

XV Oswald, the Communist ^{spy}, and Mailer's "logic"

Having portrayed Marina as a whore when he knew that was a lie, and as we see soon, portraying Oswald as a homosexual with no basis for that at all, the Mailer defamation factory also portrays Oswald as a Communist spy. As we also see later, Mailer also portrays Oswald as an anti-Communist spy, working for the CIA through his imagined "handler" George de Mohrenschildt. ^{Mailer} ~~he~~ does not ^{depict} ~~depict~~ Oswald as a double agent. Merely as working both sides at different times in his imagined career.

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insert on spying in Japan Japan:

A-1 ~~Coyne~~, ~~The Communist Party and Maiter's 'Logic'~~

When it comes to being an authority on spies and spying, on intelligence ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{intelligence agencies and on} what an intelligence target really ~~is~~ is, move over Ian Fleming ~~and~~ and make room for the new Numbr One, Norman Mailer.

^{Bond?} James ~~Bond~~? Who is he? He is nobody compared to ^{Mailer} Lee Harvey Oswald.

The real Lee Harvey Oswald ~~of~~ Mailer's "biography" of him,

Norman Mailer, who has those unique qualifications for real expertise, his ~~novel~~ novel Harlot's Ghost.

You know that ~~novel~~ novel and Mailer's determination to investigate and expose the CIA- the novel he apologized to the CIA for, top 500 of its top headquarters executives who gathered to hear him ~~because~~ almost 20 years before he wrote Mailer's Tales, of which another follows. The novel he acknowledged was simply terrible and ignorant at that. The one that ^{the CIA} led him to promise ^{to do better}.

While this is not the sequel ^{those} he promised ~~that~~ top CIA people it is Mailer's next work dealing with intelligence. *Mailer himself says it does.*

As we saw, the newspaper ~~accounts~~ do not include the statistics on the number of those top CIA people who suffered split sides ^{in 1977,} after hearing Mailer, but, as Mailer himself would put it, indeed, did put it often, "It can be safely ^{assumed}" that sitting and listening to him must have caused many of them to split their sides in the ^{kind} of reaction that it is said, causes sides to split. Fortunately for them and the occupational hazard they then ~~read~~ were subjected to, they did not face the daunting ~~additional~~ hazard that follows.

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Mailer, taking his lead from Epstein, portrays Oswald as a Communist spy when he was in Japan and stationed at the United States' ~~Atsugi~~ Matsugi air base not far from Tokyo. In ^{only} accomplishing this Mailer ~~beins~~ begins with the conjectures of a couple of Commission lawyers to which Epstein adds his own ~~equally baseless con~~ conjectures and with his superior intelligence, ^{mailer} ordains that these ~~nonsensical~~ conjectures ^{that} are "possibilities" ^{to others are, because he sees what [is more] "possibilities." They are} "probabilities." ^{only} ~~he understands~~ ^{he understands as the other do not} are "probabilities." ~~pages 388-90~~ ^{pages 388-90}

If instead of being a mere Marine ^{all of} mailer ^z had been in intelligence in Europe in World War II ^z history might have been different.

If he had been listened to.

He could see so much that was not there to be ~~seen~~!

And he could find so much that did not exist to prove what he could see. ^{and did}

Mailer gets into this on page 388. He lays it all out ~~in the next~~ in a mere four pages. This follows Mailer's second-hand and more remote account of Oswald's [†] bitterness on finally getting out of the brig. Mailer begins it this way, with no [†] introduction or explanation:

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Epstein: Two lawyers for the Warren Commission, W. David Slawson and William T. Coleman, Jr., suggested in a report which was released under the Freedom of Information Act: that "... there is a possibility that Oswald came into contact with Communist agents at that time, i.e., during his tour of duty in the Philippines, Japan, and possibly Formosa. Japan, especially because the Communist Party was open and active there, would seem a likely spot for a contact to have been made. . . . Whether such contacts, if they occurred, amounted to anything more than some older Communist advising Oswald, who was then eighteen or nineteen years old, to go to Russia and see the Communist world is unclear." The Warren Commission did not, however, pursue this in its final report.²²

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It may not be unfair to say that what the Warren Commission lawyers call a possibility is a probability. It certainly explains a good deal about Oswald's actions then and later.

Let us begin by noting that Oswald had learned to use a 35 mm camera, an Imperial Reflex, and was seen taking many a photograph of objects and buildings on the Atsugi base, including the

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Epstein: He frequently went to Tokyo or otherwise disappeared on his passes. One of Oswald's Marine friends recalls meeting him at a house in Tamato with a woman who was working there as a housekeeper for a naval officer. He was impressed at the time that Oswald had found a girlfriend who was not a bar girl or prostitute. In the house was also a handsome young Japanese man for whom Oswald had apparently bought a T-shirt from the PX on base. While the girls cooked sukiyaki on a hibachi grill, the men talked, but the Marine was unable to understand exactly what Oswald's relation was to the group.²³

So far, it is a small matter. He takes photographs on base, and could be sharing a ménage-à-trois with a Japanese man and woman. He states to Joseph Macedo that he doesn't care to return to the United States. He will never forgive the Marine Corps for what those four weeks in the brig have done to his pride. On such a flimsy note, we can hardly bring in a case against him, merely a suspicion.

He forms, however, one relation that is virtually without explanation unless it is a quid pro quo between Oswald and a beautiful Japanese woman who is working at one of the best and most expensive nightclubs in Tokyo, the Queen Bee. Any hostess one chose for a night would cost more than Oswald could earn in a month. The Queen Bee was for officers, not enlisted men. Yet Oswald was seen going out with her often:

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Epstein: "He was really crazy about her," observed [a Marine named] Stout, who met the woman with Oswald on several occasions in local bars around the base. Other Marines, less friendly to Oswald . . . were astonished that someone of her "class" would go out with Oswald at all.²⁴

That the Queen Bee and similar places were marketplaces for the pursuit and purchase of pieces of military information seems to have been taken for granted. Epstein offers Marine Lieutenant Charles Rhodes, who

recalls an incident at Atsugi when a girl he was friendly with informed him that she was sorry to hear that he was going on maneuvers to Formosa. Rhodes, an officer assigned to MACS-1 as an air controller, told her that she was misinformed—that there were no plans for the unit to go to Formosa. Ten days later Rhodes was officially informed of the maneuver.²⁵

MACS-1 was indeed dispatched to Formosa in order to provide radar surveillance. The U.S. military expected a possible invasion of Taiwan and/or a serious naval battle with the Chinese Communists.

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Once installed in their radar bubble on Formosa, however, the officers in command of Oswald's outfit discovered that their most crucial signals—the ones by which planes flying by could identify themselves as friendly—appeared to have been compromised:

Epstein: The Communist Chinese seemed to know all the code signals, which, on one occasion, allowed them to penetrate air defenses and appear on the radar screens as "friends" rather than "foes." . . . [Lieutenant Rhodes] vividly recalls the Communist Chinese jets "breezing right through the IFF system." Someone with access to the [codes] . . . had apparently passed them along to the enemy. "We never knew how they got their planes through," Rhodes observed, "but they all had the signals . . . we really caught hell about that." . . .²⁶

One night, soon after they had arrived, Oswald was on guard duty at about midnight when Rhodes . . . suddenly heard "four or five" shots from the position Oswald was guarding. Drawing his .45 caliber pistol, he ran toward the clump of trees from which the gunfire emanated. There he found Oswald slumped against a tree, holding his M-1 rifle across his lap. "When I got to him, he was shaking and crying," Rhodes later recounted. "He said he had seen men in

the woods and that he challenged them and then started shooting. . . ." Rhodes put his arm around Oswald's shoulder and slowly walked him back to his tent. "He kept saying he just couldn't bear being on guard duty." . . .²⁷

Rhodes reported the incident to his commanding officer, and almost immediately after that, on October 6, Oswald was returned to Japan on a military plane . . . Rhodes believed then, as he does today, that Oswald planned the shooting incident as a ploy to get himself sent back to Japan. "Oswald liked Japan and wanted to stay. . . . I know he didn't want to go to Formosa and I think he fired off his gun to get out of there. . . . There was nothing dumb about Oswald."²⁸

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It could have been calculated; it could have been honest panic. If he was giving or selling secrets to Japanese Communists, he might have been full of the fear of being found out. On guard duty in the dark in a strange land, it would not take a great deal of imagination to begin to feel that retribution was stealing up on him for his misdeeds.

Returned to Atsugi, with his outfit still in Taiwan, Oswald was soon transferred hundreds of miles south to an airbase at Iwakuni.

Epstein: Owen Dejanovich, a tall, lanky native of Chicago who went on to play professional football, immediately recognized Oswald . . . as someone he had gone to radar school with at Keesler Air Base and tried to renew the acquaintanceship. He quickly found that Oswald had grown enormously bitter since he had last known him.

"He kept referring to the Marines at the center as 'You

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Americans,' as if he were some sort of foreigner simply observing what we were doing," says Dejanovich. His tone was definitely accusatory. He spoke in slogans about "American imperialism" and "exploitation" . . .²⁹

As Oswald would remark to reporters in Moscow in the fall of 1959, he had by October of 1958 decided to defect and become a citizen of the Soviet Union.

Of course, it is not quite so pat as that. Stationed in California for much of the intervening time, he would also think of going to Cuba and becoming one of Castro's lieutenants.

This may seem to some to be a rather lengthy direct quotation of Mailer and of Mailer quoting Epstein and I would not deny such a complaint. However, Mailer's case that Oswald ^{was} a Communist spy in Japan, what he refers to over and over again in what follows as the actuality, ~~it is~~ is, I believe, worthy of quoting in full and giving it close attention. Then, too, it is an important part of Mailer's biography of Oswald that he says establishes Oswald's guilt as the President's assassin, Mailer's substitution for the evidence he finds "impenetrable."

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And, of course, there is always the matter of fairness, here fairness to Mailer himself. We ought not triple-dot him, ^{his} a technique to which in time we do get.

Therefore the foregoing quotes him in full and unedited for the pages cited, 388-91.

For those who may have forgotten by now, this is from Mailer's Volume Two, Part I: "Early Years, Soldier Years." ("Soldier" is a nice Mailer touch but Oswald ~~ally~~ was a Marine.) The chapter is "Loose Ends," the sixth chapter in this Part, Mailer's source notes begin with 22. His last is 29. As Mailer states on page xxvii, all eight source citations are to Epstein's Legend. For those of small mind who characterized Mailer's Mailer's Tales as no more than a cut-and-paste job, it is clear in this full quotation of these pages that some of it does originate with Mailer. That part is the ^{real} ~~real~~ real poop about spooking^N, about Oswald as a Communist spy when he was in Japan. In this sense it can be referred to ~~as~~ the real poop-poop. If as I think is fair we regard this ^{as} Mailer's accrediting himself as the superior of Ian Fleming, then it can be properly regard as the real poop-poop-poop- triple poop. As the triple poop it is it ~~was~~ warrants close attention and examination because of its many importances.

Mr. EISENBERG. But at any rate if it was not made directly it was made indirectly? The only process that could have intervened was a rephotographing of the photograph and making a negative and then a new print?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. That is correct.

Mr. EISENBERG. Mr. Shaneyfelt, I now hand you an Imperial Reflex Duo Lens camera. Let me state for the record, that this camera was turned over to the FBI by Robert Oswald, the brother of Lee Harvey Oswald, on February 24, 1964.

Robert Oswald identified the camera as having belonged to Lee Oswald and stated that he, Robert, had obtained it from the Paine residence in December 1963, several weeks after the assassination.

On February 25, 1964, Marina was given the camera and she identified it as the one which she had used to take the pictures 133A and 133B.

Mr. Shaneyfelt, are you familiar with this camera?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. Yes; I am.

Mr. EISENBERG. Mr. Chairman, may I have this admitted as 750?

Mr. McCLOY. It may be admitted.

(Commission Exhibit No. 750 was marked and received in evidence.)

Mr. EISENBERG. When did you receive the camera, Mr. Shaneyfelt?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. It was—I can't pinpoint the date exactly, I don't have the notes here for that. It was, I would say, the latter part of February, not too long after it had been recovered on February 24.

Mr. EISENBERG. Was it in working order when you received it?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. No; it had been slightly damaged.

Mr. EISENBERG. Could you explain that?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. In order to be able to make a photograph with the camera, I had to make slight repairs to the shutter lever, which had been bent. I straightened it and cleaned the lens in order to remove the dirt which had accumulated. These were the only things that had to be done before it was usable to make pictures with it.

Mr. EISENBERG. Did you clean the inside or the outside of the lens?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. The outside of the lens.

Mr. EISENBERG. And the shutter lever you are referring to is the little red-tipped lever protruding at the outside of the camera?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. That is correct.

Mr. EISENBERG. What did you do with it exactly?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. I bent it out straight. It was bent over.

Mr. EISENBERG. Could a layman have performed these repairs?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. Yes; he could have.

Mr. EISENBERG. How would you characterize this camera in terms of expense, Mr. Shaneyfelt?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. It is a relatively inexpensive camera. It is what we refer to as a fixed-focus box-type camera. A simple box-type camera with a simple one-shutter speed and no focusing ability, fixed focus.

Mr. EISENBERG. Do you know where the camera was made?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. It was made in the United States. At the base of the camera it has the name Imperial Reflex, made in U.S.A., on the front, below the lens.

Mr. EISENBERG. Mr. Shaneyfelt, did you compare the negative, Exhibit 749, with the camera, Exhibit 750, to determine whether the negative had been taken in that camera to the exclusion of all other cameras?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. Yes; I did.

Mr. EISENBERG. What conclusion did you come to?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. I reached the conclusion that the negative, which is Commission Exhibit 749, was exposed in the camera, Commission Exhibit 750, and no other camera.

Mr. EISENBERG. Can you explain how you were able to arrive at such a conclusion?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. Yes; I can.

In order to make an examination of this type, it is necessary to make a negative with the camera, using the camera, because the examination is based on the aperture at the back of the camera, at the film plane.

Mr. EISENBERG. Ha film plane?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. Yes I made so that it was removed to show the film.

Mr. EISENBERG. Did yourself, Mr. Shaneyfelt?

Mr. SHANEYFELT. Yes.

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Mr. EISENBERG. Could you explain that?

The firmness of the origin origin of the belief that Oswald was a Communist spy when he was in the orient, as it is reflected in Mailer's condensation of his ~~A~~ quotation of Epstein with which we begin, and it is really Epstein's firmness adopted by Mailer, is indicated by these words in the one paragraph, in the order in which they appear in it:

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Suggested;

possibility;

possibly; and

likely.

As Mailer himself says over and over again, it would not be unfair to add "to have been made" instead of "was made" for Oswald's alleged ~~psying~~ "contact" with the "Communist Party Party."

We do suffer a slight loss in Mailer's not telling us whether the Japanese Communist Party was at that time aligned with that of the USSR or that of Japan, because they, those two other Communist Parties, then detested each other and ~~their~~ their feelings of detestation were so great they did engage in armed ~~battles~~ battles along their common border, a rather long one. Some of the battles were series in terms of the numbers involved and the resultant casualties.

Perhaps, to be as firm as Mailer is, because there after Oswald went not to Japan but to the Soviet Union, because Mailer says that Oswald was advised to go there by an older Japanese Communist, the ~~Japanese~~ Japanese Communist Party was aligned ~~with~~ with the Soviets. But then again, perhaps it was not. If not, then there might be some question about the dependability of the alleged source.

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Epstein or Epstein himself.

In saying as he does next that "It may not be unfair to say that what the Warren Commission layers called ~~it~~ a possibility," that Oswald was in contact with "Communist agents", is Mailer's way of saying it is ~~not~~ not at all unfair because he next says that the possibility is a probability. But again he begins with "may."

Mailer next refers to Oswald having "learned" to use a 35mm camera, an Imperial Reflex." Actually it was "an Imperial Reflex F Duo Lens. (4H284)."

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With all due apologies to our maven of mavens, Norman Mailer, ~~so~~ from the testimony of the FBI's photographic expert to the Commission, Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, all the words in the ^{Gambino} case's name are sucker bait.

I know not from ~~x~~ examination of the camera but of ^{the} negatives exposed in it that it was not a 35 mm camera.

There was nothing at all "imperial" about it. Nor ~~was~~ was it what is normally understood to be to be a reflex camera. But rather than set myself in opposition to Mailer, who knows so much about everything, including cameras about ^{which} he writes with ~~no~~ no conjecture, no equivocations, and in the hope he will not regard the FBI's photographic expert with the contempt he manifested for the psychiatric department at Parkland Hospital - remember, Mailer regard good ol' boy Sam Ballen as more of an expert in psychiatry - I cite FBI Special Agent Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt's testimony on the camera and on pictures taken with it. ~~(4H284)~~:

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"... It is a relatively inexpensive camera. [By which he means cheap.] It is what we refer to as a fixed-focus box-type camera. A simple ~~box~~ box-type camera with a simple one-shutter speed and no focusing ability, fixed focus." (4H284)

This is not exactly the camera preferred by the James ^{Bo} Bond set. In fact, it is the kind of camera I had in the 1920s. Well, mine may have been a bit more advanced. It has four ~~f~~ stops changed by changing the size of the peep-hole. Shaneyfelt did not testify to that capability of this "Imperial" camera.

In simple English, the box-type is the cheapest of all cameras and the one with least capability of any adjustment for different conditions and subjects.

As I remember the size of the film that I did hold in my hand it without question was not 35 mm and I believe it was old 127-size film. end 305

Still quoting Epstein Mailer then says that Oswald "was seen taking many photographs of objects and buildings on the Atsugai base, including the ~~adar~~ radar antennae with which he worked."

The latter at least introduces magic, if all of this quotation does not. With the entire lengthy paragraph attributed to Epstein it is not safe to assume that Epstein

had a source for all in that paragraph or if, like Mailer, he as his own source.

If Oswald was in fact "seen taking photographs of objects and buildings on that Atsugi base," in those words to which Mailer is so partial judging from his dependence upon them in his book, "it seems" very unlikely that Oswald was "seen" in any such endeavor by the military police. They have a well-earned reputation for not approving photographing any parts of military installations. That may be a bit mean-spirited of them but that is the way they are.

In referring to those "objects and buildings" all of which are in full open view to all near them and all flying over or around them and with the technology of that era those flying over or around them at a considerable distance Epstein Mailer does not say that any kind of secret was involved. Or even could have been.

There were always great numbers of Japanese around that base if not also working on it and the Japanese were not in box-camera, fixed-focus photography. Among their many advance cameras, with which is so short a period they captures most of the world market for cameras, was the traditional "spy" camera, that fabled Minox. They also had cameras that could be hidden on the body and unseen to those who looked at the one taking photographs. It therefore seems that no useful purpose was served by Oswald taking any pictures at all as part of his alleged spying for the unidentified Communists.

So, perhaps Mailer believed he would be better off if he allowed the reader to supply what normally the writer/accuser provides, a basis for believing what is written and about the accusation, which here is of spying. end
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In this single quoted Epstein Mailer sentence what remains is "the radar antennae with which "Oswald" worked."

This, too, confronts me with a credibility problem, will my word be taken in oppositions of Mailer's. After all, he did win those two Pulitzers, a real rarity. And look at all those rave reviews and the other, really extraordinary attention Random House arranged for him and his book. And with all those people, reviewers and other experts, agreeing with Mailer, that good ol' boy Sam Ballen was a much more authentic and dependable expert on psychiatry than the staff of the psychiatric department of Dallas.

Parkland Hospital, which was also a teaching hospital, ~~teach~~ teaching Texas' oncoming psychiatrists, how could I expect all those reviewers and other experts to give much credence to a mere ~~PHL laboratory specialist agent as an expert on photography~~ ~~guy who happened to be a Sankey fellow's expertise from a math and hex was then a~~ ~~retirement~~ Marine officer, who happened to be in charge of that radar unit in which Oswald worked.

Did not Mailer indicate a prejudice against John Donovan? He does quote some of Donovan's testimony but like his prize sources, Davison, McMillan and Posner, not what I published of his testimony on Oswald in New Orleans long before those three books were written. We cannot safely assume, to put it the opposite of Mailer's ^{preference}, that Mailer did not read or become aware of what Donovan testified to because it is not only what should be a safe assumption, which differs slightly from what Mailer likes best, that Mailer is ^{not} aware of all of Donovan's testimony from which he does quote. And then as he gave the Dallas Morning News' reviewer to understand, he worked all those Commission volumes over "exhaustively."

end 307

But, a having no real choice and no expertise of my own (in which I am so unlike Mailer, who is expert on everything) I do use Donovan's testimony as I used it in 1967 in Oswald in New Orleans, pages 93-4. I also let it run a few words long to include a little of what Mailer omitted entirely, the one of the funny references in what he read so "exhaustively" to Oswald's having a high security clearance;

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~~thing above a given terrain height. He had also been schooled on a piece of machinery called a TPX-1, which is used to transfer radio-radar and radio signals over a great distance. Radar is very susceptible to homing missiles, and this piece of equipment is used to put your radar antenna several miles away, and relay the information back to your site which you hope is relatively safe. He had been schooled on this. And that kind of stuff you cannot change.~~
 Mr. Ely: Did Oswald have any kind of clearance?
 Mr. Donovan: He must have had secret clearance to work in the radar center, because that was a minimum requirement for all of us (8H297-8).

And thus it seems, a Mailer-liked way of putting it, that if by any chance Donovan testified truthfully, ~~Mailer Epstein~~ Mailer seriously underestimated Oswald's capabilities as a spy for whichever communist. This is because the only way that Imperial Reflect Duo Lens box-type camera with its ~~flex~~ focus could have taken any pictures of

And what a peek this is at what Mailer found so "impenetrable" it is not possible ^{for him} to use it, the official evidence.

How imaginative it is, too, of Epstein/Mailer to understand that for spying the camera of preference is the world's loudest.

How remarkably suitable it was for spying when it could take photographs through solid objects, there being no reason to suspect Oswald was ever in any satellite, and with its fixed focus could still focus on those radar antennae—the location of which was secret from Oswald ^{but not from his magical} is not from his box camera. end 308

Ian Fleming must be rotating with envy in his grave.

~~radar and~~ those radar antennae with which Oswald worked was ~~from~~ from a satellite.

What a dandy "asset" that would have made him for either Communists!

57 hwy
Mailer Epstein/Mailer next goes into that infatuation Oswald is said to have had with that "girl friend who was not a bar girl, girl ~~or~~ or prostitute," later described as of class.

Could it that she is the one, that nice girl of "class," who gave Oswald the dose of what in the military and elsewhere is commonly referred to as "the clap?"

Mailer says it is a "small matter" that Oswald as taking ~~so~~ so many photographs - *none of which exist or have been seen -* of so many military objects on that base. It does not seem to be all that small when people are accused of spying for doing that and are jailed for it, too. *Even killed.*

Of course it is always possible, as Mailer seems to have ~~for~~ forgotten, that Oswald had to take so many photographs because so many of them did not come out.

Quite some time after that, as Mailer himself reports on page 114, Oswald could not even get film in his camera. "which in Shaneyfelt's words was a very "simple" one. *De rigueur for spies - not being able to use the simplest of cameras.*

So it would seem safe to assume (no, Mailer has no patent on it) that when he had not ~~yet~~ yet learned how to load his ~~imperial~~ Imperial with film, maybe ~~all those~~ *he was* pictures did not come out. *only a Juma apparent US spy.*

Mailer himself should be an ~~e~~ acceptable expert for all of those who so loved his book and wrote and spoke of it so highly. This is what he wrote on page 115:

*Malaya
Simple
spare*

People talked about Oswald as if he might be a spy, but Pavel remembers Lee Oswald coming to him with a simple Soviet camera and he wasn't able to put film into it. Pavel had to show him how. Once, Oswald bought a radio set and tried to insert its batteries, but even in trying to do that much, he ripped a few wires loose. To take another example, Oswald liked to listen to the Voice of America, but he didn't know how to make adjustments for it on his radio set so it came in clearer. Pavel, using a penknife, had to play with one part and move it a little in order for Lee to be able to listen. Pavel assumed that if Oswald were James Bond, he would have arrived in the Soviet Union able to take care of such small details.

end 309

However, here as elsewhere about his other prime sources Mailer says that Epstein is not always dependable. Yet without Epstein does he have any of this *supposed* case of Oswald as one or another kinds of Communist spy?

This also

Mailer seems to be unaware of the problems Pavel's first-hand knowledge of Oswald after his "marine career present for Oswald being any kind of spy. We all know they depend on secret radios, real small ones, ~~where doing anything at all~~ ~~with them is more difficult and no not infrequently more delicate.~~ Yet the real Oswald could ~~not~~ ^{turn a regular, non-spy radio and could not} even put batteries in a non-~~minatured~~ ^{miniaturized} radio. ^{And when he ~~did~~ ^{tried to be} he pulled wires loose? ~~and he could not even tune his adu for a owerful station not all that far away, our Voice of America station no farthur than Germany?~~ ^{what else did it take to qualify him for being a spy?}}

As Mailer himself quotes ^{Pavel} ~~Pavel~~ as saying, Oswald was not James Bond, ~~as spies are expected to be.~~

We then ~~see~~ ^{of} that Mailer can be reasoned and ~~evenhanded~~ ^{evenhanded} because he tells us ~~that~~ Oswald's reported anger at the ~~Prins~~ ^{marines} for his spell in the brig, ^{because on that,} "we can hardly bring in a case against him, merely a ^ssupicion."

There does seem to be a little weakness in Mailer writing "That the Queen Bee and similar places were marketplaces for the pursuit ~~of~~ and purchase of pieces of military information." Yet he ~~seems~~ ^{that} seems also to say ~~for~~ ^{that} Epstein ~~seems~~ ["] to ["] have taken that for granted."

Right on, Mailer! Indeed ~~not~~ every American in the military would spy on his country for money or for special ~~of~~ favors. ^{MI here}

~~Indeed, very few had authentic military secret information.~~

~~And this~~ serves as a gentle reminder that Epstein/Mailer had yet to show that Oswald did have any authentic military secrets. (More about those codes follows) end
310

I do wonder what Mailer is talking about when he refers to Oswald's outfit's "radar ~~hub~~ ^{say} bubble" on Formosa Mailer ~~says~~ ^{says} they were "in."

Each and every one of the Marines and others we encounter in connect with ^{PFC} PVT Martin Schrand, all those whose testimony Mailer quotes and the ^{war} greater number he does not quote refer to the place in which ~~they~~ ^{they} worked as the "van."

Isn't the "bubble" the ~~room~~ sphere inside of which the antennae and the works for them are? Would not that require a floor that would interfere with manipulating the antennae ^{if} the men worked inside it. ^{That would have required!} ~~and what air conditioning and electrical consumption~~

to make those bubbles, natural heat traps, habitable!

~~for artificial lights in addition to that consumed by making the atmosphere inside those windowless spheres habitable.~~

I was not there ~~so~~ so I am not in a position to question the Epstein/Mailer story about Oswald on guard duty, armed with an M-1 rifle after firing four or five shots into the woods when he was detailed to Formosa because he said he saw enemies sneaking around in this woods.

When Wasn't Formosa friendly territory, the land of an ally?

And why would Oswald do guard duty with an M-1 when Schrand, in the same outfit and doing the same guard duty was ^{armed with a} shotgun. (Which was always the ^a weapon I used ^{on guard duty} earlier on two continents in World War II.)

And then what guard duty was Oswald pulling ^{if} not at his radar installation? Which ^{mainly supports} is ~~in~~ in the woods and normally is not all that close to any, especially if on an airbase?

From all the available information those MACS-1 marines did what is usual, guarded their own installation, what they all referred to ^{as} their "van". *as The Navy also did.*

Maybe Epstein/Epstein and Mailer/Mailer did not ask enough questions?

The last words from Mailer I quote above do give me a problem. *end 311*

One of Mailer's preferred ways of giving ~~credibility~~ ^{credibility} to what he says or is about to say is that it comes from "logic." Now without question Mailer has a way with words, witness those ^{two} "ulitzers" and the popularity ^{earlier} of his books. But in my plodding, stodgy way I ~~prefer~~ ^{prefer} prefer the meaning of ^{that is} logic in the dictionary. As Mailer uses it it is often a synonym for preconception, presumption, conjecture and the like.

~~In these last~~ About those last words I quote he does not say they come from what he calls "logic." But then they also do not come ^{from} from my understanding of "logic."

I see not connection of any kind between Oswald being stationed in Southern California, his going to Cuba or his "becoming one of Castro's lieutenants" there.

Besides which ^c as Mailer know better than most of us want to, when Oswald did go somewhere it was not to Cuba.

extra space

Several problems come with the allegation that Oswald spied for the never identified Communist faction when he was in Japan. ^{problem} The one ^{very real} already indicated was ~~as real~~ with the Chinese and Soviets become ~~as~~ real enemies. In even a novel by a self-respecting novelist ^{been} would have identified the Communist faction for which Oswald ^{allegedly} spied.

There is the addition ^{al} question, would ~~whichever~~ whichever of those factions Oswald allegedly spied for have anything to do with him and vice versa, would he have anything to do with it.

In turn, this confronts us with still another problem, as it did Mailer, who preferred to ignore it even when he edged up to it for different purposes that in the traditional meaning of "logic" we cannot avoid ~~it~~ as Mailer did: would the real Lee Harvey Oswald, not the one Mailer remakes in the image he prefers, have had anything to do with either of those two Communists factions? Neither Epstein/Epstein nor Mailer end
312 Mailer not Epstein/Mailer face this ~~is~~ question.

In common with the FBI, the Commission and all other official bodies Mailer gives the impression that Oswald was a Communist, especially in his writing quoted from above. In some official version/what was begun by J. Edgar Hoover and ~~was~~ adopted by the Commission "marxism" is used as a synonym for Communism. ~~As~~ an ignored matter of political reality that ~~could not be done if anyone was at all interested in telling the people the truth as it was amply reflected in Oswald's writings that, for an under-educated man as young as he was was rather~~ ^{Oswald's attitude toward Communists is} ~~is~~ rather ~~text~~ extensive. In all those more than 800 pages Mailer does not go into this until he gets into his rather odd appendix for such a ~~book~~. Even the page numbering of his ~~appendix~~ is odd.

Unlike all the books of which I know Mailer's appendix has roman-numbered pages. Usually pages so numbered are at a book's beginning. The ~~of~~ odd numbering may or may not have been for a special purpose. What is also a bit odd, although it may be only coincidence, is that there is not an unintended blank page in this rather large book of so many pages. Books are put together for manufacture in what is known as "signatures," abbreviated "sigs." These sigs, as of my last personal knowledge, were ^{usually} of 32 pages. If

in the last sig in the book when the presses roll all the pages do not have content the book has those pages blank when the manufacture of it is complete. Half-sigs and even quarter sigs were not unknown when I was a publisher but they are less ~~of~~ effecient. What Mailer has after his text, with roman numbering of the pages, consists of first his appendix, then his glossary of names, then his acknowledgements and after that his ~~spur~~ source notes. Last is his bibliography. In all of this the one part that could be cut to fill up all the pages is his appendix. It has two parts plus some text in the first.

The first part is irrelevant except in hoking up a phony biography of Oswald, as Mailer does throughout his book, in which the ~~ank~~ alleged diagnosis of Oswald's end 313 alleged ~~d~~ dyslexia allegedly has significance. That is so nonsensical that the Commission, after getting a medical commengtry from a reputable doctor who never laid eyes on Oswald did not use that report in its Report. ^{In} ~~the~~ feigned criticism of the Commission for not paying attention to what in his need he believed should be heeded, Mailer says of this report, which the Commission did publish, that it "buried" in in Volume 26. It was no more buried than any other pages in those 26 volumes of appendix. Mailer himself uses only less than one page of it when as the Commission ~~publi-~~published it it ^{is} ~~was~~ of 12 pages ^{with} ~~with~~ two sheets ^{printed} on each page (26H 812-7) ^o

What interests Mailer and enable/him to condense it as he does is the ~~is~~ scientific mumbojumbo that Mailer's book itself invalidates, that because of this alleged dyslexia, which few people understand ~~but~~ Mailer refers to throughout as though it were both real and relevant, in the words of that report, "it amplifies the impression from many sources about the nature of Oswald's estrangement from people." There were many people with whom ~~Oswald~~ Oswald did not agree, quite a few he did not like, but as without addressing this Mailer makes abundantly clear, Oswald ~~was~~ was not at all ^{IV} ~~estranged~~ ¹¹ from people.

If Oswald did have dyslexia, and it does not ^p appear in any of his medical records or in his ^{records} Marine's records, it did not interfere with his functioning except in his writing, particularly his spelling. In actual practice, despite his lack of even a high-school education, he ~~was~~ ^{was} one of only five of the hundred or so men in his outfit who was

judged by the Marines to be qualified for the exceptionally important work, life and death work, international-include ^{ident} work where a mistake could lead to war, deemed suitable enough for the greater responsibility those five had, the responsibility that required the high security clearance those five ^{alone} had-and is not once mentioned in this Mailer "biography" or in the books of any of his sources, including official sources. end 314

This information was likewise not before that dyslexia expert from whom the Commission got the report it deemed unworthy of mention in its Report. That expert made his ^{judgment} ~~judgment~~ on only what the Commission gave him, which was ^{selected} ~~selected~~ to be prejudicial to begin with.

After ~~less~~ less than a page of this (page i) Mailer has a little more than a page of the expert opinion of the eminent Dr. Norman Mailer. He follows this with his selection from a much greater volume of Oswald's writing that the Commission published. He gave it this heading, "FROM THE COMMISSION EXHIBITS." This he follows with VOL XVI PP.287-336, (Page iii), With indicated excisions it continues onto page xiv, the last page of the appendix.

The first three pages, three entire pages, of this first volume of the Commission's appendix consists mostly of letters between the Oswalds and those Russians Mailer pretends were entirely unknown until, thanks to the grossly misrepresented arrangements with the KGB and Schillaer got access to them. Not only are most of those Russians reflected in this Commission selection of correspondence, some not mentioned by Mailer are included. ~~Included~~ ^{se}, for example, is a letter to the Oswalds written less ^{than} ~~that~~ two months prior to the assassination by that Pavel ^{Colonacher} ~~Goldvachov~~ who said that Oswald could not put film in a camera or even put batteries in or tune his radio. (pages 255-9)

Most of the first 900 pages of this large volume of are of Oswald writings and correspondence. Thus, as I say at various places, what ^{little} ~~little~~ Mailer got from the KGB and those former friends of the Oswalds he interviewed in Minsk adds but ~~the~~ slight and unimportant detail to what was already public. ~~Mostly in these these almost 900 pages.~~

The one document of all of this rather extensive writing for so young and so undereducated a man that Mailer selects from is Exhibit 92. The Commission's description of it is "Typed narrative concerning Russia, by Lee Harvey Oswald." In his selections end 315

from it Mailer has not a single word of explanation. It is a rather important document in ways Mailer does not indicate and as the ^{expert} ~~expert~~ on intelligence he claims to be, if he had that expertise he could not have missed the significance of this one document of the ~~great~~ ^{great} number of them the commission published some of which had considerable importance the "logic" of which could not have been missed by Mailer.

This gets us back to the questions raised above, all relating to what Oswald's actual political ^{beliefs} ~~beliefs~~ were, as he himself stated them, not as the Commission, the FBI, the Mailers and the others of special interest and ~~preconception~~ ^{preconception} do.

These Oswald writings of such political importance ^{appear} ~~appear~~ in the Commission's Volume XVI before and after the one Mailer ^{selects} ~~selects~~ for ^{excepting} ~~excepting~~, the ^{excepting} ~~excepting~~ just happening to coincide with what will make use of every available page in the signature of his book, *with out adding an extra sig or part of a sig.*

What Mailer ignores, and ignoring it was vital to his having any book at all after his ~~and~~ Schiller's being ~~created~~ ^{created} by the KGB, is Oswald's own and forcefully ~~stated~~ ^{stated} statement of his political beliefs.

What Mailer ^{ignores} ~~ignores~~ also provides the definitive answer to the question ~~Epstein~~ Mailer's ^{selection} ~~selection~~ from Epstein raise, as stated above, ^{could} ~~could~~ Oswald have served the Soviet Communists as the alleged spy Epstein ^{Mailer} says he as. The answer is a very forceful "no!" If Mailer even glanced at this volume from which he selects this one document the ^{importance} ~~importance~~ of which he fails to ~~indicate~~ ^{indicate} to his readers while having ^{made} ~~made~~ the pretense that Oswald worked for the CIA, albeit through de Mohrenschildt, he knew very well what else that volume holds that is an absolutely indispensable part of any ^{genuine} ~~genuine~~ biography of Oswald; and for that he had no need of what from their greed he and Schiller expected to get from the KGB. end
316

Mailer also did not have to ^{read} ~~read~~ all those pages to ^{learn} ~~learn~~ the significance of what he makes not the slightest ^{reference} ~~reference~~ to. That ^{enabling} ~~enabling~~ him to ^{make up} ~~make up~~ and say the exact opposite, ^{and to use} ~~except for~~ what others made up and he used, like Epstein, Davison et al. Mailer did not have that research to do because in my 1965 book it was all done for him and for all others, Epstein and Davison and Posner included. Except that they all, like

Mailer, had preconceptions that could not survive confrontation with the ~~stark~~ truth about Oswald's so vigorously expressed political beliefs. ~~What~~

What follows is my use of those pages Mailer ignored although he had to have had at least some awareness of them to quote as he does from them. In my early writing (Pages 121-3) ^{Commission} that follows/I also cited from other ^{Commission} volumes other ^{ex} Oswald expressions of his political beliefs. In brief, Oswald detested ^U communism in any form and any place:

If those among his acquaintances who told the Commission of Oswald's political beliefs, such as the Paines and George de Mohrenschildt, understood correctly, Oswald did not understand Marxism. Not a single witness or fact showed him either a Communist or pro-Communist. Every scrap of evidence from his boyhood on proved him consistently anti-Communist. Ruth Paine told FBI Agent Hosty, when he interviewed her in early November, that Oswald described himself as a Trotskyite and that she "found this and similar statements illogical and somewhat amusing" (R439). De Mohrenschildt, at the time of the assassination occupied with a business relationship with the Haitian government, was apparently the only member of the Fort Worth Russian-speaking community for whom Oswald had any respect (R282). De Mohrenschildt was described by the Commission and some of its informants as provocative, non-conformist, eccentric, and "of the belief that some form of undemocratic government might be best for other peoples" (R283). He was an agent for French intelligence in the United States during World War II. The Commission's investigation "developed no sign of subversive or disloyal conduct" on the part of the De Mohrenschildts (R383).

Oswald is not known to have ever had any kind of a personal contact with any party or any official of any part of the left, except by correspondence, and then of his initiative and of no clear significance. The total absence of such contacts, in person or otherwise, is in itself persuasive evidence that, as a matter of real fact rather than conjecture, he had no political affiliation. The searches of the Commission appear thorough and the facilities and resources of the investigative agencies are extensive.

As a 16-year-old, Oswald wrote the Young People's Socialist League asking information (R681). This is an old and well known youth group whose anti-Communism has been almost religious in its fervor.

Thereafter he wrote the Socialist Workers' Party, seeking literature, including the writings of Leon Trotsky. The Commission prints 14 pages of this correspondence (19H567-80). Again, this is an anti-Communist party and Trotsky is perhaps the best known of the former Russian Communists who fought the Soviet regime. Some of Oswald's correspondence with this group and all of his correspondence with the Communist Party (20H257-75) and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (20H511-33) make sense only when the possibility of Oswald's being somebody's agent is considered.

The Report finds "Oswald had dealings" with these groups (R287). He did, in the same sense that one who writes the White House and gets a reply has "dealings" with the President.

Referring to the Communist Party U.S.A. alone, the Report states, "in September 1963, Oswald inquired how he might contact the party when he relocated in the Baltimore-Washington area, as he said he planned to do in October, and Arnold Johnson suggested in a letter of September 19 that he 'get in touch with us here (New York

and we will find some way of getting in touch with you in that city (Baltimore)'" (R288).

The Report is correct but incomplete, for on the same date Oswald made the same request of the Socialist Workers' Party (19H577). The Report's authors considered it expedient to ignore the letter to the SWP. The reason for this omission and the reason for similarly false letters from Oswald to both historically antagonistic groups are worthy of consideration. In omitting all reference to the SWP, the Report gives the false impression of a non-existing affiliation with the Communist Party, else why should Oswald want to get in touch with the Baltimore-Washington branch? There is no evidence he planned such a move. He planned to go to Mexico and he went there. But why should Oswald have wanted to be in touch with both parties, antagonistic as they are, especially because of his own clear antipathy toward the Communist Party? One of the ob-

invaluable insight from

end 317

independent
single
span

vious reasons is that he was trying to penetrate them as some kind of agent. He could not have found political sympathy in or from both. It is this possibility that completely escaped the consideration of the authors of the Report and it is the most obvious consideration. Especially when thought of in the light of Oswald's relations with Cuban refugee groups, detailed elsewhere in this book, could this line of reasoning have led to a meaningful analysis and conclusion.

end 318

There was "no plausible evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald had any other significant contacts" with any of these groups, the Report concludes, evaluating the Oswald-initiated correspondence and requests for literature as "significant".

But Oswald's real attitude toward the Communist Party and the Soviet Union were well known to the Commission. He made no secret of them, and the Russian-speaking community in Fort Worth reported his dislike. Oswald himself was well recorded in letters, drafts of speeches and notes and, in fact, in public speeches. A number of such documents appear in Volume 16. They are part of the Commission's record.

Toward the end of their stay in New Orleans, the Oswalds went to Battles wharf, Alabama, to participate in a seminar. He unburdened himself of his anti-Soviet feelings. Marina got a thank-you note from Robert J. Fitzpatrick, of the Society of Jesus, in which she was asked to convey "thanks to your husband, too, for his good report to our seminar. Perhaps we do not agree with him regarding some of his conclusions but we all respect him for his idealism ..." (16H243).

Oswald's hatred of the Communist Party and the Soviet Union exude from 150 consecutive pages of his notes in the same volume, as well as from other exhibits (16H283-434). For example, in Exhibit 97 (pp.422-3) he raged, "The Communist Party of the United States has betrayed itself! It has turned itself into the traditional lever of a foreign power to overthrow the government of the United States, not in the name of freedom or high ideals, but in servile conformity to the wishes of the Soviet Union ... (the leaders) have shown themselves to be willing, gullible messengers of the Kremlin's Internationalist propaganda ... The Soviets have committed crimes unsurpassed ... imprisonment of their own peoples ... mass extermination ... individual suppression and regimentation ... deportations ... the murder of history, the prostitution of art and culture. The communist movement in the U.S., personalized by the Communist Party, U.S.A., has turned itself into a 'valuable gold coin' of the Kremlin. It has failed to denounce any actions of the Soviet Government when similar actions of the U.S. Government bring pious protest." (Spelling improved.)

The Report quotes some of this as well as "... I hate the U.S.S.R. and Socialist system ..." (R399).

He also described himself as one with "many personal reasons to know and therefore hate and mistrust Communism ..." (16H442).

end 319

Even his oft-mentioned notes on Russia, widely discussed but unquoted in the press, are a narrative full of the kind of information intelligence agencies, including our own, seek about other countries, especially the Soviet Union. It includes such items as the location of an airport, the layout of a city, and all sorts of intimate details of the electronics factory in which he worked, including what it produced, its rate of production, the number of employees engaged in various pursuits and other such non-travelogue data.

It is abundantly clear that the Report distorts and misrepresents the Commission's information on Oswald's politics. It both says and implies the opposite of the truth. It pretends a man whose hatred of the Soviet Union boiled in his guts was a protagonist of that political system and perpetuates a lie foisted off on an innocent public by the police. In such a Report, by such a Commission, dealing with such a tragedy, this is unpardonable. Can there be any reason for this except a desire to "fool the public"? How many more people, here and abroad, were willing to accept what might have otherwise been unacceptable conclusions, how many were less critical than they might have been of the Commission, because of this pretense that Oswald had a "commitment to Communism", that he somehow was an agent of a hated political force? The Report concludes that he was serving no foreign government and that he was the agent of none (R21-2). But the Report repeats the false representation of Oswald's politics. The Commission instead should have inquired into who created and broadcast this deception and with what motives. As a result, the Commission's own motives are suspect.

For a young man with as little formal education as Oswald had some of this is eloquent. Some, like that "valuable gold coin" in quotation marks in his writing may have its origins ^{some} ~~something~~ he read.

This, of course, speaks for itself. ~~It now~~ ^{It is the point} requires no author's interpretation of its political meaning, ~~and how utterly opposite that it is~~ of all official and Epstein, Mailer and similar unofficial retreads of the official representation of what Oswald's political beliefs actually were.

It requires no ~~the~~ characterization of the contrary reflections of what Oswald's actual political beliefs were, without which neither Mailer ~~not~~ Epstein Nor Davison nor Posner would have ~~had~~ had their books and their tickets to ~~the~~ fame and fortune represented by their books. en 2320

Other than this reflection of Oswald's ^{real} political beliefs this ~~except~~ ^{is} from the very first book on the Warren ~~the~~ Commission and the assassination gives the meaning that Mailer does not give ^{to} the one documents he quotes ⁱⁿ ~~from~~ those 900 pages that are of Oswald writing and correspondence. It was my professional opinion, and I was in intelligence, that what Oswald wrote is "a ~~new~~ narrative full of the kind of information intelligence agencies, including our own, seek about other countries, especially the Soviet Union."

This, it happens, is also the CIA's opinion of it according to some of its ~~de~~ documents ¹ released ~~after~~ after the 1992 Act requiring such disclosures was passed. It did analyze and comment on this document ~~it~~ exactly as 30 years earlier I did.

Here, without the ~~here~~ harlotry of ghosting, we have the real Lee Harvey Oswald. Although this reflection ^{of} the ~~real~~ records to which Mailer had ^a access, that he said he went over "exhaustively", requires no additional comment. ^{To} use that other word Mailer likes so much, the "logic" of it does raise either or both ~~the~~ two questions about his about his honesty, his competence or both.

Inevitably this ~~of~~ logic ~~it~~ raises another question, why did he, with all of this freely available to him and known to him, ~~and~~ he ghost an unreal, a false Oswald? The most obvious answer is to save the Schiller-Mailer invention, which has to have run into a large sum, and to save Mailer's reputation.

months after the last time I asked

As I write this, ~~long enough after writing and asking~~ Mailer if in fact Schiller paid the KGB off for their access to it and to its records ^{with out response} for him to have responded or to have told his assistant what to say for him without any response. there is an ^aadequate answer in what was public. It comofirms my beginning belief, that the commercializer of their joint adventures, Schiller, as is his wont did buy ~~it~~ from the KGB what they fully expected, from the depths and profundity of their ignorance, would be sensational secrets. Only they got nothing of any real value. *end 321*

There is no real value in knowing what trolley car Oswald took to go where, what he bought, which entertainment ~~appealed~~ ^{attracted} to him and other mundane details of his ~~mundane~~ ^{drab} life in Minsk. Nor is there anything at all unusual unusual in what the indecent KGB bugging of even the Oswald bedroom disclosed. Young couples always have scraps and most do make love. So, as Mailer recognized his Oswald in Minsk was a fiasco. ^{in how ended?} This ~~his~~ ^{his} Volume Two which ~~we~~ ^{we} see was another fiasco ^{not that it did not get} except for the extraordinary attention ^{from} ~~to it~~ ^{of the media} by the uninformed and those of preconception and prejudice ^{gave} ~~it~~ ^{This was} helped along by the Random House empire's lavish ^{efforts} ~~money~~ and its skill in public relations and ~~an~~ advertising.

There is an adequate an answer, unless and until ~~the~~ Schiller-Mailer decide on aberrational honesty and tell the full story. But piece by piece they did tell part of the truth.

Schiller and Mailer ^were both on Larry King Live, on CNN, on April 27, 1995. Earlier in his USA Today columns King had plugged the book as a coming sensation. King called that segment, "Inside the Mind of Lee Harvey Oswald."

Mailer, ^e it should be remembered, has been preferring to how they got to see all that KGB stuff that turned out to be junk by saying that they had been "invited" by the KGB. Schiller said that he had "started" on this ~~a~~ in Moscow in November of 1991, when the government was just coming apart." With Belarus establishing itself as a separate country with a separate ~~an~~ government Schiller "had to start all over again." Without going into any details and without King asking for them Schiller concluded by saying, "And eventually, I asked Norman if he would consider writing a book if the infor-

mation was obtainable for him."

Later in the show Schiller bragged a little:

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"...the interesting thing is, while we were there, the FBI sent the American ambassador to try to get the files at the same time we did. And they were rejected, the American government, but we were not."

The "we" here refers to Schiller alone. He ^{had} ~~not~~ not yet offered to cut Mailer in on it.

It is not easy to imagine that the KGB dealt with Schiller in preference to the American government without what it could not get from the government, what it regarded as at least an ~~adeq~~ adequate amount of ~~money~~ money from Schiller.

And ~~acc~~ according to Alan Cheuse (right) in his review of Mailer's book in the May 7 Dallas Morning News, that is what happened:

"...in the early 1990s Mr. Schiller went to work again, travelling to Russia and buying the ~~right~~ rights to, among other things, the KGB files on Mrs. Oswald..."

Checkbook "journalism" again and again Mailer in effect the hired hand, the hired pen.

they conned themselves, not that the KGB

did not also
KGB ^{so} (conned them. Or, perhaps, ~~in~~ in their greed, Schiller's in particular, they ~~or he~~ ~~conned~~ conned themselves, ^{by} believing from their prejudice and ignorance that the KGB ~~would~~ ^{had} ~~have~~ real and exciting secrets when it had none).

All Schiller's ^e travels as he ^e wheeled and ~~deal~~ ^{deal} and then had to do that all over again, those trips, that time, that effort whether or not there was some preliminary palmpocossing, ^{cost of travel and the} plus the half year they and their staff spent in Russia and in Minsk, ran into at ~~the~~ least a small fortune. Add to that whatever Schiller paid the KGB, and with the United States government wanting those records the asking price had every reason to go even higher, and there was quite a bit to ^{recover} ~~recover~~ just to prevent a real and a significant loss. *to Mailer and Schiller.*

Then there was Mailer's king-size ego for him to live with. He could not ^w acknowledge failure, not super he-man that he is.

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In and ~~of itself~~ this situation does not as answer the question, was the utterly ~~dishonest and incompetent~~ Mailer's Tales as dishonest and ~~the~~ incompetent as it is from his ~~of~~ dishonesty, from his incompetence and ignorance, or from ~~the~~ all he faced that includes ~~kingpsize subject-matter ignorance and his incompetence in handling~~ ~~handling what he knew so little about and was not in a position to handle with both~~ ~~competence and honesty.~~

① Mailer did recognize the Diet in Oswald in mind he had nothing

Not ~~and have any~~ anything he could foist off as a meaningful book. *I believe that dominated by his ego when he* ~~own opinion is that~~ faced ~~with~~ this disaster he decided to do whatever was required to salvage what he could of it and hope thereby to retrieve more than he and Schiller already had invested in it.

He began with subject-matter ignorance he had preserved for ~~decade~~ ^d ~~s~~ when he could have been learning the established fact of the assassination if he had ever had a *genuine* ~~any~~ interest ~~in it~~ as he never did. Ignorant as he was he could not handle what was available to him either competently or honestly.

It is as simple as that.

From the "lofig" of it.

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