

On August 15, 1966, the Anchorage Office of the FBI furnished the following information:

On August 15, 1966, Chaplain (Captain) Joseph G. Leduc, F. V., 3062998, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, advised that the following information concerning his knowledge of subject Whitman and subject Whitman's family was given freely because of his desire to cooperate with the government. Father Leduc stated that he does not want any publicity or disclosure of this information outside of public authorities who have an official interest.

Father Leduc advised he first became acquainted with subject Whitman when subject Whitman was about eight or nine years of age. Subject Whitman was an altar boy at the Sacred Heart Parish, Lake Worth, Florida, and he, Father Leduc, was in the seminary during the approximate three years he saw subject Whitman in church as an altar boy, and Father Leduc had no close association with subject Whitman or subject Whitman's relatives.

It is Father Leduc's understanding that subject Whitman's father was brought up in an orphanage. Father Leduc learned through contact with subject Whitman and subject Whitman's family that subject Whitman's father was very demanding in the rearing of his children. To Father Leduc's knowledge, subject Whitman's father did not have any church affiliation.

Subsequently, according to Father Leduc, subject Whitman's two brothers, Patrick who is now approximately 21 years of age, and Robert John who is now approximately 17 or 18 years of age, also served as altar boys at the Sacred Heart Parish in Lake Worth, Florida. Subject Whitman and subject Whitman's two brothers were influenced in their religious life by their mother.

Father Leduc was instrumental in organizing Boy Scouts of America Troop 119 sponsored by Sacred Heart Parish, and when subject Whitman was approximately 11 years of age he became a Tenderfoot scout in Troop 119. This scout troop met once a week and subject Whitman attended regularly. For approximately one year thereafter,

Father Leduc became more closely associated with subject Whitman and members of subject Whitman's family. Subject Whitman was very aggressive on his own toward improving himself in the scout troop and in obtaining rank. Subject Whitman became an Eagle Scout at around the age of 12 and was at that time the youngest boy to have become an Eagle Scout. Father Leduc knows that subject Whitman's father was very persuasive in having subject Whitman to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. Father Leduc and the institution sponsoring the Boy Scout troop objected to subject Whitman's pushing so hard to become an Eagle Scout, but subject Whitman continued his aggressiveness toward this goal because subject Whitman's father was so persistent in urging subject Whitman toward this goal. After subject Whitman became an Eagle Scout or sometime around this period, Father Leduc transferred to another seminary and was out of any close contact with subject Whitman or members of subject Whitman's family for about four years. After being ordained, Father Leduc served one month at the Sacred Heart Parish in Lake Worth, Florida, and in June, 1955, said his first Mass with subject Whitman as his altar boy. Father Leduc saw subject Whitman only occasionally during this month and thereafter he, Father Leduc, went to his permanent assignment at Houston, Texas. *

Thereafter, Father Leduc saw subject Whitman and members of subject Whitman's family only occasionally.

Father Leduc stated subject Whitman was a very nervous type of individual during the entire period of his acquaintance with subject Whitman and had the characteristic of doing things on the spur of the moment, although everything subject Whitman did on the spur of the moment during the period of his acquaintance with subject Whitman was toward the good. During the first five years of acquaintance with subject Whitman, Father Leduc stated that subject Whitman was constantly biting his nails and finally overcame this habit after much coaxing. During his early acquaintance with subject Whitman, subject Whitman was a young man of good morals.

To Father Leduc's knowledge, subject Whitman's father had always been an avid lover of weapons and taught his children, including the subject, to shoot at an early age. Subject Whitman had always indicated much interest in weapons and was a marksman at an early age. Father Leduc learned of subject Whitman's ability to shoot through going on occasional hunting trips with subject Whitman and subject Whitman's father.

Subject Whitman always appeared to have resentment toward his father and this resentment of subject Whitman's father appeared to be by too much regimentation. Subject Whitman's father was very strict in rearing his children and desired perfection from them.

It is Father Leduc's recollection that when subject Whitman was 18 years of age subject Whitman desired to enter the U. S. Marine Corps. Subject Whitman had previously indicated a strong interest in joining the Marines but had been unable to gain approval of his father. Subject Whitman had told Father Leduc of his desire to join the Marines in an effort to get away from his father. Subject Whitman related to Father Leduc an incident which occurred prior to the time subject Whitman reached 18 years of age. This incident was when subject Whitman had engaged upon his first experience in drinking and after subject Whitman had too much to drink subject Whitman's father beat him and threw him into a swimming pool where subject allegedly almost drowned. Father Leduc emphasized that this version of the incident was given to Father Leduc by subject Whitman and that he, Father Leduc, has no personal knowledge concerning this incident. *

At about the age of 18 subject Whitman joined the U. S. Marine Corps without his father's knowledge, but with the knowledge of his mother. Father Leduc said that subject Whitman left by train for Parris Island and that subject Whitman's father, upon learning of subject Whitman's having joined the Marine Corps, called some branch of the Federal Government and had subject Whitman stopped, picked up and brought home. It is Father Leduc's understanding

that the Marine Corps did not accept interference by subject Whitman's father because subject Whitman was now old enough to enlist in the Marine Corps and had given his oath of allegiance.

It is Father Leduc's understanding that subject Whitman did very well in the Marine Corps during his early training and was offered a scholastic advancement program which brought subject Whitman to the University of Texas for additional training while serving in the Marine Corps.

When subject Whitman was at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, Father Leduc had close contact with him and observed that subject Whitman had become a playboy and was losing some of his basic principals and faith. While subject Whitman was in the Marine Corps stationed at the University of Texas, subject Whitman was apprehended by the Game Department of the State of Texas for killing a deer at night and bringing the dead deer to his dormitory at the University, leaving blood stains from the entrance of the dormitory to his room. Subject Whitman gutted or skinned the deer in the shower. According to Father Leduc, the incident was widely publicized in Texas and the only explanation subject Whitman gave Father Leduc was to blame it on a teenage prank.

Subject Whitman was thereafter returned to Parris Island by the Marine Corps and subsequently sent to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. It is Father Leduc's understanding that subject Whitman's father again intervened and tried every political means to have subject Whitman released from the service, but with negative results.

While subject Whitman was stationed at the University of Texas and still in the Marine Corps, subject Whitman met his future wife, Katherine, a student at the University of Texas. Subject Whitman and Katherine consulted Father Leduc and Father Leduc thereafter married them at Needville, Texas, date now unrecalled. Father Leduc

added it is his understanding that subject Whitman and Katherine had known each other for about one year at the University of Texas prior to their marriage.

Father Leduc lost contact with subject Whitman after subject Whitman's transfer from the University of Texas following the deer incident, and he, Father Leduc, did not have any contact with subject Whitman again until subject Whitman returned to the University of Texas as a civilian several years later. Subject Whitman and Katherine visited with Father Leduc on about two occasions after subject Whitman returned. Father Leduc's last two contacts with subject Whitman were in May and June, 1966, and Father Leduc visited subject Whitman and subject Whitman's wife at their home in Austin, Texas, where subject Whitman was a student at the University and Katherine was then employed. During this visit subject Whitman seemed somewhat more relaxed than usual but was complaining about pressure of his studies and hours involved in studying. Father Leduc received the impression that the strain of subject Whitman's studies was beginning to bother subject Whitman and observed subject Whitman was not practicing his faith and appeared to be in a turmoil concerning religion. Also, during this visit subject Whitman showed Father Leduc his arsenal and was obviously very proud of his weapons. Subject Whitman had several weapons but Father Leduc did not pay any attention to the number of weapons.

At the time of this visit to subject Whitman's home in May, 1966, subject Whitman's mother was at Lake Worth, Florida, obtaining her belongings and preparing to move to Austin, Texas, to be close to subject Whitman. Subject Whitman's mother was leaving subject Whitman's father. Subject Whitman's mother had previously told subject Whitman that her husband was continually beating her but that she would not leave him while the children were young because she wanted to maintain the family together until the children were old enough to care for themselves.

Father Leduc stated his last visit with subject Whitman was in June, 1966, when Father Leduc was on temporary duty at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Subject Whitman, subject Whitman's wife, and subject Whitman's mother came to the base to visit Father Leduc and he, Father Leduc, took them to dinner at the Officers Club. Everything appeared normal at the time concerning subject Whitman and his wife, but subject Whitman's mother was disturbed concerning divorce proceedings against subject Whitman's father. Subject Whitman, his wife and mother left that evening to return to Austin, Texas, and Father Leduc never saw them again.

During the period of Father Leduc's acquaintance with subject Whitman, subject Whitman never complained about any headaches or any ill health. Father Leduc stated that Father Samuel Hill Ray, S. J., who according to the 1965 Catholic Directory is presently located at 602 Oregon Street, El Paso, Texas, can probably furnish additional information concerning subject Whitman during subject Whitman's high school period. Father Leduc stated subject Whitman had attended St. Ann's High School, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Father Leduc said additional information concerning subject Whitman's childhood could probably be obtained from Father Matthew Morgan, who according to the 1965 Catholic Directory is presently located at 3420 N. E. Tenth Terrace, Pompano Beach, Florida.

Father Leduc advised Jim Merritt, who was presently employed in the insurance business at Houston, Texas, can probably furnish additional information concerning subject Whitman and details regarding the above mentioned deer incident. It was Father Leduc's understanding that Mr. Merritt was quite close to subject Whitman.

This is being furnished to you for whatever action is deemed appropriate.

It is again pointed out that Father Leduc stated that he did not want any publicity or disclosure of this information outside public authorities who have an official interest.

Very truly yours,


J. Myers Cole
Special Agent in Charge

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