

XVIII *How Maiter Follies The Matra Maiter*

Although Maiter's Part V, titled "Portagon Protagonists and Provacatuers" is no less ~~ignorant, unformed, dull~~ <sup>uninformed</sup> duplicative and often ignorant to the point of stupidity it ~~has the great~~ <sup>holds</sup> holds the great blessing ~~to~~ <sup>by</sup> any read <sup>or</sup> who does not begin with Maiter's preconceptions or overwhelming love for his earlier writings ~~if for not other~~ ~~reason~~ be cause at mere 40 pages of ~~guff~~ <sup>guff</sup>, huff, puff and piffle there is so much less to suffer through, (pages 603-42).

Because Maiter hasn't the slightest understand<sup>Nb</sup> of what he writes so ponti-  
fically about ~~it~~ he is also a bit amusing to one not <sup>wound up in him or his</sup> ~~possessed~~ of her determined <sup>mythology</sup> ~~ignorance~~ of what he writes about in this part, too.

His first chapter has the same title as this Part, "Protagonists and Provaca-  
teurs."

Overwhelmed by himself, by his conviction that with his superior intelli-  
gence and the success of all those books in his past, he could ~~and~~ did see and under-  
stand what others did not and could not. Thus although ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> depends on Wpstein, Posner  
and the ~~to~~ others even in using their work word-for-word and having no knowledge to  
contradict them (much as it abounds) he nonetheless disagrees with them when he quotes  
them.

Obviously unaware of it ~~he~~ Maiter mocks himself often. He has neither the  
wit nor the knowledge to be aware of it.

The more he lectures for all the world as though to dummdums who require him  
to make what he writes comprehensible to them the more he makes a spectacle of himself.  
because it is he who needs to have it explained to him that two added to two makes four,  
not five. Or more. Or only one as he sometimes reflects.

So, the more he prates firm in the belief he has an understanding denied most  
others the more pathetic a figure he is and the more he does make a fool of himself,  
really mocks himself.

He really is like the emperor of the fable. believing ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> is ~~is~~ decked out  
~~resplendently~~ resplendently in those new clothes when he was in fact naked.

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But unlike the litt emperor of the fable, Mailer had no little boy in the form of his literary agent or Random House editors to tell him he is indeed naked in this book. As any careful reader <sup>INC</sup> makes clear, even if those giving it a careful reading never heard of the Warren Report.

Intermittently Mailer ~~rep~~ repeats that it was not until <sup>he</sup> wrote this book that he decided there had not been <sup>was</sup> ~~as~~ conspiracy. He does not tell his readers that he has always believed that Oswald was the assassin or that he had <sup>any of</sup> examined the actual evidence to see for himself whether or not it really makes the case that <sup>the assassin,</sup> Oswald was. Nor does he tell his readers that his own study of the alleged evidence is what convinced him that Oswald was alone. Normally, normal people make decisions like those based on fact. But as Siolino wrote in The New York Times at the time of Mailer's writing of Schiller's Gary Gilmore story, when one has Mailer who needs Fact?

So, Mailer still <sup>is</sup> struggling with what he says is his <sup>for all these many years,</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> obsession, the JFK assassination. This really means his struggle has been only with whether there had been a conspiracy because from the first he held Oswald to be ~~the~~ assassin.

On reaching what he says is his decision, Mailer needed no evidence. Indeed, evidence would have confused him <sup>because his</sup> understanding of the assassination itself comes not from fact but from the form what he heard about it <sup>That churned</sup> took inside his head when he considered it as a novel he might write. <sup>and call it nonfiction on history,</sup> To him whether or not there had been a conspiracy ~~was~~ is no more a matter of fact than is Oswald's guilt.

In promoting his book after it appeared Mailer was quite specific in his pretense, and that is what it really is, that he had not been able to decide until <sup>end</sup> ~~until~~ <sup>371</sup> he wrote this book. In fact, on occasion he still pretends uncertainty. But I know of nothing he has ever said in which he ever indicated the belief that there had been a conspiracy. <sup>Or that Oswald was not the assassin</sup>

He may even believe these <sup>what he says</sup> things when he says them, untrue as <sup>it</sup> they <sup>it is</sup> are.

As we saw in his "Big Easy" with which he was no so easy himself, he is still lost in it as he get to his next Part, V. "Portagonists and Provocateurs," (pages ~~605~~ 603-42) The story he is telling does not get easier for him, as he does not know enough

to perceive.

Mailer begins his first chapter <sup>of</sup> this part, having given it the same title as the Part itself, <sup>repeating</sup> ~~repeating~~ that Oswald "was merely a n over-ambitious yet much hen-pecker husband with an unbalanced psyche, a vein of brutality toward his wife, and that was the sad sum of him," (page 605) <sup>Dr. Shrink Mailer</sup> He attributes this belief to McMillan, Davison and Posner and then says he ~~begun~~ <sup>begin</sup> with no "fixed conclusion in either direction; indeed it began with a prejudice in favor of conspiracy theorists."

Sounds good and makes him seem ~~impartial~~ impartial and makes it appear that he changed his mind because of what he ~~is~~ are learned in writing the book. That means as much, other than as propaganda for the book, as saying the ~~sun~~ sun rises in the west and sets in the east.

Besides which whether or not there had been a conspiracy is not in reality a matter of theory but one of fact.

His concept of conspiracies must come from his <sup>Harlot's Ghost</sup> ~~Harlot's Ghost~~ ~~we~~ when he ~~says~~ says of them that "they have the yeast-like propensity" to "expand and expand," which in fact if not in novels is ridiculous. But based on this <sup>novels</sup> silliness of cheap ~~novels~~ he continues saying, "it can hardly be difficult <sup>the</sup> for readers to understand why it is more agreeable to keep one's developing concept of Oswald as a protagonist, a man to whom, <sup>end</sup> <sup>372</sup> grudgingly, we must give a bit of stature when we take into <sup>account</sup> ~~account~~ the modest of his origins," (page 606) <sup>Q Difficult to understand? No. If impossible, yes.</sup>

More cheap novelizing. Whether Oswald was guilty is not a matter of what never in real life happens with a successful conspiracy, it "expands" like yeast, nor is it a matter of what is or is not agreeable if one deal with fact. As Mailer does ~~an~~ not and cannot as ~~he~~ he never stops making clear.

He not only lives in a dream world of his own creation as he ~~is~~ writes this awful pap, he may even believe it.

Anyway, we now know that the "protagonist" of the this <sup>this</sup> Part and <sup>chapter</sup> ~~chapter~~ is Oswald.

To introduce what follows he really ridicules himself in his previous ~~Part~~ Part and prepares <sup>to</sup> to do that all over again in this one with this caution,

He denied using the work of those authors but what he was really denying is that he used their books in his book. Instead he used their citations and then used their original sources, as I noted above, *with such faithfulness that he omitted* also omitting what they omitted in his quotations of their and his sources.

"Still, one ~~must~~ has to remain aware of the danger of bypassing these interesting leads that do point to a conspiracy." (page ~~606~~ 607)

hid from the fake/who has just had a number of them, these interesting leads that do point to a conspiracy in part outside his extraordinarily limited knowledge and in part pretended into nonexistence by him when they hit him in the face.

What if all the extra words he and his reviewers love he is really ~~says~~ saying, was Oswald alone. If alone then in New Orleans there ~~was~~ were "not interesting leads that do point to a conspiracy."

We did not begin to exhaust those that are real and do exist in the source he says he ~~bull dogged~~ "bull dogged" so "exhaustively," the published Warren Commission records, as well as what did not exist (as he exhausted <sup>in him</sup> ~~himself~~, in ~~ac~~ <sup>without them with out looking at them</sup> available but <sup>end 373</sup> actuality in using the work of others, nit in original research, the unpublished records. ~~They did exhaust they were available and that did and do exist and before he started writing it was his obligation to understand them~~ to avoid lying to the people and writing lies as nonfiction. 247A

incident + supply space

We did see in the preceding chapter that Oswald was not alone because: it was not he who picked the handbill up after it was printed; and It was not he he who handed them out at the Dumaine Street wharf to those leaving the carrier Wasp, which figured in his own past.

Then there is the untruthfulness of so much of what ~~Brig~~ Bringuier testified to and so much of what he knew that he said not a word about.

When it is <sup>ed</sup> remember that rather than in August that Oseald reflected his first interest in Bringuier it was actually <sup>not later than July 5,</sup> that ~~May~~, then is it not to wonder how <sup>earlier</sup> when Oswald had been ~~in New Orleans that since it had commenced in late Paris~~ and he was working at the ~~xxxx~~ Reilly's greasing machinery how he managed to learn so much about Bringuier, who he was and what he was up to?

Mailer wrote about Oswald getting all that TV attention but how, if it entered his mind, he did not put on paper. His is writing that is <sup>a</sup> dequate if it happened and how it happened is not worth his attention when he has all the puffing up of himself to spend time and space on.

But the fact is that Oswald did arrange for that <sup>TV</sup> attention himself. If Mailer had really done any work in those 26 volumes he would not have missed the fact that in his address book ~~or~~ Oswald had the name of the right person to speak to in advance at WBSU-TV and his phone that was not listed in the directory.

Oswald obtained that information while greasing the machinery at Reilly's? Or walking the streets? *And other information like it, for example about Bring with?*  
 If <sup>Mailer</sup> ~~he~~ Mailer had not planned no more <sup>what amounts to</sup> ~~than~~ cutting-and-pasting <sup>a</sup> ~~he would~~ enhance as he believed himself uniquely equipped <sup>reality</sup> ~~to enhance~~ undisturbed by evidence <sup>and beginning</sup> ~~fact~~ for any kind of reality, <sup>have been well advised not to have</sup> he would ~~not have~~ depended on those sources he uses that are no less prejudiced than he while ~~excluding~~ excluding all sources not so prejudiced. He then might have done a little looking around in New Orleans and would have spoken to people who could inform him.

Like Mrs. Elise (right) Cerniglia, respected wife of a respected surgeon who volunteered for the heartbreaking job of heading Catholic Cuban Relief in New Orleans. She could have told Mailer, as she told me, of the stream of outraged Cubans who went to see her to complain about Oswald's picketing, some reporting that he was not alone.

Like Jesse Core, who at that time handled the Trade Mart's information public relations who told me that when Oswald picketed there, <sup>in</sup> where he got his TV publicity for the first time, he had two men with him, not only Charles Hall Steele II, who did testify and whose testimony supposedly Mailer read as he read all of it so "in exhaustively."

The Warren information also includes the fact that two different amateur cameras <sup>had</sup> caught the Bringuier assault ~~assault~~ on Oswald, his cronies scattering those handbills all over the street and their arrest by the police. These standard 8mm amateur ~~not~~ movies, Super <sup>perfected</sup> ~~not~~ yet having been ~~invented~~, also show other people who may or may not have been with Oswald, but then it Mailer had had any genuine interest in not "bypassing those interesting leads that do point to a conspiracy" from those Warren records alone he would have beaten a path to John Martin then of Minneapolis and the J. Pay Doyle

end  
374end  
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"Awareness of the danger of *bypassing them*" was not enough to keep Mailer  
from doing just that.

from Portland, <sup>Oregon</sup> Washington

~~and family~~ ~~and~~ the family of their friends/who with <sup>Doyle</sup> were attending an electoral contractotr's convention in New Orleans when young Jim Doyle filmed the part of that Oswald demonstration just before the Bringuier gang broke it up. Martin also saw that part. He told me he photographed part of it. Like the Doyles, he said that when he got his film back ~~from the FBI~~ from the FBI that part was missing. As I recall now when I do not have access to my files in the basement, the FBI reports include the statements of seven people at least, <sup>who</sup> ~~one of the seven two the Doyle children, that~~ describe <sup>d</sup>/Oswald and another man marching with one holding a picket sign and the other with a hand-lettered sign hanging around his neck.

Quite a few witnesses to the fact that Oswald was not alone then.

Mailer did not have to look all those those people up. He obviously did not want to accept my offer of free access to all I had, but he there was nothing to keep him from the National Archives or the FBI's public reading room where he would have seen the FBI's own reports on those interesting leads that do point to a conspiracy that Mailer himself ~~is~~ says "one has to remain aware of the danger of bypassing them."

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Remember what Mailer has to know about, having gone to all the trouble to eliminate it from what he used of Dean Andrews' testimony, that Oswald was accompanied by a Mexican when he ~~was~~ went to Andrews' office not with those "gay kinds", as Mailer knew when he said it <sup>was just</sup> with them, but seeking legal help for hi wife and himself over his and her citizenship and status.

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Oswald as not alone when he had that <sup>and place</sup> Mexican with him. And that <sup>was</sup> not the only time there was a Mexican with him.

It does in Mailer's rehash that follows, his ~~chap~~ chopped up and incomplete story of the drunk Oswald alleged threw at the Habana Bar and "ounge, its name changed later to the Habana Bar and Grill. <sup>There was a Mexican with Oswald real or false there,</sup> In which Mailer <sup>as</sup> starts out by <sup>continues he shows again that</sup> letting it be known he does not even understand the transcripts of testimony. <sup>he cites</sup> and at the same time seems to have made a Freudian slip in another of these conjectures without which he could not have begun to write this book.

<sup>me</sup> Both on page 609, but the latter first.



Mailer has spent more than a page in direct quotations of the Commission testimony of Evaristo Rodriguez. Evvie was the nighttime barkeep at the Habana. He has been testifying to the spectacular drunk that attracted so much attention to it *said to have been by* ~~is said~~ Oswald. Asked when that was, Evvie responded, in translation for he then spoke not more than five words of English, "I can't remember exactly but I know it was just about a year ago, and I presume it was August." (page 608)

Mailer follows this with:

*indent single space*  
 "Could he have mistaken August for May. New Orleans can be as hot in May as in mid-summer, and the man with Oswald may have been one of the Mexicans who went with me to see the lawyer Dean Andrews about rectifying his Marine Corps discharge." (page 609)

What could have possessed Mailer to conjecture ~~May~~, *that it was not August that* which was the month of

that Oswald venture into Bringuier's store to offer his services in "training" ant-Castros. (what a situation he'd have faced if his offer had been accepted! Oswald knew no more about fighting than he had learned in basic training, what the Cubans could learn from books for themselves!) *end 377*

It is also a Freudian slip that after censoring from all of Andrews testimony as he uses ~~it~~ all reference to the actual purpose of Oswald's going there, <sup>thus</sup> necessary to Mailer's trying to phony up a false case of Oswald as a homosexual, here he discloses he did not do that by accident. He knew very well what he was doing. Which, of course, is why he did it.

After the childish suggestion that this Mexico will late go to Dallas with Oswald Mailer says of that drunk that it "serves to introduce us to Orest Pena, the boss of the bar." Orest was not only the "boss" of the bar- he was the "boss" of the whole place. <sup>sole</sup> He was its owner.

For w a while Orest and I were friends. Another of his employees had some knowledge of all of this and more, of Oswald's reported other appearances with a Mexican. Orest believed was a reporter. Armanda Jarvis, a waitress on the day shift confirmed

(Dell reprinted both of my first <sup>two</sup> books but the distributor for the state, Louisiana News, refused to handle the book<sup>s</sup>. Somehow a few copies reached New Orleans.)

Orest, who told me he saw the pair going into a place at ~~the~~ <sup>next</sup> ~~corner~~ <sup>corner</sup> mornings for coffee. I interviewed her the week Orest spent driving me around and acting as my translator on the interviews.

Orest has an excellent command of English but his is a very heavy accent.

In the belief that Garrison's staff might have some interest in those interviews and the additional belief that the secretarial help there was more familiar with those accents than I, I sked Louis Ivan<sup>o</sup>, the police detective <sup>sargeant</sup> assigned to Garrison as his chief investigator, if he'd like copies and if one of the girls could transcribe them.

They ~~first~~ gave up on the transcribing. Even the most experienced of them the senior <sup>Lorraine Le Boeuf</sup> ~~yon~~ that staff. When she gave the tapes back to me she said they simply could not <sup>make</sup> enough out.

<sup>transcribe those tapes</sup>  
So, I had to. And I did close to 30 years ago.

end  
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Orest believed what the Commission did not want to hear, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> the drunk was ~~carefully~~ <sup>stage</sup> that Oswald, if it was Oswald, was not really drunk, that the incident was designed to be remembered, and that the man had taken an emetic and had not vomited from drunkenness.

What ~~made~~ made him think that, he said, was that as soon as those two were on Decatur Street and were walking into the Quarter, away from Canal, they both laughed <sup>heartily</sup>. "Heartily" was not Orest's word. <sup>It was his description</sup>  
<sup>The week of my interviews</sup>  
Evvy was sick that week so Orest drove me to his simple apartment on the edge, as I ~~now~~ recall, of The Garden District below to me, "uptown" in New Orleans, from Canal Street.

It had happened that several weeks earlier Orest had phoned me after getting the Dell reprint of Whitewash. <sup>He 251A here</sup> I was at the Archives and he phoned against that night. He said he did not have long to talk because he was at the hospital. I asked him why and he said he'd be there only long enough to get the reading of the X-rays.

Why were you <sup>ed</sup> X-rays?

"They" "They" leadpiped me. But I can run so I got away. OK."

He urged me to rush back to New Orleans because, he said, he would give me

another book. I'd planned a trip and when I was there I looked Orest up. He said we had to have supper together that night. It turned out to be every night for a week and as we dined he remembered what he saw and gossiped he'd ~~see~~ heard.

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But I was a little <sup>taken</sup> ~~take~~ aback by his ~~car~~ car. It was a brand new Cadillac and the purplest car I'd ever seen. So, I asked him, about it.

"They" ~~was~~ were the cause.

"They" had broadsided him in his old ~~car~~ <sup>d/</sup> totalled it.

"Arole," he said, "if they kill me they kill me. but until they do, fuck it, I live it up."

That did not happen, at least not while I was there, but one night he drove me to an appointment to <sup>see</sup> ~~see~~ a young woman who I knew was a narcfink. She <sup>w</sup>anted to size me up to decide if she would talk to me. She decided she would and although she was as ~~an~~ accomplished and uninhibited a liar as <sup>I</sup> ever knew, she also provided me with much good information.

When we left, Orest to <sup>d/</sup> drive me to the Fountainbleau Motel in which I <sup>was</sup> ~~am~~ then staying, he was aghast. The cars in that block of St. Philip ending at Decature were parked bumper-to-bumper but his was the only one with ~~slashed~~ slashed tires. All four of them.

That was after he drove me to ~~Evaristo~~ Evvy's

We <sup>had found</sup> ~~did find~~ Evvy in bed and running a fever. When I asked what he had, Orest told me the <sup>y</sup> mumps. I asked Evvy, ~~then~~ <sup>thru</sup> through Orest, if the doctor had told him to <sup>s</sup> ~~sat~~ off his feet Evvy and his wife said not. So I explained that the mumps for grown men can turn into orchitis. I then explained what the potential of orchitis can be, sterelization. But in translation both the Evaristo Rodriguez <sup>d/</sup> ~~misunderstood~~ that as meaning impotence. They were both so grateful for the explanation! I ~~had~~ told them how I was treated as a soldier in <sup>d/</sup> World War II at the army's famed Wlster Reed hospital and Orest rendered it to them in Spanish. When it ~~de~~ <sup>d</sup> dawned on me that in translation what was sterelity came over to them as impotence I <sup>told</sup> ~~asked~~ them it ~~had~~ <sup>ed/</sup> not happen but to take no chances to stay in bed and off his feet until the fever was gone.

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So<sup>m</sup> the Evaristo Rodriguezes were my fir<sup>m</sup> friends and anxious to be helpful  
Sometimes the three of them engaged in animated converstion in Spanish to  
agree on what was meant before Orest told me in English what Evvy had said.

All of that is not now necessary but what can be releas<sup>ent</sup> is the firmness  
with which Evvy was convinced that <sup>and was</sup> drunk was no such things ~~as~~ a putup job.

in his account of that "drunk"  
Clearly ~~they~~, those two, were spo<sup>l</sup>ffing for a cont<sup>o</sup>roversy that would be remem<sup>er</sup>ed  
Like complaining at the charge of a mere 50 cents for a drink.

Orest's business success came from low prices and no chisseling on order. <sup>what was ordered.</sup>

One night when he took me to the Playboy Club for dinner he explained that to  
me, part of it, anyway.

~~I~~ had ordered Scotch and water.

As soon as the bunny-like wait<sup>ress</sup> was gone Orest explained to me that anyone  
who ~~order~~<sup>ordered</sup> that way was taken to be ignorant and not to have a well-~~de~~ developed taste.

"They give you th<sup>e</sup> cheas<sup>t</sup> bar scotch and charge you for the best" is how Orest  
explained it. He then advised ~~to~~ me t<sup>h</sup>at with ~~water~~ the two best Scotche's are ~~Chivas~~  
and J & B. Thereafter I ordered by name and the difference was as Orest had said.

So<sup>m</sup>, complains ~~to~~ about so low a charge for a bar drink were calculated to lead  
to a controversy that witness<sup>es</sup> would remember.

As they did that drink.  
Quoting the testimony Mailer has  
Evvy believe<sup>d</sup> the a man with <sup>swald</sup> "could have been a Mexican" but he was

not positive, (page 608) So Mailer acknowledges two ~~identifications~~ of a Mexican with  
Oswald with some regylarity but has no interest in that other than suggesting that part  
of the ~~noncooper~~ conspiracy <sup>Mailer says did not exist</sup> that "exican "conceivable, will go to ~~the~~ Dallas with <sup>Oswald</sup>." end 381

Why Mailer spends the next page and a half in excerpts from Orest Pena's  
Commission ~~testu~~ testimony is not clear from either that test<sup>imon</sup>y he chose to use or  
in anything Mailer said about it.

All it ~~is~~ <sup>says</sup> is that Orest was a source of information for the FBI and that he  
claimed to have been threatned by the FBI agent ~~traw~~ who had asked him to serve in that  
role, the agent who like Bringuier to Mailer as rep<sup>o</sup>rted and historian has no other name, <sup>only de Bruys.</sup>

He was Warren De Brueys

This again prompts wonder about whether Mailer really used those volumes because they ~~begin with the~~ the testimony begins with a full identification and in each and every instance the testimony is headed with the full name in capital letters and in bold-faced type.

Warren De Brueys could have been of interest to Mailer if ~~he~~ had had any interest in anything other than his <sup>enhance</sup> ~~enhance~~ /cut-and-paste job.

In New Orleans he was the substitute Oswald case agent, when the agent whose case it was was not available. He filed the ~~longest~~ longest and most detailed of the New Orleans FBI reports on Oswald. At the time of the assassination he <sup>temporarily</sup> was transferred to the Dallas office because of that knowledge.

In New Orleans he covered the Trade Mart. Jesse Core knew him well. It was to him that Jesse complained in outrage over Oswald's picketing that place the day he got his first TV attention.

Now if Mailer <sup>had done</sup> ~~did~~ his own work and if he read that testimony for himself and made his own selections from the official transcripts in Volume 11 he should not have missed that there may have been two men with Oswald (page 350); that Bringuier said that on an earlier occasion Oswald had been in the Habana Bar with a Mexican (page 353); that Liebel <sup>assassinate</sup> said a second man was distributing those handbills at the Trade Mart with Oswald (page 355).

It turns out that Liebeler's idea of investigating was rather Mailer-esque: you do not do any. Liebel's description of this <sup>thid</sup> helper as a "young man" who "appears to be handing out leaflets" is not in accord with reality. <sup>The</sup> man he refers to in the pictures he was showing was not young, he was Japanese, his name was <sup>Tunichi</sup> Ihara and he had his import-export business office in the Trade Mart. <sup>So</sup> did the man next to him, John Alice (Ahleesay). Ihara was <sup>contorting</sup> contorting in ridicule of Oswald with the handbills Oswald had given him in a hand.

Nobody believed that Bringuier report that Oswald and the Mexican had been seen in the Habana earlier, and not without reason. I can perhaps make this easier to understand by recalling what Bringuier did and was about to do when I was at the Habana <sup>merely looking</sup>

I was in New Orleans.

<sup>Bringuer</sup> for the first time. I had not seen or spoken to him and had no interest in him from his testimony alone. That was before I ~~had~~ learned what <sup>I was at the Habana after my</sup> I later did, ~~as after my~~ testimony before that New Orleans grand jury. <sup>talk my do</sup>

It had been arranged that one of the detectives would drive me to the airport. I had checked out of the motel after breakfast and was just sitting in the office talking to people when either Ivon or that detectives said that there was time to drive me around to see places of interest in the Oswald story if I'd like that. Of course I did. I'd never been to New Orleans before.

I did not go into any of those places, not that first trip. I just wanted to see them and get a little of the feeling of the areas in which they were. end 383

When we got to the Habana, parking being prohibited in <sup>that</sup> the block, the detective drove his unmarked police car up onto the sidewalk on the side of Decatur street opposite the Habana. There wasn't was little or no foot traffic on that sidewalk anyway because it was the back of the customs house and people used its front <sup>entrance</sup> which faced the river.

We had hardly left the car and I was just starting to take a good look at the front of the Habana when from the door of the second storefront from it toward Canal Street who comes running <sup>-literally in a crouch-</sup> out of it but Carlos himself ~~is~~ Bringuer. He had a 35mm camera to his eye and its <sup>that</sup> seems like with every step he snapped the shutter. All the way from his Casa Rogé store he owned with his brother-in-law to directly in front of me. When he was near me he <sup>dropped the camera</sup> left the camera, which was around his neck with a strap, and he was about to jump me when the detective stopped him. Bringuer was shouting incomprehensibly in mixed Spanish and English and after a little of <sup>that</sup> the detective chased him.

The stupidity in real-life ~~demo~~ demonstration of his nickname!

we had never met, had never spoken, had never ever been at <sup>the same place</sup> all close to each other in the short time I was in New Orleans. But he must have known me from pictures so he came rushing up to attack me. As without question he would have had not the detective prevented it.

He did not get to slug me but for that matter to Bringuer he still had a real

the accomplishment to his credit. It was a little more than a decade <sup>before</sup> when I learned about it. I filed C.A. 78-0420 for the New Orleans <sup>FBI's</sup> assassination records. In it I came to the New Orleans FBI's reports of Bringuier's excited visit to its <sup>office</sup> with those pictures of me he'd taken from that running crouch. The FBI thought he was wacky but he persisted in insisting that those pictures had great importance. After all, before coming to this country Bringuier had a Cuban law degree so he knew evidence and importances. To end it and get rid of him the <sup>F</sup>BI accepted those pictures and put them in its file. What it gave me is xeroxes of them. end  
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Politically Bringuier was past the extreme fringe of the radical right. He was taken on a successful tour by the most rabidly extreme of the commercializing preachers of that era, Billy Joe Hargis, all around the South. This <sup>was</sup> Bringuier got the reputation, more or less, of being a religious man. He may have been, too. The one I recount about was our only encounter.

Later when I was in the neighborhood often I had no fear that he would do me any harm or that if he tried I could not take care of myself if he did not get to me by surprise. So from time to time I looked in the window of his store. It catered mostly to seamen and of seamen mostly to those who spoke Spanish. As we saw with Philip Geraci school boys also went there for parts of the CAP regalia. I am talking about after the middle of 1967, when there were on no X-rated movies and nakedness was not commonly in magazines <sup>books</sup> or news newspapers.

But this man of religion and of such strong beliefs in what was right and what was not had pornographic literature, including books, on display in his window.

While some of the ~~personal~~ details of some of these recollections would not have been of use to Mailer, if he had had serious intentions, if he had had a serious book of any kind in mind, on the assassination, on Oswald or about both some of what he does not have in his Mailer's Tales could have been at least informative to him in this additional area in which he is long on conjectures instead of fact, short on fact of any kind, full of statements from his private <sup>Op</sup> Olympus about almost anything and with all is not aware of the spectacle he is making of himself in his book that was to have a first print of a rather large size and all the ancillary attention that would reach end  
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ever so many more millions of people than <sup>almost</sup> any book can reach. <sup>His did.</sup>

Yet firm in the belief that he was well informed when his was world-class subject-matter ignorance and <sup>with</sup> monumental displays of arrogance and ~~st~~ stupidity that would shame most people into perpetuity <sup>Mailer</sup> he made sport of himself with knowing it.

He had a dinger on the FBI on this.

"Dinger" is baseball slang for a home run.

He <sup>gets</sup> into this on page 613. But he takes a few practise swings on page 612.

The first was a "ailer hit but less than a home run. Mailer being Mailer, without any source indicated. Not that there are not hundreds of sources <sup>for</sup> what he first gets into. But not, however, as he does. As he does he is again repeating something he hear<sup>d</sup> and had no documentary basis for saying. And, Mailer being Mailer,, he is not accurate.

If he had had even a nodding acquaintance with Hoover's ~~so~~ Commission testimony he would have cited that as a source. I remember <sup>e</sup> it clearly enough, having quoted ~~it~~ often enough to cite 5H98. And Mailer did make that "exhaustive" study of those volumes- he says, *any way*.

Mailer says that Hoover "concluded" that Oswald <sup>was</sup> the lone assassin "in the first 24 hours." Actually, Hoover "concluded" that before the sun set.

Not knowing a thing about what he is writing about Mailer invents that "the ~~word~~ word passed <sup>down</sup> the line quickly: FBI men would ~~prosper~~ prosper best by arriving at a ~~preordin~~ preordained result." It was worse, much more: ~~no~~ no "word" had to be "passed." It was all built-in, automatic.

"Hoover's one-day solution of the murder was probably reflexive: There was enough awful stuff under enough official rugs - FBI and CIA both ~~to~~ - to dictate the avoidance of anything resembling <sup>mb</sup> an all-out investigation."

Despite his "probably" Mailer is not only spouting rubbish, he is also reflecting how little he knows about how Washington works. end 386

There was no reason to believe that an assassination investigation would become an investigation of the FBI. And so far as the CIA is concerned, Mailer know<sup>s</sup> nothing of



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fact  
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of ~~as~~ such criminal figures as Sam Giancana and John Rosselli with a few of the highest officers in the state the CIA in a mutual mission to kill Castro might have been disclosed," (page 612),

Source Source? Mailer being Msiler ~~there is no one~~ he ~~and~~ needs none. Mailer being the writer Mailer is, there can be none. *source for this.*

"Might have been disclosed" in November, 1963," reads well for the writer who is making it up as he goes but the truth is that it had been publicly disclosed at least a year and a half earlier.

That happened when the incompetent "wire man", a phrase Mailer would have liked if he'd known about it, <sup>the</sup> supposed expert on electronic surveillance, has been caught bugging the room of B Dan Martin, of the popular team of Rowan and Martin. Arthur James Balletti let the sheriff know that if he went down he would not go down <sup>alone</sup> at all. The sheriff believe it wise to cut the FBI in. And that is how the FBI learned of what stupidity its hated CIA ~~was~~ up to, And rather than seeking to protect the CIA, the FBI used its inside knowledge to prejudice President Johns <sup>on</sup> with it later, after the assassination.

Robert Kennedy, then attorney general, after Balletti's arrest, which <sup>was</sup> publicly reported, asked the ~~the~~ CIA for a full accounting. After a verbal briefing by the ~~the~~ CIA's honcho on that fiasco, Sheffield Edwards, with whom ~~the notion of~~ the then Deputy Director for Plans, Richard Bissell, had gotten the whole thing going, prepared a memo covering it of which only two copies were made. <sup>end</sup> It is date May 14, ~~1963~~ 1962, and even Mailer should be able to understand that <sup>388</sup> was well before the assassination. It was sent to the attorney ~~general~~ by the CIA's general Counsel Lawrence Houston. ~~In~~ the Justice Department files it is 82-46-5. In <sup>addition</sup> to recounting the Keystone Koppery that got ~~the~~ Ballette caught, it also states that only six high officials of the CIA knew anything at all about it and that they had all been careful to ~~see that~~ not a single piece of paper on it had been generated inside <sup>it</sup> or kept by the CIA.

Moreover, unlike Mailer's as usual invention of the CIA's "close working relations" with those two ~~ai~~ mafia chieftans, there was no connection with them at all, not

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the slightest contact.

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Robert Maheu "was approached by the undersigned [Edwards] and asked to establish contact with a member or members of the gangling syndicate to explore their capabilities... Maheu was to approach the syndicate as appearing to represent big business organizations which wished to protect their interests in Cuba. Knowledge of this project during its life was kept to a total of six senior officials of this agency."

Although what the CIA redacted was well known and had been published the names do not appear in the memo as disclosed.

What had happened is that Giancana wondered if Phyllis of the singing McGuire sisters was two-timing him with Martin. So he told Maheu, in effect, look, I'm doing all this for you, all this amounting to nothing, you do me a favor in return. Returning to this Shef Edwards memo, Maheu passed the matter over to one Edward Du Boise, another private investigator. [Actually a he headed his own Miami firm.] It appears that Arthur James Balletti was discovered in the act of installing a listening device and was arrested by the sheriff in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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That bobtails it a bit, eliminates the more humorous, in fact entertaining elements of what was all disclosed publicly so long before the assassination, but it is the essence.

If Mailer had not regarded fact as an impediment in his nonfictions, at least alleged nonfiction, and had accepted to enjoy the free access I offered him to all I have, he would have found the memo I quote at hand in my office. And if he had wanted more than an official and self-service summary he would have found several FBI files on this silly caper in ~~the files in my basement~~ my basement.

I also keep at hand in my office for the possible use of others how, quite the opposite of Mailer having Hoover palsy-walsy with the CIA all the top FBI hierarchy enjoyed putting it to the CIA over this. One of the recordings of that is in a Cartha De #

Loach memo (62-109060-5075) in which he put it this way:

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In this connection, "Arvin Watson called me late last night and

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incident & Lynch Spade

stated that the President had told him, in an off moment, that he was now convinced that there was a plot in connection with the assassination. Watson stated that the President felt that the CIA had something to do with this plot. Watson requested that any further information we could furnish in this connection would be appreciated by him and the President. I reminded Watson that the Director had sent over to the White House... all the information in our possession in connection with the CIA's attempts to use former agent Robert Maheu... in contacts with Sam Giancana and other hoodlums, relative to fostering a plot to assassinate Castro."

Mailer prefers a loving, brotherly relationship so that is what he writes.

If he had looked in those files I keep at hand for the use of others he would also have found another DeLoach memo in which he spent eight single-spaced pages as note-taker when Hoover was interviewed by William Manchester for his book, Death of a President. From the same FBI file that one is dated June 4, 1964. In it Hoover not only told Manchester of his instant vision of Oswald as the lone red assassin, and that it did not take twenty-four hours, as Mailer prefers, and that with the required foresight to cover the FBI's ass he had ordered that the FBI immediately enter the case, despite non-jurisdiction."

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In the remote chance that Mailer would have liked it to be official, that business of seeing to it that the crime was not investigated, as he'll find in greater detail in my NEVER AGAIN!, I kept at hand for others the memos beginning with the holograph of the then deputy attorney general Nicholas Katzenbach (spelled it all out as soon as Oswald was killed: "The public must be satisfied that Oswald <sup>that</sup> is the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial."

Perhaps there is an occupational hazard for novelists turning to nonfiction, especially to our history: they are so used to making it all up they can't stop it; or they think they can improve upon it; or they will not accept the restraints of using official records and the work of quoting them exactly and in context (other than bedroom buggings); or they find fact inhibiting in other ways. Mailer provides a wide variety

of possible explanations because all these and other possible explanations of his avoidance of the abundance of official records covering exactly what he says he is writing about have always been readily available to him. And he has known about them and their available for more than two decades, beginning <sup>NININE</sup> very long before he began this book.

*end ch XVII*

~~was,~~  
~~"Hoover," Maiter continues, "of course, considerably less worried about the CIA than about the Bureau. The FBI had its own bare buttocks to cover. Acres of bare buttocks. More than a decade later some activities of CIA COINTELPRO (short for Counterintelligence Program), the FBI's own undercover groups, would be revealed."~~ Maiter then quotes David Wise "as Wise' reference to "COINTELPRO operations" from his book The American Police State. And Maiter continues to lay it out, at least as he thinks it will read better, he concludes this page (613) telling the world;

"No evidence has surfaced that CONCON COINTELPRO, as such, had relations with Oswald in the early Sixties but some of his activities bear the mark. ...If Ossale was receiving a stipend from CON COINTELPRO or some equivalent organization... Of course, [Dallas special agent John W.] Fain didn't know, COINTELPRO was a special arm of the FBI and so its provocateurs would not be revealed neither to agents like Fain nor to the run-of-the-mill FBI informants...intelligence organizations are not skilled in maintaining secret echelons above and below and to the side of their official operatives. ... (Pages 613-5)

Even for Maiter, this is quite a mouthful. He has no source for COINTELPRO being a branch of the FBI but perhaps his source was one of his more dependable ones, like Harlot's Ghost.

COINTELPRO was not a unit, or a "special arm of the FBI" and not existing it could not have paid Oswald any "stipend" for any of the services Maiter imagined he rendered it.

It was, and this is one of the few correct statements by Maiter I quote above a "program." And rather than the field agents having no knowledge of it, they are the ones who carried that "program" out! Indeed, most of the suggestions for COINTELPRO

*end 391*