

FBI: 'Bush' called about JFK killing

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SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

WASHINGTON — A man who identified himself as George H.W. Bush phoned the FBI office in Houston a few hours after President John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas to report that a right-wing Young Republican had "been talking of killing the president," FBI documents show.

At the time of the 1963 assassination, Vice President Bush, whose full name is George Herbert Walker Bush, was an oilman living in Houston and a leader in the growing Republican Party in Texas. The party was split in those days by a bitter struggle for control between moderates such as Bush and extreme conservatives.

Bush's press office at first said the vice president hadn't made the call and challenged the authenticity of the FBI reports. Then, several days later, an aide said Bush "does not recall" making the call.

The key FBI document, obtained in a Freedom of Information Act action, is dated Nov. 23, 1963. It says that on the day before, George H.W. Bush had "telephonically advised" the Houston FBI office that a right-wing member of the Texas Young Republicans "had been talking of killing the president when he comes to Houston." The document identified the young Republican as James Milton Parrott, whom the FBI questioned shortly after getting the call.

Houston sources said Parrott, who couldn't be reached for comment, was connected with the John Birch Society and right-wing Texas groups. He was fighting Bush and

other moderates for control of the state's Republican Party.

The FBI reports gave the address of the man who called and named Parrott as "5525 Briar, Houston, Texas." According to a "Who's Who" of the period, that was then the vice president's home.

When questioned by FBI agents William J. Schmidt and Kenneth B. Jackson on Nov. 22, 1963, at his mother's home, Parrott denied knowing anything about the assassination or ever threatening Kennedy. He also produced an alibi.

He said "he was a member of the Young Republicans and had been active in picketing" officials of the Kennedy administration who appeared in Houston.

He said he had been one of the demonstrators at the Rice Hotel when Secretary of State Dean Rusk had been in Houston earlier in 1963.