



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

August 26, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

This will confirm your conversation of August 20, 1964, with Mr. J. R. Malley of this Bureau wherein you requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation conduct an investigation to determine how the transcript of Jack L. Ruby's testimony before the President's Commission on June 7, 1964, came into possession of Dorothy Kilgallen and the "New York Journal-American."

Enclosed herewith are two copies of a memorandum dated August 24, 1964, at New York City setting forth the results of interviews with Joseph Kingsbury-Smith, publisher of the "New York Journal-American," and Dorothy Kilgallen on August 21, 1964.

In the absence of a specific request from the President's Commission, no effort will be made to conduct interviews of Commission members or its staff or to conduct any other indicated investigation within the confines of the authority of the Commission over its personnel and activities, as it is felt that the Commission itself may wish to resolve any such matters.

The investigation as requested is continuing and you will be promptly advised of the results.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the typed name. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Enclosures (2)



Commission No. 1430a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
August 24, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Joseph Kingsbury-Smith
Dorothy Kilgallen

The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy has requested that an investigation be conducted to determine how a transcript of the Commission's interview with Jack L. Ruby came into the possession of Dorothy Kilgallen and the "New York Journal-American."

Joseph Kingsbury-Smith, Publisher of the "New York Journal-American", on August 21, 1964, advised that previous to that date, he asked Dorothy Kilgallen to identify the source who furnished her the transcript of Jack Ruby's interview by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. Mr. Smith stated that Miss Kilgallen refused to reveal her source, but did indicate to him that the source was someone inside the Commission who was a friend of hers of long standing.

Mr. Smith stated that he questioned Miss Kilgallen thoroughly and she told him that she would stake her reputation on the fact the transcript of Ruby's interview definitely was not stolen, not bought and nothing illegal was done in obtaining it. Miss Kilgallen told Mr. Smith that she would give her word of honor on this point. Mr. Smith stated that on the basis of the above facts, the Journal-American's attorneys decided that publication of the Ruby transcript did not violate the law since the President's Commission was not conducting a trial and was not trying Ruby. According to Mr. Smith, the attorneys for the newspaper said the transcript could be regarded as a journalistic matter.

ENCLOSURE

Joseph Kingsbury-Smith
Dorothy Kilgallen

Dorothy Kilgallen was interviewed on August 21, 1964, at her Town House located at 45 East 68th Street, New York, New York.

Miss Kilgallen stated that she refused to reveal the source who gave her the transcript of the Jack Ruby interview by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Miss Kilgallen stated that she would identify the source only as a "responsible person who had a legal right to the transcript." She stated that she was the only person who knew the identity of the source and that she "would die" rather than reveal his identity. Miss Kilgallen said that she based her refusal to identify her source on the right of a newspaper reporter to protect his sources of information.

Miss Kilgallen specifically was asked whether or not the source was a member of the President's Commission itself or a staff member or employee. She refused to answer.

Miss Kilgallen specifically was asked if the source was someone not on the Commission, such as Ruby's defense counsel or someone else who was present during the interview or who might legally have received a copy of the transcript. She refused to answer.

Miss Kilgallen also said that she would refuse to give the date on which she received the Ruby transcript and would refuse to identify the city in which she obtained it.

Miss Kilgallen did state that her source was a man and not a woman. She said her source is a friend of hers of long standing. She stated that the source gave her the transcript as a "friendly gesture."

Joseph Kingsbury-Smith
Dorothy Kilgallen

Miss Kilgallen stated that she would swear that the transcript was not stolen and nothing illegal was done in obtaining it. She stated that she did not pay money for the transcript and did not give or promise her source anything else of value in exchange for the transcript.

Miss Kilgallen refused to say if she first approached the source or if the source first approached her about the transcript.

She stated this source gave her a typed transcript of the Ruby interview. She kept the transcript several days and had copies made including photostats. Miss Kilgallen then gave the transcript back to her source.

Miss Kilgallen recalled from memory that the transcript she received was numbered from Page 1 to Page 103. She said that one page was missing. She believes the missing page was numbered 59, otherwise the transcript appeared to be complete. Page 103 of the transcript was a notarized statement from the stenographer who was present during the interview.

Miss Kilgallen stated the "New York Journal-American" does not know the identity of her source and in fact, she told the newspaper less than she told the interviewing agents.

Miss Kilgallen did not furnish any other information of value. She stated that she is the only person who knows the identity of her source and she will never reveal it.

Miss Kilgallen volunteered to go to Washington, D.C. to testify on this matter before the President's Commission. She emphasized, however, that she also will refuse to identify her source to the Commission or anyone else. She stated that regardless of the consequences, she will never identify the source to anyone.