circumstances sur-~~

14 ~~rounding this was.~~ All right. Getting back to the first area of
15 inquiry. Mr. Beckham, did you know an individual by the
16 name of Jack Ruby? ~~right.~~

17 A. I met Jack Ruby, yes.

18 Q. All right. Please tell us the circumstances
19 of your first acquaintance with Jack Ruby.

20 A. I All right. I met Jack Ruby with E. Roswell
21 Thompson here in New Orleans. Me and Roswell was driving
22 down the street, and we turned down there by the ferry boat
23 area. They got a, oh what do you call it, a tattoo place
24 there, or they did have. I don't know if they still do.

25 Q. Uh-huh. ~~What was he doing when you first~~

[014031]

[Excerpt 100-27]

ESCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 A. Jack Ruby was there and Rozzy waved, and
2 Ollie came over, and then that was it. That's how I met
3 Jack Ruby.

4 Q. When was this?

5 A. Well, a while back.

6 Q. Well, what year?

7 A. It was before Kennedy, not too far before it.

8 Q. 1963, 1962, '61?

9 A. That was back in, I don't know, probably '62,

10 I don't know, '63. I can't be certain of the exact date.

11 A. I seen him again in the Monteleone.

12 Q. Okay. We will get to that in a minute.

13 So what were the exact circumstances sur-
14 rounding this meeting? You were in the car with Roswell
15 Thompson.

16 A. Right, right.

17 Q. Was he driving?

18 A. Yes, Rozzie was driving. It was his car.

19 Q. What kind of car was it?

20 A. I don't know. It was just a car.

21 Q. All right. And where was Ruby when you saw

22 him?

23 A. Ruby was by this -- what do you call it where
24 they do massages and stuff -- down by the ferry boat.

25 Q. All right. What was he doing when you first

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 saw him?

2 A. I don't recollect what he was first doing.

3 Q. I mean, was he standing on the street corner?

4 A. He was standing there, yeah. I remember, all

5 I remember is Roswell hollering. And he came over to the

6 car and asked Rozzy what he was doing. They talked about

7 some stuff, you know. It wasn't important, you know.

8 And then Roswell introduced me, and then we

9 left. That's about it, I imagine.

10 Q. Did you have any conversation with Ruby?

11 A. I might have said "hello," and, you know --

12 Q. How was he introduced, as Jack? I mean,

13 exactly, how was he introduced?

14 A. I don't remember -- he said -- how it came

15 up, Rozzy mentioned something about, said, "This is Jack,"

16 and I said, "Hi, how are you?"

17 And he said -- How I found later and knew

18 Jack Ruby was from the hotel, when I seen him inside the

19 hotel going to the ferry --

20 Q. We'll get to that later.

21 Did Thompson tell you where Ruby was from?

22 A. Yeah, said he was from Texas, because I

23 at one time had messed with a thing called the Texas Law

24 Enforcement Officer's Association. It was the name of a

25 magazine, you know, they put out.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A And Rozzy said that Jack was from Texas.

3 Q All right. When was the next time you had
4 occasion to meet Jack Ruby?

5 A That was, it was after that. I met him in the
6 Monteleone Hotel, I think they call it. It's down on Royal
7 Street.

8 Q Uh-huh.

9 A I walked in the lobby, and I was with Clay
10 Shaw. And Clay said, he was standing with some lady, Ruby
11 was. And he said "hi" to him.

12 And I went in there -- Then they, I used to
13 get these hard cigars they sold in there, and he said, "Hi,
14 Jack, how are you?" And Jack told him that he was --
15 something about a number, he mentioned a number. He said,
16 "Come up and see me. I'm in six-something."

17 And he said -- that was it. And I went and
18 got the cigars. And he was with a lady.

19 Q Ruby was?

20 A Yeah. She looked like she could have been
21 Oriental, or something, you know, attractive. I remember
22 she was taller --

23 Q What else, what did Shaw -- Who spoke first,
24 Ruby or Shaw?

25 A Shaw did.

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 Q And what did he say?

2 A Said "hello" to him. He was sitting in the
3 chair.

4 Q Ruby was sitting --

5 A Yeah, and he stood up. And the lady was
6 taller than he was. And I recognized him right off the bat,
7 then, because, you know, I'd seen him down with Roz.

8 Q How much time elapsed between the time you
9 saw him with Roswell Thompson and this particular incident?
10 Are we talking about days, weeks, months, or years?

11 A No. You are talking about months. Maybe it
12 could have been two or three months. I don't know. It's
13 hard, that many years ago, you know?

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A It's been a while.

16 Q And can you give -- let's try to pinpoint it
17 in time.

18 A I can't. I mean I can't pinpoint the time.
19 It's been so long ago.

20 Q '62 or '63 or '61?

21 A Oh, I imagine that was in -- probably, yeah,
22 let's see, '63, because I had left, so that was in '63, had
23 to be in '63.

24 Q Okay. So your first meeting with Ruby was
25 just Ruby standing by a car and saying "hello"?

[014031]

[Folger 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: SSCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: SSCA (RG 233)

1 with SA. Well, he walked over to the car. Overlapped?

2 Q All right. "hello" to him. And he

3 started. A. Because Roswell turned the corner, and

4 Rozzy's always waving at people, and Roswell hollered at

5 him, and he came over. Rather than him, and the way she

6 looked. Q And a few months later you say you

7 immediately recognized this man as the same individual?

8 with SA. Yes.

9 Q Why would -- for a brief meeting with someone

10 on a street corner, why would -- you from the previous

11 meeting. A. Ruby laid -- well, back then -- Well, like

12 when he come to the car, he laid up in the window on my side.

13 I say "laid there", you know, when somebody stands near the

14 window. Mark? Mark what?

15 Q Uh-huh. used to sing under the name of

16 Mark. A. He was saying, "Hey, man, I'm pulling for

17 you", and all this stuff, and he said, "Roz" -- Rozzy was

18 running, doing something, or running for something. I forget

19 what it was. met him."

20 Q Uh-huh. liked around and got some things, and

21 came on A. And they -- The next time I seen him was, like

22 I said, I didn't forget him, then, you know, that short span

23 of time. And what really made it stick out in my mind was

24 later, you know, after everything came together.

25 Q All right. What conversation did you have

[01H031]

[Page 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 with Ruby in the hotel, in the lobby of the Hotel Monteleone?

2 A Well, I said "hello" to him. And he
3 introduced, but I can't remember the name of the lady, but
4 he introduced the lady to all of us, and I remember thinking
5 the fact that she was taller than him, and the way she
6 looked.

7 Q Did you have -- Did you exchange any words
8 with him?

9 A No. Didn't exchange no words at all. Just --

10 Q Did Ruby recognize you from the previous
11 meeting with Roswell Thompson?

12 A Yeah, because he said -- well, back then, I
13 used -- a lot of them knew me as Mark --

14 Q Mark? Mark what?

15 A Yeah. I used to sing under the name of
16 Mark Evans.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A And Clay said, "This is Mark." He said,
19 "oh, yeah, I met him."

20 And I walked around and got some things, and
21 came on back, and that was it.

22 And they left. Oh, when he was leaving, he
23 told him to come up and see him in I thought he said six
24 something, if I'm not mistaken. It was a number.

25 Q All right.

[014031]

[FBI 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: SSCA (AG 233)

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Reference copy, JFK Collection: SSCA (AG 233)

1 A We left, and I said, you know, "he's a friend
2 of Roswell's."

3 Q Okay. You mentioned that you were with an
4 individual by the name of Clay Shaw.

5 A Right. really, I just did anything, you know?

6 Q Who is Clay Shaw?

7 A Clay Shaw was Clay Shaw. What do you mean?

8 Q Well, who is he? Martin.

9 A What do you mean "who is he"?

10 Q Well -- a private investigator.

11 A He was a friend of mine, you at the time?

12 Q All right. How did you get to know him?

13 A I don't know. Let's see. I don't know how.

14 It seems like forever. Through, I think I met Clay through --

15 Oh, I know how I met him. I met him through G. Ray Gill.

16 Met Clay through G. Ray Gill, and I met him through Ferrie,

17 David Ferrie. All right. Well, how did you come to be

18 with Clay Shaw? And this is the same Clay Shaw that was the

19 subject of prosecution by the District Attorney here in

20 New Orleans? round, like, where St. Charles and all that goes

21 into it? -- Yes. He was, something to do with, at that

22 time in an office, or something, the Trade Mart. He was

23 something -- I don't know what the thing was -- hang out

24 around there. All right. down there, and I seen him. There

25 was a A. But he was a nice guy, when there I used to go to

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 Q All right. What was your occupation at the
2 time?

3 A And that's how it happened. I was heading
(Laughter.) Worked with them.
4 over to the hotel to get their little, you know, it was a hard

5 Q Well, be specific.

6 A Well, really, I just did anything, you know?
7 with them. I'd tag along with him, and that's how I run

8 Q For who?

9 A Well, Jack Martin -- At that time I was
10 entertaining -- which was J. S. Martin.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A Jack was a private investigator.

13 Q Excuse me. How old were you at the time?

14 A Oh, 18, I think, something like that.

15 Q All right. And how old was Clay Shaw at

16 this time?

17 A Oh, Clay must have been in his forties, maybe

18 in his late forties, fifties. I don't know.

19 Q All right. Well, how did you come to be

20 with Clay Shaw on that evening?

21 A Well, see, I used to hang out around the

22 Quarters. Around, like, where St. Charles and all that goes

23 into Pearl --

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A And all those places. I used to hang out

around there, and I'd walk down there, and I seen him. There

was a, some kind of sandwich place down there I used to go to

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 eat. A lot of times he'd show up and he'd say, "hey, you
2 want a sandwich?" And he'd buy me a sandwich, you know.

3 And that's how it happened. I was heading
4 over to the hotel to get them little, you know, it was a hard
5 cigar, Brazilian cigar, or something, and I just tagged along
6 with them. I'd tag along with him, and that's how I run
7 into him.

8 But, I've seen him, you know, like if they
9 had something going on, or something, like a party, or a
10 club, or things.

11 Q Uh-huh. What was Clay Shaw's occupation at
12 that time?

13 A He had something to do in the Trade Mart. I
14 don't know what he did at that time. I really never seen
15 him work. (Laughter.)

16 Q Would you consider yourself at the time to be
17 a friend of his?

18 A Oh, yeah, I was a friend of his. At least I
19 thought I was.

20 Q After you left Ruby at the Monteleone, where
21 did you go?

22 A I don't remember, to tell you the truth.

23 Let's see, I left and told him goodbye, and --

24 Q Told who goodbye?

25 A What's his name? Clay Shaw.

[014031]

[FOLDER 1 of 2]

1 Clay had a -- I didn't call him Clay Shaw.
 2 It's been so long ago. He had a nickname and I don't even
 3 remember what the nickname was. It wasn't -- you know, I
 4 didn't say "Clay".

5 Q Uh-huh. All right. Thinking back on that
 6 night, how did you come to be with Shaw on that night?

7 A How did I come to be with him?

8 Q Yes. I mean it wasn't those -- (laughter.)

9 A I met him. It's these funny looking, like you

10 Q You met him.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Where did you meet him?

13 A I met him down at the sandwich place.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And it's a funny place.

16 Q What do you mean by "funny"?

17 A Well, it's a lot of the gay people hang out

18 there.

19 Q Okay. But this one in particular, I assume

20 A That's how I met him.

21 Q Okay.

22 A But he's -- They are just gay people, you

23 know?

24 Q All right. And you were at this restaurant,

25 or whatever?

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 A. Yeah, they make sandwiches.

2 Q. Okay. And Shaw was there?

3 A. Yeah, Shaw and others, you know, just gay

4 people.

5 Q. All right. Did you normally frequent this

6 place?

7 A. Yeah. I mean it wasn't the type gay people

8 you think, you know, I mean it wasn't these -- (Laughter.)

9 I mean I'm not gay, man. It's these funny looking, like you

10 picture a queer, you know?

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. And they were business-type people.

13 Q. Uh-huh. Did you ever meet Ferrie there?

14 A. Yeah, yeah.

15 See, Ferrie and Clay and Gill, and all of us,

16 were all --

17 Q. And you all used to frequent this restaurant?

18 A. Well, we went a lot of places.

19 Q. Okay. But this one in particular, I assume

20 you have met there on numerous occasions?

21 A. Yes. At Morrison's, and up at Walgreen's on

22 Canal. We all frequented, you know, different places.

23 Q. All right. So it's your testimony that you

24 accompanied Shaw to the Monteleone Hotel?

25 A. Yeah.

[01H031]

[FERRER 1 of 2]

A. Phonograph records. right. yeah.

1 Q That you walked there together?
 2 A Yeah, we went together.
 3 Q And what was the purpose of going to the
 4 Monteleone?
 5 A I went to get cigars.
 6 Q How about Shaw?
 7 A Shaw went with me. Shaw had stopped at that
 8 drugstore, too. There was a drugstore on the corner there,
 9 too. I think we did. There was a drugstore on the left of
 10 the hotel. The hotel was there, and we went to a drugstore.
 11 We sure did. We went to a drugstore.
 12 Q Okay.
 13 A The drugstore was in the same block as the
 14 hotel.
 15 Q After you met Ruby in the lobby of the
 16 Monteleone, did you ever meet with him again, or see him
 17 again?
 18 A No, I don't think so.
 19 Q Well, do you know for sure?
 20 A I mean, you know, it's been so many years,
 21 you know? After that, no, I didn't see him no more after
 22 that, because after that I went along after, until all this
 23 stuff happened, and then I took off.
 24 Q All right, Mr. Beckham. Did you ever have
 25 the occasion to meet an individual by the name of Lee Harvey

[011031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A Phonograph records, right, yeah.

1 Oswald?

2 A Yeah, I knew Lee.

3 Q All right. Will you please explain to us when
4 was the first time you met him, and where it was.

5 A Let's see. I met Lee so many different
6 places.

7 Q When was the first time you met him?

8 A I think I met him in either Morrison's or
9 Thompson's -- I can't put the cafeterias together -- I think
10 was the first time I met him. It was either Morrison's or
11 Thompson's, and then, after that, we become good buddies,
12 you know? It seemed like forever.

13 Q How did you meet him? What were the
14 circumstances of your meeting?

15 A Well, see, when Jack Martin was a private
16 investigator, and he was what we call a telephone booth
17 investigator. He had no office.

18 And Jack used to hang out at Morrison's, or
19 Thompson's, or one of these places, and he was at the table.
20 And then you'd get to talking to somebody, and before very
21 long, you know, one person would meet somebody else.

22 And then we used to hang out together, like
23 hung out down there at -- I could be wrong about the name --
24 I think it was called Waterburys. It was right down from
25 where Clay had an office. He had an office in the Trade Mart,

[01403]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A Phonograph records, right, yeah.

1 and right down from there was a little drugstore on the corner
2 of Canal and where the what-you-call-it was. We used to go
3 in there and drink Cokes and stuff and --ve with?

4 Q When you say you became friends with Lee, can
5 you pinpoint for us the time when you first met him, the
6 month and the year? 't know.

7 A No. I can't do that for you. or his house
8 on Magazine St. Well, try to give us an approximation.

9 A A guess. was place on Magazine. I don't know
10 if it. Q his All right. been so long, like I said, you

11 know? A I don't know, maybe around the very last part
12 of '62, and then in '63. I went, you know, like we went to
13 the Ace's Hoedown together. We -- was he was -- except one

14 time. Q was Did Oswald frequent this sandwich shop that
15 you mentioned before? Did he accompany you there at any
16 time?

17 A Oh, places me and Lee went to was Waterburys,
18 American Drugstore, Walgreen's, Thompson's, Holsum's
19 Cafeteria, down at a church I had on Rampart Street.

20 Q Where did Oswald live at the time?

21 A I don't know. I think he lived on Magazine.
22 I'm not certain, because I know there was a girl that he knew
23 there, that I was trying to -- excuse me -- I was trying to,
24 you know. Well, it was -- that's why I didn't understand

25 Q You were trying to get to meet a girl that

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A. Phonograph records, right, yeah.

1 lived in that neighborhood?

2 A. Well, it was a girl that Lee knew, you know.

3 Q. All right. Who did Lee live with?

4 A. I don't know.

5 Q. If you know?

6 A. I don't know.

7 Q. Have you ever visited the home, or his house
8 on Magazine Street?

9 A. I went to one place on Magazine. I don't know
10 if it was his home. It's been so long, like I said, you
11 know?

12 I went to so many different places. But he
13 was the nicest guy I ever met. I mean he was -- except one
14 time, we was talking about this morning, about when he got
15 mad at this one guy that was going to punch up on him, you
16 know?

17 Q. Uh-huh.

18 A. It was a friend of Jack's, that says he never
19 knew him, but he's lying, because Lee was going to punch his
20 teeth down his throat.

21 Q. Did you ever talk politics with Lee?

22 A. Oh, yeah, he was always talking about politics.

23 Q. What kind of politics was he talking about?

24 A. Well, it was -- that's why I can't understand
25 the Russian thing, because he was always 100 percent American,

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A. Phonograph records, right, yeah.

1 he seemed like. And he was against the Cuban thing. It was
2 different. It didn't make sense. And him and, oh, Sergio
3 Arcacha and them would get in an argument, and, you know, I
4 mean this was an automatic thing.

5 Q When did you ever see Lee Harvey Oswald get
6 in an argument with Sergio Arcacha?

7 A Oh, man, down there at the Holsum's. Then
8 we'd sit up at Walgreen's and they'd have discussions, and
9 the discussion would lead to an argument.

10 You know, not like a guy who's going to beat
11 somebody's brains in, but just like -- I might not like the
12 issue, and act, try to put it over to you as if you don't
13 know what you're talking about, you see?

14 Lee seemed pretty well that he was up on
15 certain things. He believed what he stood for. It seemed
16 like he was up on things.

17 Q All right. Let's pursue this as long as
18 you've raised it. What kind of arguments -- you were saying
19 Lee was always pretty much an all-American type.

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q What kind of arguments would he be getting
22 into with Sergio?

23 Do you know what this individual's full name
24 is? Sergio Arcacha?

25 A No. Let's see -- it was Sergio Arcacha, and

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1
2

A

Phonograph records, right, yeah.

And we went to this meeting. The meeting

1 Luis Rabel. One had a cleaners, and one was a doctor.
2 you're Q supposed All right. What were they arguing about?
3 because A. Marx was Cuban issues. he said nobody wants nothing
4 handed Q then All right. And which side of the issue was
5 Lee taking? You said earlier, Mr. Beckham, that when you
6 talked A. Well, let's see. Sergio was always against
7 the President, because he said the United States wouldn't do
8 this for him, and wouldn't do that for him. And there was
9 an issue one time about the Cubans coming to the United States.
10 Q Uh-huh. can you say when you were present, when
11 he was A. arguing I remember that stands out. they were arguing,
12 they were Q. Okay. Well, which side was --
13 A. Well, Lee said that they ought to be back
14 there fighting, you know, rather than here. And he said,
15 well, they can't be. And there was other issues that came up.
16 different. There was a guy that had supported a paper
17 from a Communist country that was printed on, they called it
18 rice paper, and this was one issue that came up. What's his
19 name wasn't for Communists. Lee said that Communism was
20 great, and he even brought up an issue at the time, saying --
21 take Q. Lee said this?
22 A. Yeah. He said that Communism was great, but
23 that it could never work. And I asked him, "Why do you say
24 that Communism is great? What do you say something like that
25 for?" talking about, and he didn't have to say it in 30 or

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 A. Phonograph records, right, yeah.
2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and

1 And he said, "Well, it is." He said, "And if
2 you're supposed to be a Jew, you should understand that,
3 because Marx was a Jew." But he said nobody wants nothing
4 handed to them.

5 Q You said earlier, Mr. Beckham, that when you
6 talked politics, Lee was an all-American boy type.

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q If I paraphrased you right.

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q And then you say when you were present, when
11 he was arguing with Sergio Arcacha Smith, they were arguing,
12 they were espousing different views.

13 A Arguing, in the sense of saying, like, I don't,
14 you know, a real argument, like saying, you know, "Oh, you
15 son of a bitch," you know, like that, but with him it's
16 different.

17 Q You'd have to have known Lee to know how he
18 acts. Like he would get disgusted, you see, with what you
19 have to say. If he thought he was right, he would be
20 disgusted with you. In other words, he wouldn't ever want to
21 take the time with you. You see?

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A He would just be -- I mean he would just be
24 disgusted with -- like he would tell you, "You don't know what
25 you're talking about," and he didn't have to say it in 50 or

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 A Phonograph records, right, yeah.
 2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
 3 lasted a good while. They discussed different...

1 60 words. He could tell you in a few short words, and it was
 2 over with.

3 Q Do I understand you right, then, in argument,
 4 or in philosophy, Lee Harvey Oswald would be anti-Castro?

5 A Oh, yeah. He was anti-Castro.

6 Q How do you -- when was --

7 A I can't account for none of the ways, why
 8 things happened.

9 Q I'm finding it hard to believe that, your
 10 statement they argued. Sergio Arcacha was know to be anti-
 11 Castro --

12 A They were arguing about different -- today,
 13 people might have political views, but they ain't going to
 14 see eye to eye, and they're both Americans. But he would cut
 15 you off short. I mean, Lee had a unique way of just saying,
 16 well, arguing with you in the sense of saying, "Well, that's
 17 it. I don't understand you," you know.

18 But somebody said he wasn't friendly, and he
 19 was always friendly. Like you could get out of a -- To give
 20 you an idea, like I'd show up, like one particular moment it
 21 was in front of the Sheraton Charles Hotel. Lee was
 22 standing there. Lee was talking to some men in a car, and I
 23 went by, and Lee wouldn't be the type to get -- like to walk
 24 away from you. Lee would always at least come over and
 25 acknowledge you, you know?

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 A Phonograph records, right, yeah.
 2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
 3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things and

1 Q Uh-huh.
 2 A But he would always acknowledge you at all
 3 times. Q Over across the street, and Lee had some kind of a
 4 little Q Okay. Mr. Beckham, do you know -- Would you say
 5 you were a close personal friend of Lee at the time?

6 A Yeah. Sure I was.
 7 Q All right. know. It was a while -- I can't --

8 I don't know. I mean I didn't dig into his life. Back then,
 9 I mean like Bob was talking today, and I said to Bob -- he
 10 said, "Did you know that Lee was married at the time?" And
 11 I said, "I didn't ask him." a couple. We went from there down
 12 to Waterbury. Back then, I was an 18, 19-year old kid. I
 13 wasn't interested in it. Let's talk about the literature.

14 Q Are we Okay. Did you know where Oswald worked?
 15 Where was he employed? know. It was Cuban literature.
 16 A to do No, I didn't know where he worked. I know
 17 now, but I didn't know then. Didn't even care. But half
 18 the time I seen him, he didn't seem like he was working.

19 Q You related an incident to our Committee
 20 Staff -- seeing "fire" on the literature. It might have
 21 been. A know Uh-huh.

22 Q -- that you once saw, or observed, Lee Harvey
 23 Oswald passing out literature. he was on TV that day, or going

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Would you please elaborate on that? When and

[014031]

[Folner 1 of 2]

1 A Phonograph records, right, yeah.
 2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
 3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things and

1 where?

2 A All right. I came out of the French Quarters
 3 and went over across the street, and Lee had some kind of a
 4 little thing standing there. So, as a matter of fact, he even
 5 handed --

6 Q When was this?

7 A Oh, I don't know. It was a while -- I can't --
 8 I don't know the date. I mean, it's been so many years ago,
 9 you know?

10 And he even handed me some of them. We was
 11 standing there. I gave out a couple. We went from there down
 12 to Waterburys, got a Coke --

13 Q All right. Let's talk about the literature,
 14 though. Are we talking about 1963?

15 A I don't know. It was Cuban literature.
 16 Something to do with Cuba. I think it was Free Cuba, or
 17 People for Free Cuba, or something like that.

18 Q And how about Fair Play for Cuba?

19 A No. It was something that says "free" on it.
 20 I remember seeing "free" on the literature. It might have
 21 been, you know.

22 And then we walked down there, had a Coke, and
 23 -- Oh, he said something about he was on TV that day, or going
 24 to be on TV.

25 Q All right. Then we're talking about 1963.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A Phonograph records, right, yeah.

Q And we went to this meeting. The meeting lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and

A All right. Locked up. Well it's of record. I

Q Mr. Beckham, did you ever have any photographs taken of yourself with Lee Harvey Oswald?

A Yeah, the Big Fatso on Canal Street took them.

Q Who is the Big Fatso? I had a lease on an

A They said that he got in some trouble for you, some -- how do you say it when it's dirty -- pornographic?

Q Pornographic. Is it? So she took it over to

A Pornographic stuff. Uh-huh. Because I tried to find him when I was here. He lived on Canal Street right above the American Drugstore, and I tried to find him. He took pictures. And I had some pictures and stuff.

Q All right. Did you previously advise members of this Staff about that, that you had the pictures?

A Yeah.

Q Okay. Year are we talking about?

A I told L. J., and L. J. said -- just not

Q When you speak of "L. J.," are you speaking of L. J. Delsa?

A Delsa, D-e-l-s-a. But it hadn't been too

Q Staff investigator for this --

A Right. I know what you're leading up to.

Q -- Committee?

A Right. All we want happened to the pictures.

Q And where are these photographs?

[014031]

[FINDER 1 of 2]

1 A Phonograph records, right, yeah.
 2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
 3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and
 4

1 A Okay. Well let me tell you what happened, and
 2 then you'll know. I was locked up. Well it's of record. I
 3 was arrested and charged with a crime.

4 So when I was in jail, I was worried about
 5 what I had, so I have my wife to take -- at the time, my
 6 wife's mother had married, and he still had a lease on an
 7 apartment, because she'd remarried, and they hadn't moved yet,
 8 because she had a home. So what they did, I asked her would
 9 she take all my stuff and hide it? So she took it over to
 10 Tommy Tumberland's, and locked it in, you go downstairs, and
 11 there's like a washroom, and they have little sections that
 12 you put stuff in --

13 Q Uh-huh. All right. Now many photos were there?

14 A -- and they put my stuff down there.
 15 So, and I'm in jail during the course of this
 16 time.

17 Q What year are we talking about?

18 A Well, this was -- I was in jail, just not
 19 too long ago.

20 Q 1978.

21 A Yeah, right. 1978. But it hadn't been too
 22 long ago.

23 Q I think I know what you're leading up to.

24 A About the --

25 Q Just tell us what happened to the pictures.

[014031]

[FATHER 1 of 2]

1 A Phonograph records, right, yeah.
 2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
 3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and
 4 said what about...

1 A Well, Tommy calls the police and says that
 2 someone broke into his place and takes the stuff. And he said
 3 he thought it was robbery, but it wasn't no robbery.

4 So when I seen L. J. again, in Madison,
 5 Mississippi, I thought L. J. had got to the stuff and got it.

6 Q I think I stand corrected. It was July, 1977,
 7 a year ago. Is that what we're talking about?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. So we don't have these photographs
 10 any longer?

11 A Did I send you all that stuff? No. Okay.

12 Q All right. How many photos were there?

13 A I don't know. Let's see. There was about
 14 three photos. More than just me and him. There was photos
 15 of other people.

16 Now, Herman, another gentleman that I know,
 17 Herman Keck, he might --

18 Q What else was in this material that was stolen?

19 A There was certificates making you an officer
 20 in the Cuban Army. Well, it was the revolutionary forces.
 21 And I had some coins. And I had some cards, and --

22 Q Why did you save this picture of Oswald?

23 A I used to be a pack rat. I saved anything,
 24 and I just saved them. I don't know why. I mean, I just
 25 saved all the stuff and it was in boxes.

[01403]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A. Phonograph records, right, yeah.

And we went to this meeting. The meeting lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and said what should be done, and --

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ZSCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ZSCA (RG 233)

Q. Okay. Mr. Beckham, please relate to us an incident you have previously described regarding a meeting in the Algiers section of New Orleans.

A. Oh, that was across the bridge. It was at 197 -- Charlie Marullo. They discussed the what-you-call-it

Q. Let's try to pinpoint the time.

A. It was at night. I know what the what-you-call-

Q. Year and month.

A. I can't give you the year and month. I can only estimate, you know, get an idea. We stopped. We went over to Algiers. We took a right, we took a left.

Q. Who were you with?

A. I think, at that time, it was Sergio.

Q. When you say Sergio, who do you mean?

A. Sergio Arcacha, and Charlie Marullo, Marella, he has a brother on the police department, this lady --

Q. Who was driving?

A. Huh? He was going to put my records on his

Q. Who was driving the car?

A. They were. Near your records on his juke

Q. Whose car?

A. I don't know whose it was.

Q. Well, are we talking about 1963?

A. No, this was -- well, whatever time during the Cuban thing. It was right after the Cuban trouble, right

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

A Phonograph records, right, yeah.

2 And we went to this meeting. The meeting
3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and
4 said what should be done --

1 after we went to a house in Algiers, which is Orleans Parish,
2 and they went first. Me and Marullo stood back later, because
3 they said, "let's don't all walk up to the house at once." and
4 I remember that.

5 Q What happened at the meeting?

6 A Well, they discussed the what-you-call-it
7 thing, and they discussed about --

8 Q The record doesn't know what the what-you-call-
9 it thing is.

10 A Oh, I'm sorry. They discussed about the Cuban
11 invasion, and about the President, and something should be
12 done, and Sergio Arcacha, Lucius Rabel, and G. Ray Gill,
13 and oh, what's his name -- Marcello --

14 Q What's Marcello's first name?

15 A One of them in that picture -- I've seen
16 some pictures. That was the guy that --

17 Q Well, can you remember who, specifically,
18 by name?

19 A No. He was going to put my records on his
20 juke box.

21 Q What do you mean your records on his juke
22 box?

23 A Well, back then, I'd made some records, and
24 he owned something to do with some --

25 Q Phonograph records.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 A Phonograph records, right, yeah.

2 A And we went to this meeting. The meeting

3 lasted a good while. They discussed different things, and

4 said what should be done, and --

5 Q Well, what, specifically, was discussed, as

6 to what should be done? ... or Marellio. G. Bay Gill.

7 A Well, they talked about the President, that

8 he had promised air support, and withdrew air support, and

9 this has to be done, and, that, you know, I hate to say that

10 word. A Yeah. David was there. David always showed

11 up at ... Say what word?

12 A You know, that he ought to be killed.

13 Q Well, you can say the word.

14 A Well, I mean I didn't know they were going

15 to do nothing. ... went to look for it. It had ...

16 All right. ... Had the ...

17 I mean, this was just talk. ...

18 You're -- parallel.

19 A And, you know, and that's what the whole

20 question -- I can't give you word for word the whole thing.

21 It was about the President, about killing the President, but

22 I didn't take it for real. ...

23 Q All right. Was the word "assassinate" used?

24 A No, "kill" the President.

25 Q Well, you just said --

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

there, or something that wasn't running, they said.

1 A "Son of a bitch ought to be" --

2 Q -- you hate to say the word.

3 A Should be killed.

4 Q Who else was present?

5 A Charlie.

6 Q Charlie who?

7 A Charlie Marullo, or Mareello, G. Ray Gill. Of

8 course, he and all of us was together, you know, as friends

9 and stuff, on the Cuban thing.

10 Q How about David Ferrie?

11 A Yeah, David was there. David always showed
12 up at things like, you know --

13 Q And can you describe for us, if you can, where
14 this meeting was held?

15 A Yeah, it was in a house in Algiers. I think
16 we found the house, went to look for it. It had hardwood
17 floors, and it was a double-sided house. Had the steps that
18 you went up to, and we parked on the left-hand side of the
19 street and crossed the parallel.

20 And there was -- somebody had a sign in their
21 yard. It said "TV Rentals", or "Radio Rentals", or something
22 like that. You know, where they fix TV's, or something. I
23 don't know exactly how it was worded, but it was on the
24 opposite side of the street, and it's all residential. The
25 whole thing was residential. And when we left, that boat over

[01403]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 there, or something that wasn't running, they said.
 2 Q Did you go to this house at night, during
 3 the evening hours?
 4 A Yeah.
 5 Q It was dark?
 6 A Yeah.
 7 Q And, is it true that today, the day of this
 8 deposition, you were in the presence, or you were accompanied
 9 by an investigator?
 10 A Yeah, we went out there to try and find the
 11 place. And we went out to a house, I don't know if it was the
 12 house. I don't know. I think it was. But there was no sign
 13 about the --
 14 Q All right. So you were unable to locate this
 15 residence?
 16 A I don't know if we did or didn't. We might
 17 have.
 18 Q We took the address down. We went to a bunch
 19 of other places that I'd been, that we located.
 20 Q You mentioned an individual by the name
 21 of Marcello was there.
 22 A Yeah.
 23 Q Did you have conversation with him at the
 24 time?
 25 A I don't remember. Before I did.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

1 Q Before you did what?

2 A Well, like when -- this is going into about

3 the Dallas.

4 Q All right. Let's not do that.

5 Do you remember, in trying to identify this

6 Marcello, can you recall any peculiarities of the way he

7 spoke? Namely, did he speak with an Italian accent?

8 A I can't even remember now how any them spoke,

9 you know? The only thing, he owned Jefferson Music, and a

10 motel he owned, called, I think it was, I don't know --

11 Q Let's direct your attention, now, to an

12 incident that you related to Staff investigators regarding a

13 trip you took to Dallas.

14 A Okay. Yes.

15 Q When was this?

16 A I don't know, about maybe, weeks, or something,

17 before the Kennedy --

18 Q Before the Kennedy assassination?

19 A Yeah, maybe a week, maybe a month.

20 Q Is that what you are talking about?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q So we're talking about, perhaps, October 1963?

23 A Yeah, probably.

24 Q Okay. Tell us what happened regarding your

25 trip to Dallas. Who approached you? Who asked you to go to

[01H031]

[FOLDER 1 of 2]

1 Dallas? And they give me money.

2 A Okay. How this came about was Ferrie said for
3 me to go up with him to G. Ray Gill's office. So when we got
4 up here, he said Gill wanted me to go out of town, and asked
5 me did I want to go. I said, "Go out of town for what?"

6 And he said, "He wants you to carry some papers
7 out of town." And I said, "Yeah." And they give you money for?

8 A So when we walked in there was Marcello.
9 There was Gill. There was Ferrie. I think Jack was there.

10 Q And Jack? Mission Fathers, which stood for United
11 Cuban A. Martin. Roswell Thompson, good old faithful

12 Roz. Q Uh-huh.

13 Q Uh-huh. on Wampart Street. I don't know the
14 exact address. And when I walked in, Gill was sitting behind
15 his desk, and there was, you know, like you take a photo off
16 of a street, you know, you just snap a photo --

17 Q Uh-huh. Yeah, I think Clay was. I think he
18 was. A. And some stuff. He had all this on his desk,

19 and he did his stuff like this (Indicating.) pushed them
20 together, stuck it inside of an envelope. And then he said,

21 "I'm going to send" -- see, back then, it was all by took a
22 investigators. know how you have a couch sitting by a

23 Q Uh-huh. by's home, somebody lived there.

24 A I mean Jack was, and different ones, so I
25 thought, well, this is a fantastic thing to be associated with

[014031]

FOLDER 1 of 2

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 133)

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1 them. And they give me money.

2 Q How much money?

3 A Oh, they give me anywhere from fifty to a
4 hundred, or two hundred dollars, depending, you know. I
5 mean they kept me in money. I mean, I always had money.

6 And, so Gill told me he wanted me to go to --

7 Q Excuse me. What did they give you money for?

8 A We had different things. I had fronted a
9 church for the Cubans. It was UCMF. It was supposed to have
10 been United Catholic Mission Fathers, which stood for United
11 Cuban Revolutionary Forces.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A That was on Rampart Street. I don't know the
14 exact address.

15 Q All right. Let me just backtrack one minute.

16 Was Clay Shaw present at the Algiers meeting?

17 A Yeah. Yeah, I think Clay was. I think he
18 was. Yeah, Clay was there.

19 Q How did you remember that?

20 A Well, I know him. See, they had a couch.

21 It was sitting across -- like when you walk in, they took a

22 regular -- you know how you have a couch sitting by a

23 window? It was somebody's home, somebody lived there.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A And they set the living room up like when you

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (20 233)

1 walk inside of the living room -- you know how you take your
2 kitchen table and put your kitchen table in the living room?
3 They put their kitchen table in the living room.

4 Q Was Lee Harvey Oswald present?

5 A No.

6 Q You sure?

7 A I'm positive Lee wasn't there.

8 Q All right. So how did you come to go to
9 Dallas?

10 A By plane.

11 Q What did they ask you to do? Who asked you to
12 do what?

13 A Well, Gill -- See, Gill was the one that I
14 collected my money from and at all times, and if I didn't get
15 it from him, I'd get it from David. See, I call him Ferrie,
16 same guy.

17 But anyway, he told me that they wanted me to
18 carry a package to Dallas. And I said, "All right." And
19 one of the big things they made a big to-do about, back then
20 I used to like to put on a bunch of rings, you know, get
21 these cheap rings.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A And he told me to take them off, and he said,
24 "Now, Tommy," he said, "I want you to watch what you say.
25 Don't be talking to a bunch of people, because," he said,

[014031]

[FBI 100 27]

1 "you know, we represent a lot of big clients." And he said --
2 he always used to tell me that.

3 That's what gave me to believe that I was
4 working for them in a business and stuff, and he said, "You
5 know, loose mouths sink ships." He said, "I want you to
6 know this." ~~opened the package, looked inside of it, and he~~
7 ~~said, "Is this~~ Well, when we got to the airport, "I had my
8 envelope," and they bought, oh, it was one of these vanilla
9 envelopes. You've seen that type vanilla envelopes? And
10 they bought me a book, Rozzy did, and --

11 Q What did they buy you a book for? ~~'t all of it?~~

12 A I put the things round the what-you-call-it.

13 Q They said, "Don't talk to the stewardess."

14 He said, "Don't tell her you're a big singing star," and
15 stuff. ~~"You're kidding."~~

16 Q You stated that Gill called you "Tommy."

17 ~~thought~~ A Yeah. Sometimes he called me Mark, you know.
18 Because back then, I was singing as Mark. ~~because I saw what~~
19 ~~they put in it.~~ But sometimes they would call me, like Rozzy
20 would always call me Tommy, you know. He never did say Mark.
21 And they just had different, you know, it wasn't -- but
22 anyway, I was to go to the Executive Inn.

23 Q Uh-huh. ~~wings.~~

24 A And I forget, they gave me a room number I
25 was to go to, but when I got to the Executive Inn -- I took

[014031]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: KSCA (20 233)

1 a cab there -- I didn't have to go to no room number.
2 Q Why?
3 A A guy was already in the car there waiting
4 for me. He blew the horn. "This can't be all of it." I
5 said, "Yes, it I got in the car." And he drove away from
6 there. He opened the package, looked inside of it, and he
7 said, "Is this it?" or "What the hell's this?" or something.
8 I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "This ain't all of it."
9 Q Who said that? the guy is mad.
10 A And I said, "Yes, it is."
11 Q No, no. Who said this, "This isn't all of it?"
12 A Paul, you mean? Let's be very specific. You
13 Q Yes.
14 A And I said, "Well, this is all they gave me."
15 He said, "You're kidding." "The money." We gave us \$100 I
16 think it was. And I said, "No, I'm not kidding you." I
17 thought he thought I stole something out of it. And which,
18 honest to God, I didn't even look in it, because I seen what
19 they put in it.
20 Q And what was in it?
21 A Just photos.
22 Q Of what?
23 A And drawings.
24 Q Of what?
25 A I don't know. Streets. Pictures. You know,

[014031]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ZSCA (20 133)

1 like you take, shoot a picture out this window, or something --

2 Q Uh-huh. *How did you know who was aiming the*

3 A That's all it was. That's the whole thing.

4 So he said, "This can't be all of it." I
5 said, "Yes, it is." And I said, "If you want, you can call
6 them on the telephone and find out."

7 But I even mentioned it to Roswell. I said,
8 "Roswell, I don't know what you all did, but you must have
9 short-changed the guy, because the guy is mad."

10 Q Uh-huh. *Times had you met him before?*

11 A And Roswell said, "Oh, just forget it." And --

12 Q All right. Now, let's be very specific. You
13 arrived in Dallas, and you went to the Executive Motor Inn?

14 A I had -- I think he give me -- I think what he
15 said was, he said, "Take the money." He gave me \$300 I
16 think it was. It's been so long ago. He said, "Take the
17 \$300, but, now Tommy, you've got to take a cab there," and
18 he said, "And don't be playing around and get yourself in
19 trouble." I mean that's the way they all talked like.

20 So he said -- but when I took the cab to go to
21 this particular room -- I don't remember the room, it was
22 the Executive Inn in Dallas -- instead of like, you know,
23 as I got out of the car, started -- you know how you start
24 looking for a room -- he blew the horn. And then I got in the
25 car, and I said, "Here. I was supposed to deliver this to

[010410]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)
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1 you." He said, "Tommy." I said, "Yeah." He said --

2 Q Well, how did you know who was blowing the
3 horn at you? No, it was Howard. I'm sorry. Yeah, because

4 A Because I had met him before.

5 Q Okay. What was his name again?

6 A Hall.

7 Q What was his first name? I have James S. Hall

8 A Oh, what is Hall's first name? I can't think
9 of his first name now. I'm sorry.

10 Q How many times had you met him before?

11 A I met him at the church.

12 Q So you knew him when you met him?

13 A It's not a church.

14 Q We'll talk about that later.

15 Q So you knew the individual you were looking
16 for? He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Well,

17 A Yeah. James Hall. No, it wasn't James Hall.

18 Q And "Go ahead."

19 A He looked like he could strangle you with his
20 bare hands.

21 Q Now, Mr. Beckham, in a previous interview with
22 an attorney for this Committee --

23 A Committee.

24 Q You told them you met with another individual.

25 A Yeah, it's Hall and -- Howard, Howard. Yeah,

[014031]

[FBI 100-27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: NSCA (RG 233)

1 it's Howard, Mr. Howard.

2 Q You didn't meet with Mr. Hall?

3 A No, it was Howard. I'm sorry. Yeah, because
4 I gave him some things out of the -- that he picked up on
5 Rampart Street. Oh, okay.

6 Q All right. So it is Mr. Howard, then?

7 A Yeah, right. I'm sorry. I have James A. Hall
8 of Pine Bluff on my mind, which is an attorney that
9 represented me there, too. I'm sorry. together right.

10 Q And after you delivered the package, did you
11 go back to New Orleans?

12 A Let's see. Where did we go? Let's see. We
13 went somewhere then, or something, and, well yeah, that's
14 when I told Rozzy what had happened, and Rozzy said, "Don't
15 worry about it." I said, "You shortchanged the guy."

16 He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Well,
17 he was mad," and I said, "I didn't take nothing out of the
18 package." And that was it. intent with you and tell you.

19 Q All right. Mr. Beckham, let's direct your
20 attention to another incident you've related to this
21 Committee, and that is a trip you allegedly made to Miami,
22 Florida. Mr. Beckham, we, over the past year or so

23 A Okay. you've been talking to people on this staff, and you have had

24 Q Would you please describe the circumstances
25 of that? the date.

[014031]

[Folger 1 of 27]

1 A See, we went down -- it wasn't Miami. I think
2 it was called West Miami.

3 Q Before we get into it, let's try to pinpoint
4 this in time.

5 A Oh, okay.

6 Q Was this trip -- well, in relation to the
7 trip to Dallas, was it prior to the trip to Dallas, or go to
8 after the trip to Dallas?

9 A I can't put the thing together right.

10 Q Well, was it prior to the assassination of
11 President Kennedy?

12 A You mean before?

13 Q Yeah.

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Was it much before?

16 A I don't know.

17 Q Well, was it a year?

18 A I can't be honest with you and tell you.

19 Q Well, yeah, but you've had a chance to talk
20 to people on this Staff --

21 A I don't think about it.

22 Q Mr. Beckham, we, over the past year or so
23 you've been talking to people on this Staff, and you have had
24 occasion to relate this story. So think, if you can, to try
25 to pinpoint the date.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

1 A (No response.)

2 Q You can't remember?

3 A I have a thousand things running through my
Jonathan Blackmer, Attorney, Mr. Blackmer --

4 mind.

5 Q Oh, yeah, all right.

6 Q Okay.

7 A -- you related to him that you traveled to
Miami with a suitcase of money.

8 Q What happened -- well, who asked you to go to
Yeah, that was money that was given

9 Miami?

10 Q All right. Do you remember the incident?

11 A Let's see. We went to Miami. I can even
Yeah, that was for Cuba

12 remember the girls in that car, the episode.

13 Q All right. So who did you travel to Miami
with?

14 A Well, they got out and they talked.

15 Q Let's see. Who did I go with? Was it --
Yeah, it was Sergio, I think. I think it was Sergio. I'm

16 asked you to go to Miami?

17 A I don't remember now. I tell you, I got so
All right. And did you travel by -- Was there
anyone else?

18 Q All right. Who did you travel with to Miami?

19 A I don't remember. I can't even think straight
now, honest to God. It's been so long.

20 Q All right. Well, then again you had said you
related this to Mr. Blackmer, so it's not like you hadn't
lived about it, or you haven't thought about it.

21 A A year ago.

22 Q All right. What I'm asking you is you
who asked you to go to Miami?

23 A Well, everything that came up to go to Miami,

24 previously --

25 A Let me take my coat off.

[01H031]

Folmer 1 of 27

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 Q Sure.

2 A Okay.

3 Q Mr. Beckham, in a previous interview with

4 Jonathan Blackmer, Attorney, Mr. Blackmer --

5 A Oh, yeah, all right.

6 Q -- you related to him that you traveled to

7 Miami with a suitcase of money.

8 A Yeah, that was money that was given.

9 Q All right. Do you remember the incident?

10 A Yeah, that was for Cuba.

11 Q All right. So who did you travel to Miami

12 with?

13 A Let's see. Who did I go with? Was it -- no.

14 Yeah, it was Sergio, I think. I think it was Sergio. I'm

15 not sure.

16 Q All right. And did you travel by -- Was there

17 anyone else?

18 A I don't remember. I can't even think straight

19 now, honest to God. It's been so long.

20 Q All right. Well, then again, you had a chance

21 to relate this to Mr. Blackmer, so it's not like you hadn't

22 talked about it, or you haven't thought about it.

23 A A year ago.

24 Q Who asked you to go to Miami?

25 A Well, everything that came up to go to Miami,

[014031]

[FOLDER 1 of 2]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: SSCA (RG 233)

1 or any of them places, Gill was the one that told us what to
2 do.

3 Q Same thing for Dallas?

4 A Yeah. Dallas, because, see, Gill was the main
5 guy that represented -- well, like I had trouble one time in
6 a lounge, and Gill said, which Mr. Marcello got me in, and
7 Gill said, "Well, don't worry about it, because I'll handle
8 the whole deal." And I said, "Well, what about my money?"

9 Q Okay.
10 A And he said, "I'll get it."

11 Q All right.

12 A And he got it.

13 Q Did you carry the suitcase with money? Did
14 you, physically?

15 A No.

16 Q Who did?

17 A I don't know which one of us carried it.

18 Q You said --

19 A We raised money. How --

20 Q No, no, we'll get to that.

21 A I can't tell you that.

22 Q You testified that you were with Sergio Arcacha.

23 A Sergio, yes.

24 Q Was there an individual -- was there anyone
25 else with you?

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 A I don't remember.

2 Q All right. Is it your testimony that either

3 you or Mr. Arcacha had a suitcase containing currency,

4 containing money?

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q Had you looked into this suitcase prior to

7 leaving New Orleans?

8 A Yeah. I've seen all the money that we had,

9 because I was involved in a thing that we had to raise money.

10 Q Okay. So what was your purpose in going to

11 Miami?

12 A Taking money.

13 Q Taking money?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q In a suitcase?

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q With Mr. Arcacha?

18 A That was the reason that money was to be used

19 for the forces to be divided up.

20 Q Okay. How did you travel to Miami?

21 A I think we went there in a -- no, he rented

22 a car, I think. I think we flew there and we rented a car.

23 I think we flew there, and --

24 Q Once you got there --

25 A Yeah, we met by an ice cream place in the --

[014031]

Folder 1 of 27

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ZSCA (RG 233)

1 Q In where?

2 A It's West Miami. Is there a West Miami?
3 Sounds familiar, West Miami.

4 Q There is a place called West Miami.

5 All right. Who did you meet with when you
6 got to Miami?

7 A Oh, Lord, I don't remember now. I can't even
8 think. A guy got out of the car, got the money. We stood
9 there. I looked over at the car, and I can't think. Honest
10 to God, I can't. I'm trying to think of your dates, and I'm
11 so messed up I can't see straight.

12 Q Okay. Do you want to take a break for a
13 minute?

14 A Yeah, can we?

15 Q Sure.

16 (A short recess was taken.)

17 MR. MCDONALD: Back on the record.

18 BY MR. MCDONALD:

19 Q Mr. Beckham, you've given us testimony this
20 afternoon that you knew Jack Ruby, Lee Harvey Oswald --

21 A I met Jack Ruby.

22 Q Met Jack Ruby, and knew Lee Harvey Oswald --

23 A Right.

24 Q In New Orleans.

25 A Right.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 2]

reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (AG 233)

1 Q That you were present at a meeting that took
2 place in the Algiers section of New Orleans, present being
3 an individual by the name of Marcello, and Sergio Arcacha,
4 and David Ferrie, yourself, and Clay Shaw, at which meeting
5 among the topics of discussion were John F. Kennedy --

6 A Right.

7 Q -- and his handling of the Cuban situation.

8 A Right, right.

9 Q And, apparently, you overheard people at that
10 meeting saying things to the effect that Kennedy ought to be
11 assassinated?

12 A Yes, they said what was going to happen. One
13 issue that was brought up was that the whole d-a-m-n family
14 would be taking over everything.

15 Q All right.

16 A And they said, "Did you ever think you'd see
17 the day when a Catholic would get in office like this?" and I
18 don't know why it was like this, because they was all, well,
19 phony Catholic priests.

20 Q All right. And then, you've given us, you've
21 testified that you were given a package to --

22 A An envelope.

23 Q -- deliver to Dallas.

24 A An envelope.

25 Q An envelope containing?

[014031]

[FINDER 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (AG 233)

1 A. I saw Photographs.

2 Q. Of what? and when. I didn't want to stick

3 A. They were like streets, and there were

4 drawings. There were some papers.

5 Q. Okay. Was there a photograph, or a diagram

6 of downtown Dallas?

7 A. I don't know. I don't have any earthly idea.

8 Q. Mr. Beckham, did you ever report any of these

9 incidents to the Secret Service, the FBI?

10 A. No. Nothing when he subpoenaed me to come, you

11 know? Q. Or the Warren Commission?

12 A. No. I took off. You left New Orleans, correct?

13 Q. Where did you take off to?

14 A. Well, when I found out what had happened, I

15 went trying to look up Jack Martin. Couldn't find him. He

16 was gone.

17 I couldn't find G. Ray Gill. He was gone.

18 I couldn't find nobody. I rushed to Rozzy's.

19 So then, boy, I was just scared to death.

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 A. And until late that evening, till I came in

22 contact --

23 Q. What day are we talking about now?

24 A. Well, that was the day he got killed, because

25 when I seen what was happening and everything, then I knew

[01H031]

[Finner 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 that I was involved with people, and I figured somebody would
2 be coming down the line, and then, I didn't want to stick
3 around.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A And then, that's when I was hitting the trail.

6 Q All right. So you did not report any of
7 these --

8 A Well, I was questioned by the Garrison
9 Committee, but then, I was advised what to say, and I told
10 him I didn't know nothing when he subpoenaed me to come, you
11 know?

12 Q All right. And you left New Orleans, correct?

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q Where did you go?

15 A I think I landed in -- Right after that,
16 Jackson, Mississippi.

17 Well, one time, I landed in Mandeville to
18 play out, you know, a nut role.

19 Q All right, now. What do you mean by that?
20 What is Mandeville?

21 A All right. I think they call it Southeast
22 Louisiana Hospital, or something like that. It's in
23 Mandeville, Louisiana.

24 Q I'll talk about that in a minute.

25 A Okay.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 Q I know what you're talking about now.

2 A Okay.

3 Q When did you return to New Orleans?

4 A I don't remember exactly, come to think of it.

5 Q Well, was it a year later? Was it 1964 --

6 A Oh, no.

7 Q -- 1965?

8 A Oh, no. I returned again, when Roswell advised

9 me that, "Just don't worry about nothing. Just lay low.

10 Everything's going to be all right," you know, just everything's

11 going to be -- "just be calm." I took his advice.

12 Q All right. Did you appear before the Orleans

13 Parish Grand Jury?

14 A Right.

15 Q Do you remember what year that was?

16 A No, I don't know.

17 Q Does 1968 ring a bell?

18 A Might be, I can't say.

19 Q And that was the investigation being lead by

20 the District Attorney here in New Orleans? Jim Garrison?

21 A Right.

22 Q Did you relate the incidents that you've told

23 us this afternoon? Did you tell these things to Garrison?

24 A No. See, my mother -- I received a phone call

25 from my Mom. She said, "Tommy, don't run." When she said

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 77]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

1 that, I was -- and we got out of there right then.
2 Q Where were you at the time? Everything had
3 happened. A and I -- one foot out the door. I was at Omaha,
4 Nebraska.

5 Q All right. We're getting off the track.

6 A And so, it scared me, and I knew what it was.
7 And so, strange as can be, I got a telephone call from Jack
8 Martin. And I said, "Jack, what's going on?" I said, "Now,
9 I haven't said nothing to nobody, and nobody knows, or
10 anything." I said, "I'm gone," because I was hiding from
11 them.

12 A I said, "Now don't -- everything's okay."
13 And he said, excuse me, "Look, you little bastard." You'd
14 have to know him, that's the way he talks. And he said,
15 "Don't worry about it. Everything's taken care of."

16 Q Fred contacted me. Who was present at the

17 meeting? A Fred who?

18 A He's a friend of -- F. Lee Crisman.

19 Q F. Lee Crisman? What time that you related

20 to A. Right. Fred said everything was going to be
21 taken care of, that they had an "in" inside the District
22 Attorney's office, and that the investigation would be ran
23 the opposite direction, so for me not to worry.

24 But he told me that I should go to a trailer
25 park in, I think it was Council Bluff, Iowa. It was right

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1 across the way, and to get out of there right that moment.
2 And that was in just a matter of minutes when everything had
3 happened, and make it to Council Bluff, Iowa to this trailer
4 park. When these investigators visited me at the Federal

5 Q All right. We're getting off the track. Where
6 to -- A. I know. Okay.

7 Q Did you relate the incidents that you told us
8 today to the Garrison Grand Jury? that I was being charged
9 for something No. Do's even do. I mean, I knew there was a
10 lot of Q things. In other words, you did not tell them that
11 you knew Jack Ruby? when they were after me, and that was their
12 way of A. getting Huh-uh.

13 Q You did not tell the Grand Jury that you knew
14 Lee Harvey Oswald? I had been charged with a crime that I
15 didn't A. commit. No. so when I started talking the Judge that
16 I didn't Q want Okay. Nor that you were present at the he
17 meeting in Algiers? ing to send you for psychiatric evaluation

18 A No, huh-uh.

19 Q When was the first time that you related
20 these incidents to any official governmental agency? be safe.
21 And the A. I got You have to ask him.

22 Q You're pointing to Mr. Blackmer.

23 A Right. It's see when I was there. A week. I
24 Q Our Staff Attorney? as I saying? What as I
25 saying A. Right. I was there a month.

[01403]

FOLDER 1 of 27

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 213)

1 Q So, what you're saying is the first time you
2 related these incidents was approximately a year ago, 1977?

3 A Right, and the reason I did that was because
4 then, when them investigators visited me at the Federal
5 Penitentiary at Springfield, I figured that they were there
6 to -- and I knew I was -- they were the op--, op--. I can't
7 say the Q -- Springfield, Missouri?

8 A Right. And I knew that I was being charged
9 for something I didn't even do. I mean, I knew there was a
10 lot of things I should have went to jail for, but that wasn't
11 one, so I figured that they were after me, and that was their
12 way of getting me. -- the time you were -- that was from '68.

13 Q What were you in Springfield for?

14 A Well, I had been charged with a crime that I
15 didn't commit, and so when I started telling the Judge that
16 I didn't want this particular attorney representing me, he
17 said, "Well, I'm going to send you for psychiatric evaluation."

18 Q I see. -- committed at Mendeville.

19 A So I figured, well, maybe that's good, too,
20 because then, if they're trying to put me away, I'll be safe.
21 And then I got down there -- but there on there or from

22 Q How long were you in Springfield?

23 A Oh, let's see when I was there. A week, I
24 guess, maybe two. No. Wait. What am I saying? What am I
25 saying? Springfield. I was there a month. -- well, was

[014031]

Folmer 1 of 27

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 there. Q All right. Mr. Beckham, have you ever worked
2 for the CIA? All right. For the record, what are you

3 talking about? Directly worked for them? Yes?

4 A Yeah. A state mental institution. It's a

5 hospital. Well, I thought I had the knowledge that Fred
6 and Jack and all said that they were the op--, op--, I can't
7 say the word. It's in Mandeville, Louisiana.

8 Q Operatives. And how many times have you --

9 have you committed? There you go.

10 Q Was this during the early '60s?

11 A Oh, yeah. Times?

12 Q During the time you were -- that was from '60,
13 '61, '62, '63? All right.

14 A And Fred handled everything for me when I got
15 to Nebraska later, because, see, Fred lived in Tacoma,
16 Washington, and he set everything for me up out there.

17 Q Okay. Mr. Beckham, you briefly mentioned
18 before, Mandeville, being committed at Mandeville.

19 A Right.

20 Q When was that? In '60s?

21 A Well, I landed out there on three or four
22 different occasions. The dates. I can't tell you.

23 Q All right. And how long were you there the

24 A When I'd have a blowup, or I thought something
25 was coming up with Jack, and this stuff, I put myself out

[014031]

[Frame 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 there, because I figured -- that?

2 Q All right. For the record, what are you
3 talking about when you talk about Mandeville? next time you

4 were at Mandeville? It's a state mental institution. It's a
5 hospital. I don't remember. They was all in orders.

6 That's what I -- In what state? you.

7 A It's in Mandeville, Louisiana.

8 Q All right. And how many times have you --
9 Have you committed yourself?

10 A Yeah. was the purpose of committing yourself
11 to Mandeville? How many times?

12 A Well, I think I had my Mom to do it one time.

13 and the Q those? All right. was wrong with me, nobody would

14 next to A me. I think it was three times, total. nobody

15 stuff. Q any? What was the first time? that's what I thought.

16 it was A work. I don't know.

17 Q Well, were you a young man at the time?

18 19, 20? And Charity was during the course of all

19 this. A. Yeah.

20 Q Back in the early '60s? The first time you were

21 committed at? It was during all the course of this thing. our

22 I don't know, exactly, the dates. I can't tell you.

23 Q All right. And how long were you there the

24 first time? Yes.

25 A Long enough for them to throw me out.

[014031]

[FBI/DOJ 1 of 27]

1 Q How long is that? the theft, but why you
2 went to Mandeville? A week, maybe two weeks.

3 Q Uh-huh. And then when was the next time you
4 were at Mandeville? -- what do you call it when you
5 see you down there? I don't remember. They was all in orders.
6 That's what I'm trying to tell you. something like that.

7 Q All right. how I got the idea for this, you
8 now. That is -- Except for Charity Hospital, I was there at
9 one time, too. All right.

10 Q What was the purpose of committing yourself
11 to Mandeville? Okay. Mr. Beckham, I want to get some things
12 clear. A the Well, I thought if I landed in the Mandeville,
13 and they thought something was wrong with me, nobody would
14 mess with me. They wouldn't bring me in on any Kennedy
15 stuff, or anything. I'd be safe, and that's what I thought,
16 it would work.

17 Q I see.

18 A And Charity was during the course of all
19 this, too. Right.

20 Q All right. Did you -- The first time you were
21 committed at Mandeville, did it have anything to do with your
22 being charged with theft from -- under that name?

23 A Halpern's Fabrics? All, it was right after

24 Q Yes. Because I was hiding out. I guess,

25 A Yeah. four years ago, something like that.

[014031]

[FEBRU 1 96 27]

1 Q Explain that. Not the theft, but why you
2 went to Mandeville.
3 A They finally got the guy, the man that had
4 the store for insurance -- what do you call it when you
5 use your own store to have an insurance fraud?
6 Q Uh-huh. Embezzlement, something like that.
7 A Yeah. That's how I got the idea for this, you
8 know. That it would work.
9 Q All right.
10 A But it still didn't work.
11 Q Okay. Mr. Beckham, I want to get some things
12 clear for the record. Your full name, your legal name is
13 Thomas Edward Beckham?
14 A Yes.
15 Q As I'm sure you know, over the years you've
16 gone under --
17 A Aliases.
18 Q A lot of different aliases.
19 A Right.
20 Q Have you been known as Markus De Carlo Beckham?
21 A Yes, I have.
22 Q When were you known under that name?
23 A That was about -- well, it was right after
24 that thing, you know, because I was hiding out. I guess,
25 what, three years ago, four years ago, something like that.

[014031]

[FATHER 100 27]

1 Q How about, have you been known as Eagleston
2 Bryan Zimmerman?
3 A That was Alabama.
4 Q All right. When? That was when?
5 A Let's see. That was a year or two, two years.
6 Q Okay. Why did you choose that name? What was
7 the reason?
8 A I was hiding out under the names.
9 Q Hiding out from whom?
10 A Well, I didn't want to run into Jack, or Fred,
11 or any of them, and I figured if I used a different name,
12 they can't find me.
13 Q Did you have reason to believe that they were
14 looking for you?
15 A No, but I figured if they did, I didn't want
16 them to find me.
17 Q When was the last time you had any contact
18 with either Crisman or Jack Martin?
19 A Oh, it's been a while back.
20 Q Well --
21 A I didn't even know Fred was -- you know, it's
22 been some time, now.
23 The only body I've had contact with is Herman
24 Keck.
25 Q Herman who?

[014031]

[FOLDER 1 of 27]

C E R T I F I C A T E

1 A Herman Keck, K-e-c-k, Jr.

2 Q Have you ever used the name Tom Zimmerman?

3 A No.

4 Q Mark Evans?

5 A Right.

6 Q Mark Evans is the name you entertained under?

7 A Entertained under, right.

8 Q Mark C. Evans. Did you use that name?

9 A Yeah, well that was, that Mark C. is just --

10 Mark Country --

11 Q Jules Jurgenson?

12 A Yeah, used that.

13 Q When did you use that name?

14 A That was in Rayne, Louisiana, and I worked as

15 a Narcotics Officer for the City of Rayne, under George C.

16 Melancon, which was Chief of Police.

17 Q And what years was this?

18 A Geez, I don't know. I've had so much in a

19 short span of life, I can't even think straight.

20 Q Okay. All right, Mr. Beckham, again, we are

21 getting some personal information, or personal background

22 from you.

23 What is the extent of your formal education?

24 In other words, did you graduate from high school?

25 A I went through the third grade.

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

C E R T I F I C A T E

1 Q Third grade. And where was that?

2 A That was Henry W. Allen. that license?

3 Q Henry W. Allen School? obtained through these

4 A Right. New Orleans, Louisiana.

5 Q And you dropped out of school after the third

6 grade? Herman Beck, and other people that are

7 A That's right. of people I've been connected with.

8 Q Okay. Well, would you elaborate? I'm not sure what

9 A Of course, when you've spent three years in

10 each grade, you're not that young when you drop out.

11 (Laughter.)

12 Q I see. So, did you ever attend high school?

13 A No, never. As he said, set up to do

14 All right. Now, over the years, you've gone

15 under the name, I've seen some advertisements as

16 "Dr. Beckham"? Are we talking about the church group?

17 A That's right.

18 Q What degrees do you hold?

19 A M.D., Ph.D., and -- The church is just a

20 All right. Keep going.

21 A A bunch of others. I hold a Maryland State

22 Medical License from the Maryland State Board of Medical

23 Examiners.

24 Q So then, you're a licensed physician for the

25 State of Maryland?

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

C E N T R A L I D E A S

1 A That's right.

2 Q And how did you obtain that license?

3 A Well, now, that was obtained through these

4 same people.

5 Q All right. And who are "these same people"?

6 A Herman Keck, and other people that are

7 connected with this group of people I've been connected with.

8 Q Well, would you elaborate? I'm not sure what

9 you're talking about.

10 A Well, there's a group of -- the whole thing

11 is a group of us was an organization, and Fred Crisman was the

12 man that handled it in Washington.

13 The group was, as he said, set up to do

14 services for government agencies, and anybody else that

15 needed the services.

16 Q Are we talking about the church group?

17 A Right.

18 Q Let's hold off, we're going to do that --

19 A Not only the church. The church is just a

20 small part of it.

21 Q All right. Let me just finish off on the

22 degree stuff. So you say you hold a license to practice

23 medicine in Maryland?

24 A In the State of Maryland.

25 Q All right.

[014031]

[FINDER 100-27]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd

1 A. State Medical Board.

2 Q. All right. Have you ever had any medical

3 training? A local newspaper in December 1966, advertising

4 your course as Y. None. and Beckham, O.D., Ph.D.

5 Q. Have you ever practiced medicine in Maryland?

6 A. None. no. you obtained the Ph.D. from Brandridge

7 B-r-a-q-t-r-i. How about your -- You were going under the

8 name of Dr. Beckham.

9 A. Uh-huh. East, Dolphin-Sussex, England in August, '66.

10 Q. Where did you obtain this degree?

11 A. M.D. is a doctor. to England to study?

12 Q. All right. I've seen brochures --

13 A. I hold a degree in psycho -- I hold a

14 certificate in psychotherapy, a Florida license.

15 I received a certificate from the Palm Beach

16 College of Psychotherapy in West Palm Beach, Florida.

17 Q. Did you attend classes there?

18 A. I never attended them at all.

19 Q. Did you take courses there?

20 A. No. establishing a background.

21 Q. Did you do any studying?

22 A. No.

23 Q. How did you get a degree?

24 A. The organization.

25 Q. I'm looking at a Better Business Bureau

[014031]

1
2

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Nebraska, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., under file number 100-442891-1000.

1 circular from 1967 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

2 A Uh-huh. Yes. Sure. I later moved from

3 Q And, when you were there you apparently had ran

4 an ad in a local newspaper in December 1966, advertising

5 yourself as T. Edward Beckham, D.D., Ph.D.

6 A Uh-huh. What other degrees do you hold?

7 Q And that you obtained the Ph.D. from Brantridge,

8 B-r-a-n-t-r-i-d-g-e --

9 A In England. Oh, boy, I don't know. There's no

10 many ways -- Forest, Dolphin-Sussex, England in August, '64.

11 A Uh-huh. Are they hanging now, at your home?

12 Q Did you ever go to England to study?

13 A College. Never have. One from there, which was based

14 at Metairie. And also that you held a Doctor of Divinity

15 from an ecumenical divinity institute in Cleveland, Ohio?

16 A Never attended it, and I've got four others

17 besides that. Physicians.

18 Q All right. Well, what was your purpose in

19 holding yourself out as a person with these degrees, in

20 Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1967? of the National Congress of

21 Europe. A. I was establishing a background. Medical Society.

22 Q Were you establishing a background for the

23 organization? Medical Society, Texas, Indiana, Kentucky.

24 A Uh-huh, which later moved to Omaha, Nebraska.

25 Q Okay. Did you conduct any kind of business in

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public

1 Lincoln?

2 A Let's see. Sure did. I later moved from
3 Lincoln to Omaha, where it was headquarterd, where we
4 established a thing known as the American Academy of
5 Professional Arts at Omaha, Nebraska.

6 Q Okay. What other degrees do you hold?

7 A I hold an Ms.D., Doctor of Metaphysics.

8 Q From where? I'm familiar with proctology.

9 A I hold -- Oh, boy, I don't know. There's so
10 many on my wall, you'd have to take a look and see.

11 Q Where are they hanging now, at your home?

12 A Yeah. Medical degrees. United American
13 Medical College, I even got one from there, which was based
14 at Metairie, recently -- if you are familiar with the man --
15 which is also a part of the Association.

16 He has also Louisiana Association of different
17 Naturopathic Physicians.

18 Q Are you a Naturopathic Physician?

19 A I hold an M.D.J, right. I know. A front for the

20 I'm a member of the National Congress of
21 Naturopathic Physicians, American Coordinated Medical Society,
22 the Georgia Association of Naturopathic Physicians,
23 Louisiana Association, Texas, Indiana, Kentucky.

24 Q How about in radiology. Do you hold anything
25 in that? The West German government?

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
State of Massachusetts

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 213)

1 A None. I'm familiar with the workings of
2 radiology, X-ray, the Fischer machine, Westinghouse.
3 Q How are you so familiar?
4 A Once I was schooled in it, privately.
5 Q By whom and where.
6 A By F. Lee Crisman.
7 Q Does he possess a background in this field?
8 A He does, yes. I'm familiar with proctology,
9 the areas of, oh, proctology, radiology, all the instruments
10 -- stethoscope, ophthalmoscope, otoscope.
11 That's one thing, they taught you the
12 instruments themselves. I could probably do a tracheotomy
13 as good as any doctor.
14 Q Really? Okay.
15 A But I've never been to school.
16 I'm an ordained priest of about four different
17 Catholic denominations.
18 Q Do you perform services?
19 A I did. It was a, you know, a front for the
20 thing, when they had the Cuban thing -- the old Catholic
21 Church of North America. I have a license from Germany, which
22 priests from there are allowed -- you know, the government
23 has to approve these priests.
24 Q What government?
25 A The West German government?

[014031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
3 State of Texas

Reference copy, JFK Collection: SSCN (RG 233)

1 I have it from there. I have -- oh, the
2 Episcopal Church, I have an ordination in that. I have it
3 from the Baptist Church, the World Institute of Religious
4 Science. Once -- it seems to follow a pattern, once you
5 establish one thing, they have a --

6 Q Have you gone under the name Brother Thomas E.
7 Beckham of the Universal Life Church? you can tell us, for

8 A That's right. both medical, theological.

9 Q And the old orthodox Catholic Church?

10 A Church of North America, right. And the
11 Russian Orthodox, right. What's the purpose in all of it?

12 Q Mr. Beckham, you certainly possess a number of
13 degrees in all kinds of fields.

14 A A judge once said, "More degrees than a
15 thermometer." (Laughter.)

16 Q And you are an ordained minister, apparently,
17 in most of the world's major religions? the thing at the

18 A Right. Lee Crisman. This was what I was real

19 Q Have you ever been a bishop?

20 A Yeah. What's the name of the organization?

21 Q In which church? ever known by, was the

22 A I was a bishop in the Baptist Church, the
23 Episcopal Church, the old Catholic Church of North America,
24 and Universal Life Church, and the -- stigators here. As

25 Q How about the Mormon Church? old you all will

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
3 State of Texas, being the Notary

1 A. No, I have no connections with the Mormons.

2 Q. All right. Well, if you can, briefly, tell us
3 what is the purpose of having all these, and since you, in
4 your own words, have said you only -- well, can you read and
5 write?

6 A. Uh-huh. I speak Spanish.

7 Q. What's the purpose, if you can tell us, for
8 having all these various degrees, both medical, theological.

9 Do you have a law degree? Do you practice law?

10 A. No.

11 Q. All right. What's the purpose in all of it?

12 A. Well, the organization was set up as a, exactly
13 what it means, as a organization.

14 Q. All right. You've been trying to tell us, and
15 now is your time: Tell us what organization are you talking
16 about?

17 A. Okay. The organization, the thing at the
18 time was headed by F. Lee Crisman. This was when I was real
19 young.

20 Q. What's the name of the organization?

21 A. That's all it was ever known by, was the
22 organization. And it was a group of men that could use
23 their powers to obtain things that people wanted.

24 Now I've said to the investigators here, as
25 far as I'm concerned, there's no way in the world you all will

[01403]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public...

1 ever crack the Kennedy investigation. I know in my mind, you
2 won't. I'm not trying to be cool, or arrogant, or anything
3 of that nature, but to be able to do it, you'd have to crack
4 the few existing people that are existing right now.

5 Q Such as?

6 A Such as Jack Martin. He's not going to tell
7 you nothing. Herman Keck. Here's a man sitting in a
8 \$100,000 home. He's not going to let you topple him.

9 First of all, it would be like, to shoot this
10 man, if he was standing in front of you, you'd have to shoot
11 him first.

12 What I'm saying is: You would have to topple
13 the structure of an organization that is not just in one
14 state. It's in every state in the United States, including
15 foreign countries, or church organizations right here in this
16 town alone. I would be safe to say, a million dollar
17 organization that's functioning with the Reverend Woods.
18 You're not going to topple his. There's no way. He's not
19 going to let you.

20 If it was just a matter of these men hoping
21 and saying, "Well, we will tell you how the organization
22 carried out the assassination of the President of the United
23 States", you might be able to do it, but you're not going to
24 be able to do it, because they're not going to let you
25 topple the organization they have now.

[100410]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the foregoing sworn

1 Q What is the purpose of this organization?
2 A The purpose is -- all it is is a front for IRS,
3 no money. They can't come and get us. The IRS can't get
4 them. They're ministers. They can't touch them. They've
5 got million dollar holdings in countries.

6 Q All right. From your understanding, why
7 would this group be involved in assassination of the President?

8 A Money.

9 Q Money. What do you mean by "money"?

10 A Well, let's take one of the things. They
11 wanted to raise money for the Cuban revolutionary forces. If
12 you're familiar, at the time there was tin cans out, and they
13 had flags crossed, and they said, "Did you know that
14 Communist aggression -- " It said, "Keep America Free"
15 across the top, and it said, "Did you know that Communist
16 aggression is 90 miles from the American shores?"

17 I've always been good at drafting and art
18 work. As a matter of fact, I'm the one that drew the thing
19 up, that they had the cans. I'm the one that talked
20 Continental Can Company, the Harvey plant, into donating cans
21 with slotted tops to put in bars. You take 10,000 cans,
22 and get \$10.00 in a can, you got \$100,000. You see?

23 Let's say the air support was withdrawn.
24 Sergio Arcacha and Lucius Rabel said that the President, that
25 they believed, was Communist, and he knew it at all times

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
3 State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the
4 foregoing sworn

1 that he was. And their motive was money.

2 Q So, are you saying that this group would have
3 a reason to assassinate Kennedy, because of his Cuban policy,
4 Kennedy's policy?

5 A I would say for money, completely.

6 Q Well, what do you mean by that? Where's the
7 money? Is somebody going to pay them for killing Kennedy?

8 A Uh-huh.

9 Q Who?

10 A If I told you, man, I'd probably be in more
11 trouble than on earth.

12 I really believe when Fred said, because I
13 once was in a jail, and Fred came right to the jail, and they
14 come back there and told me -- in a little town here in
15 Louisiana, and they told me that there was an FBI Agent
16 waiting out to pick me up. Do you know who the FBI Agent was?
17 F. Lee Crisman. Crisman wasn't no FBI Agent. Put me in a
18 car, and I was gone. He --

19 Q Well, what you're saying is they had a motive
20 to kill Kennedy because of his Cuban policy?

21 A I say that they had -- not the motive -- the
22 power, the resources to do it.

23 Q They had the means.

24 A They had the means.

25 Q And did they have --

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the foregoing sworn

1 A And their motive was money.

2 Q Okay. So, are you telling us that this group

3 was behind the assassination of Kennedy?

4 A Right.

5 Q Which would mean Lee Harvey Oswald was part

6 of this group?

7 A Right.

8 Q Do you know that for a fact?

9 A No, but we all had the same connections, the

10 same people, and every time I'd show up -- let's take all of

11 the people that are connected together. All of them possess

12 the same certificates I do, the same ordinations, the same

13 friends.

14 Q Did Lee Harvey Oswald possess these certificates?

15 A I don't know. I've never seen his certificates.

16 Like I said, with me and him it was meeting on the street,

17 and a friend, except for the time I was -- he was running

18 around with some girl, and --

19 Q All right.

20 A -- you know.

21 Q But Lee Harvey Oswald would have shared the

22 same views of this organization --

23 A Right.

24 Q -- as being opposed to Kennedy, because Kennedy

25 was, in effect, not hard enough on Castro, against Castro.

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the foregoing sworn

1 A They believed that Kennedy had invited it. One
2 episode came up was the fact that they were talking down at,
3 yeah, Morrison's. We was all sitting around talking. I say
4 "we all". I was a part of it. And they said that -- they
5 were hollering about Kennedy to the extent of saying that he
6 knew that what's his name was Communist, and at the same time,
7 Castro was getting Communist support, you know, and --

8 Q Was David Ferrie a priest in this church
9 organization? Crisman?

10 A Uh-huh, sure was.

11 Q Was Jack Martin?

12 A Yes. I don't know. Herman is. I know he is.

13 Q Clay Shaw?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Crisman? -- did you yourself have homosexual
16 tendencies?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And yourself?

18 A Uh-huh. -- did you know these individuals

19 had homosexual? How about? -- have you ever heard the name

20 Eugenio Morales? -- know that Clay and Ferrie did, because they

21 both had A deals. I don't know. "No," you know, "not that

22 deal". Q How about Lee Harvey Oswald?

23 A Well, yeah. I mean, was he a priest? No, I

24 don't know if he was. -- than a homosexual-type society or

25 Q Do you know if Lee Harvey Oswald was homosexual?

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the foregoing sworn

1 A No, I don't know. I don't think he was. I
 2 mean, I was trying to -- there was a girl named Ornell Thames.
 3 Q I don't want to get into that.
 4 A Okay.
 5 Q But how about David Ferrie? Was he homosexual?
 6 A Yeah.
 7 Q Clay Shaw?
 8 A Yes, sir.
 9 Q Crisman?
 10 A I don't know.
 11 Q Martin?
 12 A I don't know. Herman is. I know he is.
 13 Q Herman who?
 14 A Keck.
 15 Q At the time, did you yourself have homosexual
 16 tendencies?
 17 A No.
 18 Q At the time, did you know these individuals
 19 had homosexual tendencies?
 20 A I knew that Clay and Ferrie did, because they
 21 both made deals, and I said, "No," you know, "not that
 22 deal", and that was it.
 23 Q It's possible that this church, or these church
 24 groups were nothing more than a homosexual-type society or
 25 organization?

[15010]

C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
3 State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the
4 foregoing sworn testimony...

reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

1 A No, because not everybody that was connected
2 with it was homosexual, you know. You don't have to be
3 homosexual to like money. (Laughter.)

4 Q Did you ever see David Ferrie in the company of
5 young boys?

6 A Yeah. He's had now, but not as bad as it was.

7 Q Did you ever help him get any of the boys?

8 A Well, I introduced him to some people I knew,
9 you know, and -- but, I mean, not for that idea, you know.

10 Like, he'd say, "Why don't you introduce me to your friend,"
11 you know. And what are you going to say, "Well, no, you're
12 queer," you know, "I'm not going to --"

13 MR. MCDONALD: Let me just go off the record for
14 a minute. Let's take a break.

15 (A short recess was taken.)

16 BY MR. MCDONALD: Well, I know Guy for a long time.

17 Q Mr. Beckham, you have been referring to the
18 whole organization. Are you referring to the CIA?

19 A I thought during the whole time that Fred
20 was a CIA Agent, because Fred said he was that name --

21 Q Uh-huh. Martin?

22 A You call it, you know? a private investigator.

23 Q No, I don't know. That's -- and he'd always

24 A Operative, right. of the time, but they were

25 Q Well --

[014103]

C E R T I F I C A T E

1 I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
2 State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the
3 foregoing sworn testimony of
4

1 A Because Freddie told me that the CIA had
2 connections, that they'd set up store fronts, as he called
3 them. That's the words he used, "store fronts." I will
4 never forget it.

5 As a matter of fact, my English used to be
6 horrible. I mean, it's bad now, but not as bad as it was.
7 And Fred used to spend time, believe it or not -- it sounds
8 ridiculous for a man, the way you try to picture him. He'd
9 sit down and actually bring books and teach me, you know, and
10 taught me, you know, how to read, what to do, how to act,
11 things of this nature.

12 Q Well, did you know an individual by the name
13 of Guy Banister?

14 A Yeah, I know Guy.

15 Q How do you know Guy?

16 A Well, I knew Guy for a long time.

17 Q What was your relationship to Mr. Banister?

18 A He's a heck of a guy.

19 Q Well, be more specific.

20 A Well, I mean I knew him through Jack.

21 Q Jack Martin?

22 A Martin, right. He was a private investigator,
23 and as we would -- Jack used his office, and he'd always
24 throw Jack out of his office most of the time, but they were
25 associates.

[014031]

C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the
3 State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the
4 foregoing sworn testimony of THOMAS MORRISON

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (AG 133)

1 Q Uh-huh.
2 A But, like, one day I was coming across the way,
3 and we went into Jack's office, I mean in Banister's office,
4 and Guy was gone, and there was, I think it was his niece, or
5 something, I don't know who she was, and Jack says, "Hon,
6 could I use the telephone," like that, and she says, "Sure."
7 She handed her phone to him, and he said, "No, it's kind of
8 personal. Could I go in the office and use it?" This is
9 why -- I'll get into this in --
10 Q I don't want to get into this.
11 A He stole the papers.
12 Q All right.
13 A And blamed it on me.
14 Q Where was Banister's office located?
15 A By the Post Office over here on Lafayette. I
16 think it was 500, or something like that. I think it was 531.
17 I could be wrong.
18 Q Did you ever -- where was the church?
19 A Which one?
20 Q That you raised money in for your organization?
21 A Oh, what was that. It's a black street.
22 Q Rampart?
23 A Rampart. 300 something. I could be wrong on
24 the address on it. You see, I'm not --
25 Q Okay.

[014031]

[Folger 100 27]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the foregoing sworn testimony of THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM taken

A We had another place, too. We had one over on, oh, some other street by the --

Q I believe we just have one more question: Did you ever see Lee Harvey Oswald at Banister's office?

A Yeah. You know when I think I seen him there -- yeah, I know when he was at Banister's, yeah, but the only reason that Lee Harvey Oswald went to Banister's office was like to carry papers, or something, you know, files and stuff. Not as far as discussing, you know. I've seen him at meetings with him one time at a table.

Q All right.

A But that's at Morrison's. You see, Morrison's -- it's got to be at Morrison's, Holsum's -- Morrison's, Holsum's and Thompson Cafeteria is where we all hung out, and, oh, Walgreen's. We all met there, you know, at one time or another. I mean, I could have seen him 20 times at a meeting together, but I just never paid him any attention because it was so natural for us to be together.

Q All right. Okay, Mr. Beckham, that concludes this deposition.

A Good.

Q Thank you, very much.

(Whereupon, the testimony of the afore-named witness was concluded.)

[01H031]

[Folder 1 of 27]

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (AG 233)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jean Hill Boyd, a Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, being the Notary Public before whom the foregoing sworn testimony of THOMAS EDWARD BECKHAM was taken, do hereby certify that the witness was first duly sworn by Ms. Veronica Wicker, U. S. Magistrate, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcript of said testimony.

Given under my hand and seal of office on this the 27th day of May, 1978.

Jean Hill Boyd
Jean Hill Boyd, Notary Public
in and for the State of Texas

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[FINER 1 of 2]