

Assassination of John F. Kennedy

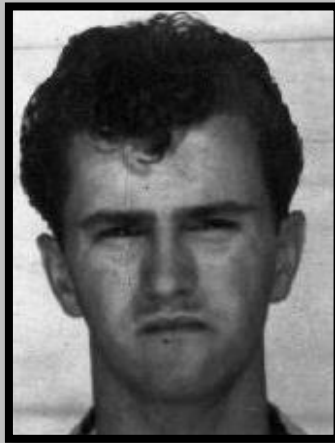
October 9, 1977:

Beckham Interview with HSCA,

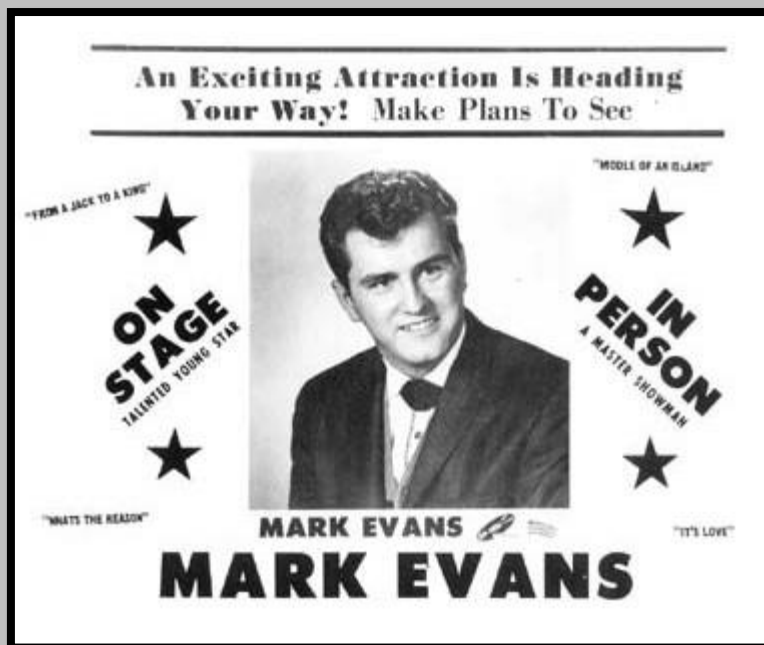
Holiday Inn

Jackson, Mississippi

PDF File-RPF82515



Thomas E. Beckham





Thomas E. Beckham

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

KENNEDY

NARA 100-102526 (JFK ACT)
DATE 7-30-200

MITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Thomas E. Beckham

Date October 9, 1977 Time 11:15 AM

Address _____

Place Holiday Inn-Medical
2300 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Interview:

Delsa: Starting out, Tom, we had a preliminary discussion on October 1st, 1977, held here in Jackson, Mississippi. Do you remember that?

Beckham: Yes.

Delsa: Now, what I want to read to you on this tape is the agreement that the Committee is going to make with you.

Beckham: Okay.

Delsa: "It is our understanding that as a part of the preliminary discussion that Mr. Beckham will meet with the members of the Select Committee and discuss with them any information that he has that may be pertinent to the Select Committee's investigation. The object of these discussions is to determine what the substance of Mr. Beckham's testimony would be if he was granted immunity. Ultimately, of course, the Select Committee may not decide to obtain immunity for Mr. Beckham. In the event that the Select Committee does not choose to obtain immunity, the Select Committee will not disclose

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature Robert Buras and L. J. Delsa

Date transcribed jeg

By: _____ Form #4-A

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)



Arcacha



Gill

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or use any information that is received from Mr. Beckham during these preliminary discussions. It should be also noted that under such circumstances, as a matter of law, that this information would be privileged and it could not be used by Federal or state authorities in any criminal prosecution." Do you understand that?

Beckham: Right. I understand it.

Delsa: All right. With the knowledge of this, will you now sit down and tell us what we discussed in the preliminary discussions we have had with you before?

Beckham: Yes, I will. This letter that you just read will be made a part of this, it is...

Delsa: This -- this is made a part.

Beckham: Right. Okay. I guess the best place to start is a meeting I had in Algiers, Louisiana, that's as soon as you get off the ferry boat. It's in Orleans Parish. This meeting was attended by myself, Sergio Arcacha, G. Wray Gil, a gentleman which was told to me by the name of Marcello, if I'm not mistaken a picture I've seen of him was Vincent Marcello. Along with me was a gentleman, a little bitty guy, his name was, O Lord, let's see, Morello, Charlie, Charlie Morello, and Sergio Arcacha was there. Roswell Thompson and a lady by the name of Berglass, she was Anna. She's a little short, stout lady. At this meeting a discussion was held about, there was Cubans present, other ones.

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Town and Country Inn

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Beckham:
(cont'd)

We talked about, I say "we", they talked about the assassination of the President. There was also a lady which I thought at the time to be the wife of Sergio Arcacha, now I could be wrong. we got out of a car, we parked, it was on the advice of the lady that her and Sergio Arcacha walked to the house first. That we were to follow behind, and I thought at the time it was because it was because it was in a neighborhood they didn't want to create no ruckus. They discussed at the time the Kennedy, his situation and the assassination. I don't know exactly how long it lasted, because it's been a number of years. We also had a meeting at a place called the Town and Country. That's a motel, vaguely as I can remember on the right hand side of a highway going out towards the airport. This meeting was attended by a Marcello, there was G. Wray Gil, and us there at that time. At that particular meeting, the Cuban issue was discussed, the President, his involvement and how, oh, different things, that, how the President refused to give air support, things like this was discussed. Also I delivered a package approximately, I'd say, two weeks to Dallas prior to the assassination of the President, to a Mr. Howard. I went into Mr. G. Wray Gil's office, I was told to go there by Mr. Ferrie, which I knew real well, and in his office they suffled up some documents which were drawings, that of a map, or plots

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David Ferrie



Jack Martin



Clay Shaw



Lawrence Howard

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Beckham:
(cont'd)

and stuff. There were some pictures, pictures of buildings and cars and was regular pictures, but they wasn't glossy. They were put inside of an envelope at which time G. Wray Gill handed me, it was either a hundred or two hundred dollars, and told me that I was to be, I was going to be taken to the airport. I was to deliver this package to a Mr. Howard at the Executive Inn. At that meeting was Roswell, was Jack Martin, David Ferris (Beckham's precise name), and a bunch of, Sergio Arcacha. Also at that meeting was your Mr. Marcello was at that meeting, setting at, they were setting on a couch. I remember the couch. Let's see now. I delivered the package. Oh, they told me, one thing was made a remark was, I was to wear no jewelry, not to talk to any of the airline stewardesses, or create any, you know, draw anything to me. My good friend Clay Shaw was also there, and the envelope was put in a magazine, they bought me a magazine, stuck inside there. I took a cab from the airport to a place called Executive Inn, that's in Dallas, where met Mr. Howard. Mr. Howard was upset because when I got out of the cab and was heading there, he tooted for me on his horn. The car was kind of a raggedy looking car. I got in, handed him the package and he leaned against the door as if to face me, but the package was away from me. And I handed it to him just like it was, in the magazine.

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Beckham: He opened it up and he looked at me a couple of times, (cont'd) and I faced, looked off in the other direction. And he got real mad, said "Is this, this can't be all. This can't be all it is." I don't know the exact words. I said "yes it is". He said, "Like h..." or something to that effect, it isn't. And I said "Look you can go call him", meaning to go call G. Wray Gil. I said "'Cause that's all he gave me." So we drove from there about, I guess about, three blocks and he pulled over again and he reviewed the stuff that was in the package. Now I didn't take nothing out of the package. I didn't, except for seeing it on Mr. Gil's desk, and then shuffling it up, putting it inside the thing, I didn't, it was (unintelligible), all I knew it was photographs of buildings and cars and neatly drawn maps. Not like a regular city map. But it was diagrams and stuff drawn on paper. And at that time, to this day I don't know, again I think I took a cab back to the airport. Anyway I had a round trip. I went back and I discussed the fact that how upset Mr. Howard was. I discussed it with Roswell which is A. Roswell Thompson and also Mr. Gil. They went on from there.

Another subject that I know, that, now this was within a span of two weeks prior to the assassination of the President. One of the gentlemen that fits in



Fred Crisman

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Beckham:
(cont'd)

thing that I know I was involved in was a thing called the Organization which we was all a part of. Mine strong contact was a gentleman by the name of F. Lee Crisman, Fred Crisman. Fred was a, which he had told to me, that he was a CIA agent and he had worked on a thing called "Project Bluebook" and he discussed a lot of things that he was involved. I first met Fred was at the Sheraton-Charles (?) Hotel. This was a number of years ago, it was before the assassination and Fred was in the lobby. I met him with a friend of Jack Martin's and I was inside the hotel and he was talking to this friend of Jack. I went upstairs over the balcony and stood there about 10-15 minutes. There used to be a restroom up there, went to the bathroom, came back; they were still talking. I stood up there looking down on Fred and he stood out in my mind because of his haircut. He had a crewcut and he was distinguished looking. I thought he looked like, oh, this actor, Glenn Ford. So I went back downstairs. Fred never said nothing to me; he was very polite, just nodded his head. The man, this guy left. About I think it was two days later, a day later, or something like that, I went inside Holsome's (phonetic) Cafeteria, and I like cheesecake. Sitting at the table was, at the time I didn't know who he was, I knew I'd seen him before,

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Beckham: was Fred Crisman. And they was all setting there,
(cont'd) talking. It was that friend of whatyacallits, there
was, Oh Lord, who, I'm trying to think of who all was
at the table. There was a bunch of them at the table.
Rosy was at the table, was one of them and they was,
oh yeah, Sergio Arcacha, which is the gentleman was
involved with me in the Cuban Revolutionary Forces,
and Sergi and me, and all was setting at the table
and talking and Fred made a remark about my English.
Said this is how, getting kind of personal, I was
kidding about the cheesecake, how messy it was, and
watery, and he said he had a daughter or something
was killed in a car wreck and she had liked cheesecake,
too. And then he told me how atrocious my English was,
and, but he did it in a very polite way, you know.
And about two months later, I don't know how he got
my address, but about two months later, I got an
English book from Fred. And through the years our
friendship developed and after the assassination of
the President and stuff, I got scared and took off,
I ended up in Lincoln, Nebraska. To my surprise, I
had a knock at the back door - standing Fred Crisman,
telling me that, I asked him to come in, and asked him
how did he find me, and he said "let's go for a ride",
and I had, went for a ride with him and that's where
Fred discussed his connection with the Organization
and how he found me and then Fred told me he thought

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Beckham:
(cont'd)

it was best that I leave Lincoln, Nebraska, and if I didn't, that he felt there would be trouble for me and sure enough within about a couple of days, the police knocked at my door and told me they wanted, they actually wanted me out of town. I got scared; I got in the car and I took off to Omaha, Nebraska, without Fred's knowledge and at the time, my then wife, Connie Diane Beckham, Bates was her maiden name, it's (unintelligible), they loaded the car up and they said that when they were leaving that the police even stopped them wanting to know my location. And I got in Omaha and that's where I got in, my involvement with Fred, which found me at a hotel, which he provided me with some funds, at, and told me to get an apartment, just lay low and relax. And, which I did and that's where I met Bob Lavendar, which is a printer connected with the Organization. To date this is my involvement as far as the Kennedy thing.

Buras: How about the discussion about the assassination?

Beckham: Then Fred, a thing that came up, well, we would discuss the assassination and things and about later there in Omaha. this Garrison thing popped up. I was involved with a Colonel Lowrey. We had a thing called "B and L Bookstore" which I was going to start a gift shop and Fred said "no, I'm going in with Lowrey, Colonel Lowrey, which was at Offutt Air Force Base" on the advice of Crisman. And this to be a place of business. We never sold no books. About a few days before the

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Beckham: Garrison investigation came down, Crisman told me
(cont'd) to sever my connections with Lowrey. I didn't know why, but he said "Just do what I tell you". He was a very impressive man. As a matter of fact, he was able to call a plane called "Looking Glass" by just a telephone call, would contact this aircraft that was airborne. He was able to get me on and off the base at Offutt Air Force Base, through Securities, and stuff. I obtained an identification as a second lieutenant which showed that I served in the Service. I had met other friends of his which was a Wayne Ahole (phonetic), was a major, also had military identification. What the object of the bookstore was that we never sold a book, I honestly don't know. Crisman when the thing came up, the Martin thing, I was sitting at my desk at my home and Jack Martin I had got hold of and asked him, I found out Martin was a, I knew that Martin was in the Organization and I thought that Martin was to sell me out, using me as the escapegoat. And I got mad at Martin and hung up with Martin and that's when I received my telephone call from Crisman which at the time was not in Omaha. I think he was in Tacoma at the time, telling me don't worry about the investigation, that I was to go to someplace over in Iowa that they couldn't serve me there, and not to worry about it. I said "Well, Jack is selling me out". He said "Don't worry about

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Beckham: Jack. Jack is himself leading the investigation in another direction, and he's a, it's going in the opposite direction. Don't worry about it. He's working closely with the District Attorney's Office" and also they advised me that aide to the District Attorney or Assistant District Attorney had political ambitions and Jack and others in the Organization knew how to manipulate, knew what to do. At which time...

Delsa: Excuse me. Let me stop you here. You said that Jack and others in the Organization knew how to manipulate...

Beckham: Yeah. Jack was one of the key men that was leading the investigation and was feeding the information back to Fred Lee Crisman how it's going.

Delsa: But you said "Jack and other members of the Organization",

Beckham: Right.

Delsa: So you were told prior that there were other people in Garrison's investigation with Jack that were going to lead the investigation in a different direction.

Beckham: Yeah. I said "Now what about Ford Shell (phonetic)?" I said, "He's going to really be hung." And he said "Don't worry about Shell, he's going to come out smelling like a rose, that he's going to make several thousands of dollars off it and besides that that Garrison would step in it and he's going to come out smelling like a..", you know. But then that really

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Beckham: made me feel good because then I knew at the time
(cont'd) then that it made sense. That Jack was the plant
inside of it and would feeding information, only the
information he wanted Garrison to know. And as a
result of that I ended up over in Iowa on his advice.
And while in Iowa, I rented the trailer on his
advice which he told me that I would be safe, that
they had some kind of a, and I was happy for that
because within just a matter of seconds I beat the
marshals that were serving me the papers. And I ended
in Iowa and was safe and then within, I say, a week
or so I received three hundred dollars in the mail,
and to sustain me. But like an idiot I was contacted
by a gentleman that told me that one of my friends
had to get hold of me, it was very important, and
by, with the help of a guy by the name of Jim Holver
(phonetic) used to be on the police department there,
I come across into Omaha, going up to this place to
see this guy, that said this guy wanted to get hold
of me and it was only a set-up because then I got
served with the papers. Then I was told after that
that something, under all reasons I had to try to
stay away from the investigation, and I was told this
by Fred. Fred told me to stay away. Now this is
something I haven't told nobody. Fred told me that
no matter what, even though I've got the papers it
was wise to stay away. I said "Why?" He said "Any-

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Beckham: thing, get sick, car accident, or anything. So we
(cont'd) staged a car accident, me and another guy, and
ran in through the front of a laundromat, and I
claimed that I was injured, couldn't go, but they
brought me before a judge and the judge ordered that
I be returned. And so then I went back and that's
when I met, yeah, by the way, Fred said, told me
not to mention anything, not to worry neither. But,
so I was met by A. Roswell Thompson, that's his first
initial "A". Rosy took full charge, told me what to
say in the Grand Jury, when they asked me to swear,
stall them by saying "I don't believe in swearing".
They brought me up before a whatyacallit, and he said
"because we have some friends here that don't want to
have no problems, Tom and you don't want no problems".
Which I didn't. And I did not tell one thing to the
Grand Jury, you know. As a matter of fact, at the
Grand Jury there was a Black man sitting to the right
and a woman sitting to the left that was interested
in metaphysics and I was showing her some cards in
my wallet and I purposely had stated that, misstated
about metaphysics where she would really think, 'cause
I knew she was into metaphysics, and I thought if I
talked to her wrong about metaphysics, in a wrong
way, she would figure "Well this guy really is a
nitwit." And it re..., it worked. Then they was
satisfied with what they got from me, and I was



Guy Bannister

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Beckham: satisfied, and I got out of town fast. From then on
(cont'd) I've been using aliases and avoiding things and stuff.
That's the whole story about the Organization. The
Organization has other connections I'd rather not
talk about, you know.

Delsa: All right, fine. Tom, let me ask you this. During
your course of being affiliated with the Organization
during the period of '59 to '63, and even since then,
has times come up where you were put, say, in a
mental institution?

Beckham: Uhum.

Delsa: Could you explain to us some of the situations and
the purposes...

Beckham: Okay. One time...

Delsa: Of being...

Beckham: I was, I had went to a Mr. Banister and had told him
information that I had heard about the possible
assassination of the President, and about Jack Martin's
involvement, and he was all upset, his names was Guy
Banister and he ran a private detective agency. And
the reason I told him, he had displayed the fact, some
kind of a credential that he was an FBI, former FBI
agent, or something, I don't remember then. But any-
way, he was concerned about it. I told Jack about it,
and within a matter of either a day, or I don't re-
member now what it was, I was arrested in front of a
building impersonating a priest, put in a police car,

Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)

Beckham: taken to a place called the First District Police
(cont'd) Department, was visited by an FBI agent, which when
he walked back there and said FBI, and I, that's one
time I just up right and told him "Look, y'all have
got to help me", because at the time I thought I
was working for the Government and stuff and he left.
It couldn't have been even five minutes he was with me.
Then a bald-headed like-policeman came back there
and said "What are we going to do with him?" and he
said "We'll take care of it," and I'd say within, I'd
say, maybe thirty minutes a guy came in with a
stretcher and they opened the door, told me to get
on the stretcher, and naturally I was scared to death,
and wa..., started a ruckus, you know, they held me
down for the stretcher and I was wheeled away and
went to Charity Hospital, where I was visited by some
man that told me that I was going to get out and a
priest, a priest which talked to a doctor, 'cause the
priest said for him to let me go. And that was, I
was released from the Hospital, I don't know how many
days; it wasn't very many days that I was there. And
my parents were told that I had attempted to commit
suicide. After I got out of the Hospital, I received
connections, I met Jack and a few others..There's a
siren going by; wait a second. Okay, after I got out
of the Hospital I still got involved with them again
and I was told by some Cuban individuals that if I

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Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 233)

Beckham: wanted to remain in the Organization and stuff, I
(cont'd) should know how to keep my mouth shut and know who my friends are. And I stuck around with them for a while, or something, and I, one time before or after that I forget how, I put myself in a hospital two, a couple of times, to evade them, to create an image that I was mentally ill, and a lot of times I would give, I mean I would actually make people think that for the simple reason that I thought it was safe for me. And, well just like this thing up at Springfield recently, but that has nothing to do with it. But anyway, that's the whole egg in a nutshell.

Delsa: All right, let me ask you this.

Beckham: Of course, I could be nuts, I'm not sure. (Laughs)
But I don't think so.

Delsa: Okay. This is what I want to get to the point.

Beckham: All right.

Delsa: You knew G. Wray Gill, Sergio Arcacha, Jack Martin,

Beckham: Lucius Rebel.

Delsa: Lucius Rebel and them, from being in an organization in New Orleans.

Beckham: Right. That's all over - the Organization.

Delsa: All right. Well, I'm specifically talking about the dates...

Beckham: Right.

Delsa: That we have in question, from '59 to '63...

Beckham: Uhum.

Delsa: When the President was assassinated. Now you mentioned



Loran Hall



Lawrence Howard

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Delsa: delivering a package in Dallas two weeks before the
(cont'd) assassination...

Beckham: Uhuh.

Delsa: To Lawrence Howard. Briefly I want you to tell me
how you came to meet Lawrence Howard. You did know
Lawrence Howard...

Beckham: Yeah.

Delsa: Before you went to Dallas?

Beckham: Right. Yeah. I seen Lawrence Howard on maybe seven
or eight, nine different occasions.

Delsa: Where?

Beckham: One time was at a church thing we had where we, guns
were stored there. But these guns were to be used
for the revo., the Cuban thing. They were packed
inside crates. Then I learned from another guy that
came in there, a big, tall, skinny man, that, lanky
kind of guy, that he had asked that Howard, had he
taken the guns to Texas. The guns was supposed to
be taken to Texas. Yeah, now Howard and Hall both
was at the Mission. As a matter of fact, we had cans
that we put out that said "Keep America Free", that
"Communist Aggression is Just 90 Miles from American
Shores". I obtained the cans personally through the,
which Continental Can Company, I think at the time,
was at Harvey. They gave us what they call slotted
cans, and these cans were opened at the church and
funds were emptied out of the cans. As a matter of
fact, they used can openers to do them. Meetings and

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Lee Oswald

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NASA

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Beckham: stuff were carried upon, were carried at the church, (cont'd) which was an upstairs section, which myself had a key to the church, Jack had a key to the church, Gill, I know for a fact, had a key to the church, 'cause he's came in there. And Sergio Arcacha had a key, Hall had a key, Howard had a key, everybody had a keys to the place.

Buras: Wasn't Lee Harvey Oswald a visitor at the church?

Beckham: Yeah, Lee. Lee was, well I knew Lee. I knew him real well.

Buras: Was he?

Beckham: As a matter of fact, quite a few times, Lee talked about his friend the chief that was to help him. And I know for a fact, and I believe in my heart, and I know he had no reason to lie. One time I just told him if he didn't stop some of his crazy stuff; he used to make me mad. He said the Chief would take care of me. I said, "Why don't you stop this silly stuff?" He said, no the Chief, which he told was the head of the FBI then, which was Hoover, he said he didn't worry about those local FBI, that the Chief would take care of him, that he had his "ins" and that this was no worry. Lee, as a matter of fact, one day I met Lee was up on, in front of the old International Trade Mart Building this morning. He was giving out some kind of a free Cuba, or something, thing and we went and had a Coke down there on Canal Street, and he told

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Beckham: me that particular day he was just on television
(cont'd) or something. But, in another meeting I met with Lee
was that, when he talked about just getting back
from Mexico and he was going to be coming into some
money. I think this was in September, if I'm not
mistaken. And he talked about his trip to Mexico,
and he'd be coming into some funds and...

Buras: Was anybody else present at this meeting?

Beckham: Oh yeah, yeah. I think at that meeting, I'm not
really certain, I think though Arcacha was and a few,
some guy, I can't think of his name. He made, we
had a coin that was used not only for identification,
but it was like a highly fund-raising thing, it was
supposed to be. And this coin we used for an identi-
fication along with a card, and I used to have some
certificates and stuff, but recently somebody con-
veniently broke into a place I had and stole them.
Some of the Information I have.

Buras: Let me ask you one question about your role in the
church. You set up a phony church...

Beckham: No, it was supposed to be a legitimate church, the
way they claimed, which was, 'cause why I, the
authenticity of it so legitimate was the fact that
they told me that, well they talked about a gentleman
by the name of "Rumble" or "Ramble" (phonetic), or
something. He was supposed to be a head of a arch-
diocese there in New Orleans. And they said, they called

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Beckham: me the "Padre", that's how they put it, unless they
(cont'd) were around somebody that, I guess, they was really
impressing and they said "This was Father Beckham".
They said they first obtained, Jack did for me, a
thing called "O.S.J.", Order of St. John. Later,
on the establish of the church, I received an in-
struments, they called instruments of ordination,
which no one knew that I recorded them, but I recorded
them in the Registry of Conveyances Office in New
Orleans. And that was in the Old Catholic Church of
North America, which they took me to meet the Little
Sisters of the Poor, and they said that they had already
contacted this archbishop. As a matter of fact, I'm
sure they did, because they also brought me in a couple
of these Cuban men, cards that they said came from the
archbishop. And, if I'm not mistakenly wrong, it had
the Mass in Latin and these cards I was to lay up on the
altar to celebrate the Mass.

Buras: Were you instructed by people outside of the church
on how to conduct a the Mass?

Beckham: No. There was one gentleman in particular that had
several meetings there, that had a, if I am remembering,
he had an extra wide collar. I remember priests
usually wear, I'm not a Catholic so I don't know, wore
the little small collar. This gentleman had an extra
wide gap in his collar, and I asked him about it and
he said "Well, the collar is real.." I said, "That's

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Beckham: a Roman collar on it, they called?" And he said
(cont'd) "No, it's a clerical collar," y'know, and they
obtained for me vestments which are called a Rabi,
and stuff to use, plus my clothes, which was, I had
two suits, two black suits, and about three Rabis.
Now my first Rabi was given to me by Jack Martin,
and then I received from this priest guy a little
black thing that you zip open, had little glasses in
it, had some little white things, and another thing
that had candles in it and a little purple-looking
thing that I put around my neck in the celebration
of Mass. Let's see, that's about it, I can tell you.

Buras: Did this, did they go as far as to teach you...

Beckham: The celebration of Mass?

Buras: The fundamentals of celebrating Mass?

Beckham: Yeah. How to kiss the thing, how to make a sick call,
delivering the Last Rites. I forgot a lot of it now.
It was "dominis" and all that stuff, you know, it's
been years, you know, because I've had no need for it
now. But they taught me that, they taught me the Mass.
They said the reason for that is that you've got to
be able, they said, in case you come in, they said
there's a lot of Catholics that know how to celebrate
the Mass as good as a priest, is what they said. Which
made sense. And, but, I remember them remarking the
fact that one gentleman asked, did the, what about the
arch..., I remember the name archdiocese stands out in

Beckham: my mind, that they had contacted this archbishop
(cont'd) Rumble, he already knows about my being, and I was
to be known as, now I could be wrong, "Circular Priest".
That way, they said, I would have no particular area
that would house me in, whatever they meant by that.
But it was called "circular". You could check and see
what that means. I was never schooled on what that
meant.

Delsa: Okay. Now, to bring this down and put it on record,
in our preliminary discussions before, later in your
contact with the Organization, with Crisman, Crisman
you found to be a bishop in these various churches.

Beckham: Uhum, uhum.

Delsa: Now, you don't know this for a fact, but you spoke
to us prior to this in a discussion, and told us who
you believed set this system up in New Orleans. Will
you tell us now, who do you think set this system up
with the church?

Beckham: Well, I think Fred Crisman, because the Organization
is all over the country. I'd rather not go into it
now because there are different connections of people
and other things, but I think Fred Crisman is the
whole, front of the whole thing, because he's not
just a, he has too many contacts, too many, you know,
he tells me who to contact. As a matter of fact, one
time I was, had received a telephone call from a
priest, and which you very well know his name, and I

Beckham: pronounce, starts with a "B", y'know. You had a
 (cont'd) thing in your file.

Delsa: If I state the name would you be able to recognize
 it?

Beckham: All right.

Delsa: Raymond Brushears (phonetic).

Beckham: Yeah. Raymond was a homosexual, and Raymond had
 called me. He was concerned about his involvement
 in some things, and I'm sure that he was more con-
 cerned if some, maybe some other possibly not so above
 board operations and other things. And when I advised
 Fred of it, Fred told me I ought to sever all my
 conncections, all of us should, with anyone that had
 connections in the New Orleans. And that was it. And
 then at the time we wrote a letter to him.

Delsa: All right. Now Fred told you this.

Beckham: Right.

Delsa: And we've discussed this before. Right now I'd like
 you to put in your own words..

Beckham: A'right.

Delsa: The reason why Fred told you to sever relations with
 the contacts that you had in New Orleans and primarily
 the reason.

Beckham: Okay. When I found out later, and talking to other
 people, I'm, I was puzzled about what could have
 happened, about how close Garrison's investigation,
 I knew the way things were, because I didn't have all

Beckham: the answers myself, because I was just a part of it.
(cont'd)

I was told by a friend of Fred Crisman's that a very good friend of ours was involved in the assassination you see, and I asked Fred did he think that..., and I was told that Lee was just one of the persons, that there was three persons involved. When I confronted Fred with the deal, he said "How does it fit? Does it make sense to you?" And I said "Yes". He said "Well, just leave it at that." He was so un..., you know, unconcerned about the whole thing, that, I mean, that's the way he was. The whole picture was Fred. He was, Fred had the ins and the outs and the answers and he knew everybody connected in the thing, everybody. Fred knew about how things that had taken place, things that had happened, and only body would know would had to be Fred, had to be in, would know, you see.

Delsa: Like Fred wasn't at any of the meetings that took place in New Orleans...

Beckham: No.

Delsa: But later, after the assassination, Fred had knowledge of you delivering the package..

Beckham: Oh, he knew it. Yeah, Fred knew everything that took place. As a matter of fact, when I told him he was upset about Ray, about our, and I said I'm going to call him back, and he said "No", he said "Don't call him back." He said "Y'all are going to sever all your connections, everybody." He was forceful in his way.

Beckham: And he said he wanted me to contact him, but by
 (cont'd) letter, and exactly what he dictated to me the way
 to send the letter. He said that Ray would get the
 picture once he got the letter.

Delsa: That Ray would understand?

Beckham: That Ray would understand the picture, what to do.
 And he said not to be contacting him, and from then
 on I never contacted Ray, I stayed away from him.

Buras: Now. In all of the years that you have known
 Fred Crisman, do you know of any business or occupation
 where he has been gainfully employed?

Beckham: No.

Buras: Where, where did he get his money?

Beckham: I don't know.

Buras: What is his lifestyle?

Beckham: First class.

Buras: His automobile?

Beckham: First class. Cadillacs, things like that.

Buras: His travel?

Beckham: Airplanes, BankAmericards, I mean, American Express
 cards. Matter of fact, well, I know Fred's with the
 Organization, I know, I mean there's no use misleading
 anybody on that. The Organization I'm with the knowledge
 that it's, it does, well Fred told me that the Organiza-
 tion was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency
 for various things, it, that Agency used certain some
 for the icing and some for the cake. That's who, in

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Beckham: his remarks. And that's the way we done it. Matter
(cont'd) of fact, I went, I ended up back in Dallas with Fred
in 196--, in another date, I'd rather not say. Well,
anyway, back in 1968, I ended up with Fred at the
Executive Inn where I was staying at, we rented two
rooms, same place I met Howard. And I was in a next
room and Fred was in another one, and Fred always
told me not to come thro., there was adjoining doors,
but always to knock because people like their privacy.
Well, on this particular day, I went out in the
hall and somebody I was joking with, y'know, was kidding,
knocked at his door, and Fred has a habit when he
opens the door, he just don't open it and peep through,
he pokes it back and there stood three, four, maybe
five Spanish people, men. They were discussing things
with Fred. Matter of fact, me and Fred carried money
for the Republican Party and he said the reason we
carried it is because, I asked him, I said "That
seems silly to have somebody carry the money." He
said, "No" and I know why now later, I mean, I'm a lot
older. But he said at the time the reason the money
was carried was because certain monies couldn't go
through certain channels, and that we carried the
money for, he said, I said "Well, just one party".
He said "No, both parties does it. Every party's does
it. And they carry funds." And that's what we did. We

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Beckham: carried funds back and forth, different places, and,
(cont'd) matter of fact on this, well, this one occasion, I
don't know what transpired at all.

Delsa: Right. But this particular trip you stayed at the
same...

Beckham: Executive Inn.

Delsa: Executive Inn.

Beckham: That's right.

Delsa: In our discussion, we showed you a photograph of a
motel.

Beckham: Right. Matter of fact, let me tell you what happened.
Fred schooled me when I got to New Orleans, Louisiana.
He said that they would eventually find out about our
trip to Dallas, mine and his, if they investigated it.
So he wanted me to notify, make it known to the news-
paper that that the only trip that I'd ever made to
Dallas was with him. He wanted that brought out; he
said that. And I did.

Delsa: Do you know the purpose?

Beckham: On that?

Delsa: Yup.

Beckham: He said in case anything came up he wanted it noted.
And I made it knowed, known.

Delsa: Was it because of a particular reason, such as...

Beckham: I don't know.

Delsa: Such as, he didn't want them to be able to trace you
going to Dallas in '63, in November, delivering the
package?

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Beckham: That's possible. He said if somebody says "Well, you say well you've never been in Dallas" he said, "They might catch you in a lie. So just point blank say that you was in Dallas."

Buras: Okay. The tape is running sort of long. Now, is it, is it, it's understood by this tape that you will talk to one of the counsels, an attorney...

Beckham: Right.

Buras: From the Select Committee.

Beckham: Uhum.

Buras: And that if necessary, you will testify before the Select Committee on Assassinations?

Beckham: Right, right. With immunity. If I get immunity. 'Cause I don't want to be caught in the middle.

Buras: Okay. You...

Beckham: But you said nothing can be used against me anyway, so I will talk to them, yes.

Buras: Under the conditions that we read to you at the beginning...

Beckham: Right.

Buras: Of this tape.

Beckham: Right. Okay.

Delsa: All right. This is the end of the tape. The time is now 11:50 A.M.