

12/5/63

Commission Exhibit No. 1052

Date _____

BERNARD WILLIAM WEISSMAN, 439 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York, was advised of the identities of the interviewing Special Agents, that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he did make could be used in a court of law, and that he had the right to consult an attorney. WEISSMAN indicated he understood this and stated he desired to cooperate fully.

WEISSMAN advised that he first met LARRIE SCHMIDT while both were serving in the United States Army in Germany in August, 1962. SCHMIDT had formed an organization called Conservatism U.S.A. (CUSA). The membership of this organization consisted of individuals at that time in the Armed Services.

After WEISSMAN's discharge from the United States Army, he maintained contact with SCHMIDT and WILLIAM BURLEY, another individual whom he had met while in the United States Army.

According to WEISSMAN, SCHMIDT, BURLEY, and himself had made long range plans to utilize their conservative political convictions to further their chances in the business world. SCHMIDT called WEISSMAN from Dallas, Texas, in the early morning of the day after ADLAI STEVENSON, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, had been assaulted by pickets in Dallas, Texas. At that time, SCHMIDT urged WEISSMAN to come to Dallas for business purposes. SCHMIDT also commented concerning the assault of Ambassador STEVENSON, stating that he had organized some of the picketing, but that he was not responsible for the assault.

WEISSMAN furnished the following handwritten letter, which was received by WEISSMAN from LARRIE SCHMIDT on November 1, 1963:

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DL 89-43
NY 89-75"Dallas, Texas
Oct. 29, 1963

Dear BERNIE & BILL:

To much has happened in the past few days, I don't know where to begin. First of all, what appeared at first to have been a great blunder of ours has rapidly turned into a great victory. I refer to STEVENSON incident.

You must understand, that I personally had nothing to do with the sign-hitting and spitting incidents. Secondly, the press reports were so outrageously exaggerated it is unbelievable. This, plus the fact our mayor and City Council have issued an official apology on behalf of Dallas, has aroused the scorn and anger of all Dallasites, the overwhelming majority of whom are right wingers.

The ultra liberals of Dallas, led by STANLEY MARCUS of Nelman-Marcus went to far in pressuring for denunciation of "extremists" and "Fascists" in Dallas. As a result, a bomb has exploded everywhere here against them. This town is a battleground and that is no joke. Never before have Dallas conservatives from the GOP to the John Birch Society ever been so strongly united.

And, in the middle of it is myself. Thus far, I am the only organizer of the demonstration to have publicly identified himself. I have been interviewed by UPI, AP, the two local daily newspapers, TV stations, CBS, and local radio. I am a hero to the right -- a stormtrooper to the left.

I have been beseiged by calls, some threatening my life. It is both hell and fun, but not at the same time.

All details when you arrive. In any event, due to this international incident, I have become, overnight, a "fearless spokesman" and "leader" of the right wing

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in Dallas. What I worked so hard for in one year -- and nearly failed -- finally came through one incident, in one night!

Politically, CUSA is set. It is now up to you two to get Ambus going. We need Ambus financing bad. Have arranged for you to meet and talk with many people. Job opportunities set up -- so are business opportunities, such as DuCharme Club. Again, I promise nothing. What you achieve is up to you. All I can do is pave the way.

You shall find it all interesting!

Your friend,

LARRIE"

In answer to this letter, WEISSMAN and BURLEY left in WEISSMAN's automobile from Mount Vernon, New York, on November 2, 1963, and arrived in Dallas, Texas, on November 4, 1963. WEISSMAN stated that the main purpose of his trip to Dallas was to participate with BURLEY and SCHMIDT in a business enterprise entitled "Ambus", which WEISSMAN described as a holding company to oversee business interests that these three individuals intended to operate. The first business operation that they intended to operate was the DuCharme Club located on Haskell Avenue, Dallas, Texas. However, according to WEISSMAN, when they first personally inspected the DuCharme Club they felt that it was not worth their efforts to go into the operation further.

WEISSMAN also stated that his secondary purpose for going to Dallas, Texas, was political, that is, he decided that this would be the proper area for him to get started in Conservative politics. WEISSMAN described himself as a Conservative on international issues, but a Liberal on national issues. By this, he explained that he was very much in favor of integration and civil rights and other programs which he associated with the Liberal groups in the United States, but that with regard

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to international dealings of the United States, he considered himself more closely associated with the Conservative outlook.

WEISSMAN freely admitted that he had sought to use his political connections to further his business opportunities.

Upon his arrival in Dallas, WEISSMAN and BURLEY met with SCHMIDT, and SCHMIDT again informed them that he, SCHMIDT, had organized twelve Dallas college students in a protest against Ambassador STEVENSON, but again denied any responsibility for the assault on Ambassador STEVENSON.

Upon the decision not to go any further with the DuCharme Club, WEISSMAN obtained a job as a salesman with Carpet Engineers of Dallas. He stated that he received no salary or commission for the time he was employed by the Carpet Engineers. His sole means of subsistence was \$200 that he brought with him to Dallas, and the occasional use of a credit card of SCHMIDT's to buy necessary items for his apartment at 4618 Reiger Street, Dallas, Texas.

WEISSMAN stated that SCHMIDT discussed the Conservative group activity in Dallas, Texas, and stated that they should do something for the then pending arrival of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. SCHMIDT decided that a demonstration against President KENNEDY would not be in order, and therefore the only thing that they could do would be to place an ad in one of the Dallas newspapers indicating disapproval of President KENNEDY's policies. SCHMIDT was the individual who drew up the format of the advertisement which appeared in the Dallas Morning News, Friday, November 22, 1963. WEISSMAN identified an autostat of this article as the article in question.

~~WEISSMAN stated that the one quarter inch black border which appeared on this advertisement was his, WEISSMAN'S, idea and was merely done for the purpose of~~

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attracting attention to the ad and for no other purpose. He stated in view of the subsequent events, he very deeply regretted this decision concerning the black border. He also stated that the American Fact-Finding Committee does not actually exist, and that it was a name made up by LARRIE SCHMIDT and JOSEPH GRINNAN, whom he described as an independent oil man.

The decision to use WEISSMAN's name was made by WEISSMAN and by SCHMIDT in order to offset anti-Semitic charges made by several people against the Conservative movement in Dallas, Texas.

WEISSMAN stated he did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD and to his knowledge never met OSWALD. He also stated he never met nor did he know JACK RUBY. With respect to OSWALD, he advised that his mother, Mrs. LILLIAN WEISSMAN, has advised him that OSWALD at one time resided at 1061 Sheridan Avenue, Bronx, New York. WEISSMAN pointed out that he, at one time, resided at 1063 Grant Avenue, Bronx, New York, which WEISSMAN described as being only a few blocks from the Sheridan Avenue address. He again stated he had never met OSWALD. WEISSMAN advised that he left Dallas, Texas, on November 27, 1963, by automobile and arrived in New York City the night of November 29, 1963.

WEISSMAN advised that he would be available for recontact at any time, and would be most desirous of cooperating fully.

The following is a description of WEISSMAN:

Name	BERNARD WILLIAM WEISSMAN, also known as BERNIE WEISSMAN
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	November 1, 1937
Place	Bronx, New York
Height	5'11"
Weight	154 pounds
Build	Slender

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Hair	Dark brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Fair
Residence	439 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York
Telephone	914-MO 4-6994
Employment	Not presently employed, but stated he intends to file an application for patrolman of the New York City Police Department on December 5, 1963
Marital Status	Married to JANE BYRNES WEISSMAN, presently separated and contem- plating divorce
Father	HARRY WEISSMAN 439 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York
Mother	LILLIAN WEISSMAN, 1063 Grant Avenue
Brothers	JACK WEISSMAN, age 18; residing at Grant Avenue address JOE WEISSMAN, age 27, married, two children, residing 160 Renner Avenue, Newark, New Jersey
Military Service	United States Army, Military Police Corps, from August, 1961, to August, 1963, honorably dis- charged as Private First Class
Army Serial Number	US 51474609; reserve status - presently in unassigned reserve
Draft Board	Local Board Number 10, Lincoln Building, 3rd Floor, 100 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York
Selective Service Number	30 10 37 1100; exhibited notice from Local Board Number 10, reflecting he had been classified 4A as of September 24, 1963.

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DL 89-43
NY 89-75Social Security
Number
Driver's License

113-28-1879

Exhibited New Jersey driver's license number 4541979 made out to BERNARD WEISSMAN, 1500 Bergen Boulevard, Fort Lee, New Jersey. This license expires January, 1965. WEISSMAN explained that this address was his residence when he was living with his wife.

Further identi-
fication

WEISSMAN exhibited a First National City Bank Preferred Credit identification card, indicating account number 041-17097-503

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