

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 very long before he began this

book. ~~XVIII~~ ^{was,} ~~Mailer~~ ^{INVENTS THE FBI'S COINTELPRO Division. and} ~~was,~~ ^{more of our history} "Hoover" ~~Mailer~~ 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 ~~the~~ COINTELPRO (short for Counterintelligence Program), the FBI's own undercover groups, would be revealed." ^(p 612-3) Mailer then quotes David Wise's Wise' reference to "COINTELPRO operations" from his book The American Police State. ~~As~~ ^{as} Mailer continues to lay it out, at least as he thinks it will read better, he concludes this page (613) telling the world;

indent single space

" No evidence surfaced that ~~CONSON~~ COINTELPRO, as such, had relations with Oswald in the early Sixties but some of his activities bear the mark. ...If Oswald 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 ^{very} skilled ~~in~~ at maintaining secret echelons above, below and to the side of their official operatives. ... (Pages 613-5)

Even for ^{big-mouthed} Mailer, 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. ^{Here he is again that Harlot's Ghost making it all up again.}

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

It was, and this is one of the few ~~correct~~ ^{ments} state, ~~as~~ ^{in what} by Mailer, 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 ^{ing}

originated with the very agents from whom M^mailer ^{says} said it was all kept secret! /

end 392

It is a bit surprising, even after more than ^{six hundred} ~~600~~ pages of what Mailer imagines, conjectures, theorizes, suggests and in other ways is detached from fact and from reality that ever after describing it accurately as a "program", albeit in connection with his quotation of the authoritative Wisebook, Mailer can still bring himself to invent COINTELPRO as "a special arm of the FBI," as a functioning component, when in fact it was a Bureau-wide concatenation of schemes for special dirty works to confound those the FBI regarded as its enemies, ^{to} political, ~~not~~ ~~efiminal~~ ~~enemies~~.

Having invented this "special arm of the FBI" for his own purposes, Mailer also invents Oswald ^{as} getting paid by it, that undescribed "stipend" Marina never told Mailer she ever saw a penny of, Oswald's non-existing "stipend."

But then for a novelist ^{making} the whole thing up as he goes. inventing this "special arm of the FBI" is a nice novelist's touch. Nice because it is both original and ideally suited to the fiction that Mailer presented as our history and as his proof that from his biography, also largely invented by Mailer, Mailer has the proof that Oswald was indeed the assassin.

This may have been, if I may use Mailer as a model, what Mailer had in mind in telling those history majors at Penn that history and novels are alike, both being fiction, and that history is lies.

In this book Mailer ^{does} ~~did~~ his Pulitzer best to prove it!

And thus we have the "provocateurs of Mailer's Part ^V and ^{that} chapter title.

Or do we? Or those "protagonists", do we have them?

Or ~~has~~ Mailer records our history, do we have to decide which he means when he names anybody?

end 393

Could those "right-wing adventurers" of his chapter 2 be wither? Or both? Mailer does not tell us, perhaps because as a novelist he thinks history is more attractive as a mystery. But the problem with Mailer's mystery is that it never stops being that, a mystery.

It also never stops being a mystery that Mailer, if he thinks he knows enough

to write anything at ~~all~~ all on this subject, has gotten more than 600 pages written without learning that his reputation and our history ^{one} is in weak hands when he entrusts them to ~~his~~ his only sources for this chapter (pages ~~xxi~~^{xxi}-xxxii), to the House assassins committee report and to Posner and Tony Summers.

Aha! May they are Mailer's "protagonists" he does not name, Pioneer of the official mythology and Summers of "Conspiracy," the title of his book.

Mailer begins wondering "which movie star ~~was to play~~ Guy Banister would have chosen to play his part - Edward G. Robinson, James Cagney, Victor McLaughlin, Humphrey Bogart. "It is a fair question." (page 616) But by the time Mailer grazes on richer pastures he has not shown that in the assassination Banister had any part of play.

Par. in Mailer.

Tony Summers was a good source to begin with:

"In 1957, at the age of ~~55~~ 57, Banister was pushed ~~out~~ to retirement after an incident...in which he allegedly threatened a waiter with a pistol."

The New Orleans Police Department stood for much but that was too much.

But in the ^{mail} account there is no mention of what was well and publicly known, that before then Banister had done rather well as an FBI agent. Until, and my source worked with Banister also as an FBI special agent, Aaron Kohn, head of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, told me that his retirement from the FBI was caused by a damage to his brain ^{the nature of which} (now do not recall, (page 616) end
394

In continuing to quote from Summers to present Banister's publicly known history ^{groups} [he was] connected with a wide variety of right-wing extremist ^{Mailer adds:} with this added:

~~In New Orleans~~ "The Cuban Revolutionary Council made its New Orleans home in the ^{same} building as Banister ^{Guy} (page 617).

Correct but a little inadequate. (and incorrect as I do not quote it.)

It was Banister who arranged for it to have office space in that building, which then was owned by Sam Newman, who worked for the New Orleans criminal sheriff.

"Home" meant little more than a mail address for it was little more than make minor collections that the CRC did in New Orleans.

How Mailer managed not to mention that the pamphlet was written by ^{of} Carliss Lamont is not easily understood, unless it was omitted in his source, which he is careful not to give for any of this razmatazz of alleged but nonexistent connections.

And much as Mailer loves contradictions and irrelevancies, ~~as~~ as he puts things, it may well be believed that he would have enjoyed noting that this son of a House of Morgan partner was politically of the left.

Like Banister and Oswald?

Especially of that handbill of which he had an ample supply of copies.

Of course there is the possibility that Mailer knew Lamont, who has since died.

Like all who write about the assassination pretending to "thorough" study, ^{of it.} Mailer's inappropriate word, they have not done the work to which they pretend, they are in varying degrees subject-matter ignoramuses, and in countless little details of which they are blissfully ^{unaware} ignorant they disclose their ~~in~~ ignorance and their carelessness without the faintest notion that they have. Here Mailer does it all over again in what I quote above, his saying that Banister's office address was stamped by ^{only} Oswald on one of the items he gave out, the one of which he distributed fewest copies.

still another - really several

Here Mailer invents ~~a~~ new Oswald mythology ^{ies,} that the CIA had what ~~exists~~ is not known to ^{be} exist, ^{to} "contact reports" on Oswald. Not content with this fabrication, Mailer then launches another- and obviously he cites no source for any of this, none ^{is} existing [✓] that with those nonexistent ^{Oswald "contact"} reports allegedly missing from the CIA's files, "They would have revealed, for example, that information about Oswald's failed attempt might have been transmitted to the CIA officer ~~was~~ who would have contact with right-wing activists like Banister," (page ~~616~~ 617).

So here Mailer has an imagined CIA "officer" engaged in what was strictly prohibited it by law, domestic activity, somehow knowing about what Mailer imagines about Oswald in New Orleans being related to the missed shot at General Edwin Walker in Dallas.

To cover himself on all he makes up, Mailer here uses more than his generous supply of conditional wordings for his baseless conjectures. But he sometimes forgets or deliberately ^{treats} ~~treats~~ what he makes up as real, as in saying of those nonexistent

*end
397*

"~~the~~ contact reports missing from the CIA's files" that "we do well not to lose sight of them." ^{none in what is quoted above the "would" before "have revealed" and the "might" before "have been transmitted" and then still another "would" all in part of a simple Mailer sentence. Man}

^{In} this mishash first he says there was "a possible relationship between Oswald and Banister." Then he says, "if Oswald was being paid a stipend by Banister." (emphasis added.) There are a few others at this point but ^{those are} this is enough to illustrate that Mailer writes excuses into what he makes up. ^{as he makes it up.}

Now on That Walker shooting,

And ~~in~~ all of that ~~ended~~ before Oswald got to New Orleans in ^{late} April, 1963,

~~because~~ The CRC had been little more than a creature of the CIA, which had organized it to support the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. *By then the CIA ended its support of the CRC. That ended the CRC for any practical purposes* Which Mailer does not mention, ~~now~~ ^{any} of this. What he likes is his nice corruption of what was first in my 1967 book, Oswald in New Orleans, the address Oswald stamped on a few of the papers he distributed. Not on most of them. It was 544 Camp Street. In Mailer's improvement of this it comes out, "For that matter, 544 Camp Street, Banister's address, was stamped inside the cover of a forty-page FPCC pamphlet ^{my /} similar to the ones Oswald was passing out on Canal Street..." (page 617p).

Whether or not Oswald placed that stamp on the inside of any pamphlet is of perhaps little ~~consequence~~ consequence but on the ones I know about it ~~was~~ ^{is} more visible.

end / 395

265A -

Banister's address was not on Camp Street. It was on Lexington.

That old building that no longer exists was at the corner of those streets.

It alone in that building Banister's office was on the Lexington Street side and it had a Lexington Street address. The ~~CRC~~ office the CRC had had and had to give up before Oswald returned to New Orleans, ^{because it was} ~~was~~ not able to pay the rent, was on the second floor. Its entrance was the building's main entrance, on Camp Street. The stairs, wide and wooden, went for the front door ^{on Camp Street} to almost the entrance to Room 5 on the second floor, which the ~~CRC~~ ^{CRC} had used.

end 396

Having no knowledge of his own and for all those years of his "obsession" with the JFK assassination, particularly beginning with all the attention to Garrison's many stories beginning in early 1967, Mailer had learned none of any of this. For that matter, Garrison did not know that the CRC had been in the building Banister had been in ~~or that Oswald stamped the address on~~ until he read Oswald in New Orleans.

Without showing the relevance, if any, or even that what he writes about ever existed- and they had no reason to exist, Mailer warns next, "Moreover we do well not to lose sight of the contact reports missing from the CIA files for the period when Oswald ^{tried} ~~tried~~ to kill General Walker." (page 617).

265B -

It is popularly ^{believed} ~~believed~~ that it was Oswald, such a magic ^{al shooter} ~~shot~~, who missed on

a still rather than a moving target,

easy shot at) Walker. For him to have done that he had either to fit a .30 caliber bullet into his much smaller 6.5 mm rifle or to have had a much larger rifle, of which there is ~~not~~ neither evidence nor any reason to believe. *It was never a police suspect.*

If the CIA had any reports on that, strictly prohibited to it, ^{and} why in the ~~world~~ world they would have been "contact" reports is not apparent, although they ~~must~~ have been of the author of Harlot's "host, which ~~reflected~~ reflected his knowledge, if that is what it was, of the CIA. *And why would they have kept that secret when the government bought soft on Oswald was of violence? And such a with hold would have been a felony.*

~~The mishmash leading to this is "Of course," and then the word so indispensable in the Mailer rendering of our history "if" and then "Oswald was being paid a stipend (how Mailer likes that word. More dignified than "money") by Banister to do some kind of undercover work, it would hardly have made sense for them to have been seen together."~~

(page 617)

That there is no rational reason ^{even to suspect} to believe that Oswald worked for Banister is no less an acceptable explanation, but that ^{OO} would wipe out much of Mailer's hook so, naturally, he ~~is~~ prefers to merely suggest it by use of the conditional. end 398

He leaves us ^{Walker} to imagine the connection he sees between this and the ~~Baner~~ story quoted above,

Of the many conditionals next is a nice one, "There is also, for what it is worth, one unexplained fact about ~~that~~ Oswald's first year in the ^{Marine} Marine Corps.

Stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, which was only a couple of hours by bus from New Orleans, Oswald would go to ~~the~~ the Big Easy every weekend on pass." (page 618)

For this also Mailer ~~is~~ no source, other than the opinion of another ^{Marine} Marine. But during that time not one of Oswald relatives in New Orleans saw him, and only one heard from him by phone and that only onetime. (page 619).

Oswald was not "stationed" at Keesler field for ^{his} the first year in the "Marine Corps," which is what Mailer ~~is~~ says. He was detailed there for a few weeks only and then only for the advanced Radar training he got there.

Mailer never gets around to whatever he may have had in mind by "that" one unexplained fact" of Oswald brief stay at Keesler. *It was not his weekends in New Orleans*

How thoroughly mixed up ^{as} Mailer's head is as he takes the work of others as his own and gives no source for it. Referring to this period, which he writes about as ^{when it could not have been more than the few weeks from the records he studied so thoroughly} a year Oswald spent a couple of hours by bus from New Orleans, he writes that "It should be noted that David Ferrie could have been the most striking figure Oswald had met up to that time. Strange in appearance, in later years he suffered from alopecia, a disease that left him hairless, and thus wore mohair for false eyebrows..." (page 619).

The ^{original} ~~personal~~ source for the accurate report of the medical cause of Ferrie's loss of hair was my late step-brother Dr. Jack Kety. Jack told me the story as we dined in an excellent small restaurant near where he lived and practiced which was not all that far from those Cuban "training camps" that Mailer never did get straight in his mind or on paper. His home and clinic were in Covington Louisiana, where I found the sheriff very cooperative. Even took pictures on the ~~property~~ ^{premises} one of those places and mailed them to me. That was an easy Saturday for Jack, no patient about to go into labor. That did happen another weekend I spent with him, when he never dared leave the phone without telling the expectant mother where to reach him. So, with time, Jack, who had gotten his medical education in New Orleans, told me many stories of interest. Including about Clay Shaw and the ^{well} lover who got him his start in life and more, got him started financially and was responsible for his getting to head the trade mart. I knew from Jack long before the FBI's records were to a limited degree, given to me in one of those FOIA lawsuits and withheld in another where there were ^{more} ~~few~~ of them, that Shaw was ~~sado-~~ ^{sado-} ~~masochist~~ ^{masochist}. But having no interest in Shaw I had no interest in that.

It was long before what Mailer here writes about that Ferrie became Jack's patient. Ferrie was then still an Eastern Airlines pilot, and that ended with his first arrest for sexual offenses ^{against} ~~against~~ boys. Jack's patients included a number of Eastern pilots. When Ferrie started losing hair one of those pilots recommended that he see Jack. Jack did diagnose alopecia, as Mailer reports. And Ferrie was responding well to treatment.

It also happens that a brother-in-law, my wife's brother, had alopecia more than thirty years ago because it was more than 30 years ago that it cleared up and he

still has his hair.

But Ferrie believed he was a medical expert, too, so once he started improving he decided to be his own doctor. That is when ^{the alopecia} ~~it~~ turned into ~~that~~ what Mailer does not mention, because a simple ~~an alopecia~~ does not cause the loss of all hair, it turned into alopecia totalis.

In a moment of not atypical carelessness Mailer actually says that it was the alopecia that was responsible for those outrageous suggestions for hair that Ferrie made. ^{As the Mailer's source} ~~after the~~ ^{that required Ferrie to make his own wig and false eye brows,} ~~source~~ from which ^{the} quote above says, it ^{was the alopecia,} "thus [Ferrie] wore ~~no~~ hair eyebrows." (His wigs he made himself were no less ~~intelligent~~ ridiculous.) end
400

^{liked} The first use of the trustful and accurate account of what Jack told me ^{and/pub-} was by Mailer's source Epstein, but not in Legend. In an article for The New Yorker that later grew into his anti-garrison book. ^b Apparently Mailer cribed ¹ it from that. I do not believe he would have been comfortable writing Mailer's Tales if he had read Osgald in New Orleans, in which I made the original report.

As Mailer runs on about ^{Ferrie} Ferrie as the man of mythical powers, which he was not, he says ^{the} ~~of~~ ² Ferrie that "he could bring down a light plane in the jungle on a postage stamp" of which there is neither ^{any} ~~any~~ indication that he did or ever landed any light plane in any jungle. But because it suits Mailer to describe ^{as} Ferrie as "a pilot of legendary skills," with nothing at all to back that up, he has him a jungle pilot. ^K Making it up better as he goes, Mailer says that Ferrie was "a self-appointed bishop in a theology he invented himself." In fact ³ Ferrie was expelled from a Catholic seminary over his homosexual activities. The offbeat Catholicism of his later years was not of ⁴ Ferrie's creation and it was international, with its head in ~~Canada~~ Canada.

Getting into the feel of it Mailer winds up his exposition on Ferrie as "a local genius" ¹¹⁶ saying that "he was also private pilot to the godfather of New Orleans, Carlos Marcello" (page 219) ¹⁷

Ferrie never worked for Marcello. My source is Marcello's respected immigration lawyer, the late ² Jack Wasserman. Wasserman told me that G. Wray ³ Gill, a New Orleans

lacyer who was one of Marcello's many local lawyers and who knew Ferrie quite well, end 401
 having used him an as an investigator and letting ~~the~~ Ferrie use his offices as his
 own, recommended that for the immigration case ~~he~~ ^{they} hire Ferrie to work on it. But even
 Gill did not have that authority, He asked and got it from Wasserman. And Ferrie did
 very well on it. He reportedly came up with the ~~the~~ proof that a ~~was~~ major part of the
 government's deportatation case against Marcello ~~was~~ faked. And it did happen that
 as of the time of the ssassination Ferrie as was in the witness room of ~~the~~ ^{that} federal
 court in New Orleans. That ^{very} afternoon Marcello won ~~that~~ ^{the case} case.

There was a report that may be true, but it has nothing at all to do with landing
 a light plane in the jungle, and on a postage stamp at that.

Marcello had been deported by force. Physically picked up, put on a plane and
 deposited in Guatemala. Guatemala was selected because ^{our} the government claimed that ~~is~~
~~was~~ where Marcello was born. He was not. The story is that Ferrie picked Marcello up and
 by stealth returned him to New Orleans. But that does not mean that he was employed ~~by~~
 Marcello or was his "private pilot." The only known connection is his work for ~~the~~
 Marcello lawyers ^{with Marcello} in that deportation case.

Mailer, inspired by this case he ~~made~~ ^{made} up, did even better with it in what
 the follows. ~~He~~ there says that both Ferrie and ^{Banister} ~~Banister~~ had another "association" with
 Marcello. This was because, allegedly, there being no source cited and none known to ~~be~~
 in even the wildest of the most extreme literature, ^{we work} Banister did a good deal of investi-
 gating for G. Wray Gill."

That connects Ferrie with Marcello?

Even if true,? (page 619#),

From this Mailer gets to what for some reason not clear and certainly not reported end 402
 as such, "the famous morning in September when ninety miles north of New Orleans, a big
 black limousine drove into a modest-sized town, Clinton, Louisiana, and parked ostentatiously
 near the registrar's office. On that morning a long line of blacks were waiting to be
~~reg~~ registered as voters." (page 619).

Little details like distances tend to give writing authority and the feeling

that the writer is well-informed and full of details. I was in Clinton on unrelated business on July 4, 1968. My ~~recollection~~ ^{recollectoon} of the ^{id} ~~drive~~ is that it was of more than 90-~~miles~~ miles. Clinton was ^{about} ~~at least~~ thirty miles past ^J Baron Rouge and that seemed to be seventy miles or more. Mailer uses ~~this~~ for the details he lack and winds up with the wrong source for the ~~refutation~~ ^{refutation} of the ~~report~~ ^{report} that the driver of that black limou sine was ~~not~~ ^{not} Clay shaw and was Guy Bainster.

Oddly, Mailer knows ^{so} little of this matter and understands it not at all yet ~~it~~ refers to it s "famous." ^{Supposedly} that car brought Oswald to Clinton. Mailer does not even say why. Or what he was doing in the ~~drive~~ ^{noting} registration line. In mailer's ~~ref~~ ^{re}hashing of it Tony Summers had no more understanding of it. He quotes Summer in the text, not with any source note, as saying "that story never did make a great deal of ~~sets~~ sense with Shaw as a principal and indeed why would one of the wealthiest ~~men~~ and most powerful men in New Orleans drive ninety miles out of ~~at~~ the the city to sit in a car all day and watch blacks register to vote? Bainster made more sense. He saw CORE as a left-wing organization..." (Page 619-~~b~~ 20) ,

Finally, in a direct quotation of Conspiracy, Mailer says that supposedly Oswald ~~d~~ was looking for a job at the Clinton Hospital, for which his prospects ~~w~~ would be better if he were a registered voter.

Where Mailer got the notion that Shaw ~~was~~ ^{was} one of the rich "one of the wealthiest and most powerul men in New Orleans" I cannot imagine. But ~~th~~ ^{at} he was neither one of the wealthiest nor one of the mosy powerful does not mean he was without ~~in~~ ⁱⁿfluence for he was in ~~man~~ many areas quite ~~in~~ ⁱⁿfluential. end
403

His alleged purpose ~~as~~ ^{was} given by Mailer ~~as~~ not and Summers did not say it was m merely to "sit in a ~~cr~~ ^{car} all day and watch blacks register to vote." His alleged purpose was to get Oswald a job.

Now if Shaw had wanted to get Oswald a job, all he had to do was use his ~~fr~~ ^{fr} phone. ^{He} knew enough people and worked with enough of them to have ~~foud~~ ^{found} the kind of job Oswald could have held with ease. It is for that that ~~there~~ was no purpose in hsi going to Jackson.

As mailed continues without any ~~the~~ meaningful contact with what he is ^writing about and none at all with reality, ~~the~~ debunking of this story and the belief it was banister and not Shaw, Mailer says, is why "some conspiracy theorists ~~would~~ decide that the ~~driver~~ generally described as ~~a~~ a good-looking middle aged man with gray hair was Banister." (page 619).

including name with whom
Mailer would touch and thanks
in his appreciations

Naturally Mailer has no source on this, either.

The reason is again obvious.

The "Banister" solution was ^qnot by any "conspiracy theorists." It was the official and publicly-stated ^qposition ~~of~~ Shaw's lawyer and it ^{got} considerable attention in the media.

Better yet, with ^qBanister long dead, who was there to deny it. ²

This is but one of many two close-together causes for wonder if Mailer even read the junk he cites and quotes.

He had no basis for attributing what was so well known as the ~~statement~~ ^{statement} of Shaw's defense to "conspiracy theorists", none named.

end
404.

often as Mailer uses Posner as a source it is, ^{rather} ~~rather~~ earlier it would have ~~been~~ surprising, to read this (on page 621), referring to ^{him in} ~~Posner's~~ this same business, to those Clinton witnesses giving "credible" testimony, ~~according to the House assassins committee (I agree with their seeming to be credible. I spent a morning with them while the Shaw jury was being empanelled):~~

"Posner, however, ~~man~~ managed somehow to obtain ~~access~~ access to the files of Edward Wegmann([sic], one of Clay Shaw's defense lawyers," (page 621) ^o

The name is Wegmann. On ~~pages 451-2~~ ~~Posner~~ page 502 of his Acknowledgements Posner says, "special thanks to...Cynthia ~~De~~ Wegmann, Esq., who allowed me to review her father's copious papers on the Garrison case..."

And so, in this Part ^{that} for which Mailer neither has not even suggests who in his opinion, for whatever he his opinion may be regarded as worth by other than the hack reviews ~~wh~~ by now are more than adequately described as established as no more than hack, we see that he not only cannot see straight, he cannot even read straight.

Can there be a more ~~pos~~ persuasive reason for all the adulations for Mailer and his book, a better reason for it to be regarded so highly as a nonfiction explanation of the assassination, for Random House ^{all} making that extraordinary and costly effort it made to make it the success that the media said it is?

What remains of this pathetic Part is worth more space than I here give it but I do not because in other unpublished writing I have ^{concentrated attention to} given both of the matters ^{e h} neither of which Mailer understands and and for both of which he has only his most prejudiced and undependable of sources. The first of these is the Silvia Odio story. Mailer has Posner's and the official versions as his in chapters 3 and 4, "An Inexplicable Visit" (page 423ff) and "A Nimble Solution" (page 627-633) and Chapter 5, "Mexico." (pages 633-41) In both Mailer reflects all over again, as he does throughout this book, ^{his} failure to learn and to appreciate the simple wisdom expressed by Mark Twain in his Travels at the Equator, "We should not take out of an experience more than is in it." This applies to events and to sources from whom more than what is ^{to be taken} there cannot be taken. Having failed to learn from his Minsk failure that no matter what Schiller shelled out to the Minsker KGB Mailer was not able to take from it more than was there to be taken, much as he and Schiller [≡] expected ^{those} "secrets" they KGB never had about Oswald. If Schiller and probably Mailer had not been phung up on their belief in the ~~an~~ official assassination mythology they would have known that the kind of secrets they expected ^{just} did and could not exist.

Similarly, Mailer could not get from his Volume Two sources more than they had to give and common sense told him that all they had to give was support for this official assassination mythology. That was what Mailer wanted but he did not want it to as ^{the} ~~he~~ drag as with his best and not inconsiderable ability it remains. But lacking any ~~exper~~ experience with or knowledge of the actualities of the official evidence, of what was developed and of the investigations themselves, Mailer is the captive of his poor sources and much as he tries, he cannot get from them more than ^{was} ~~it~~ there to be gotten.

It is obvious that Mailer limited ^{some} himself to sources he knew were exceptionally prejudiced, all proceeding on preconceptions as he did. He therefore wanted what he could

end
405

get from them that seemed to validate what he began wanting to say. But because that does not exist to be gotten, he did not get it from them.

If Mailer had not returned from Minsk with his homhum drivvel he would not have gone for the stuff he got from Epstein, Davison and Posner. Little as ~~by~~ Mailer knew or even tried to know about the fact, on some level he had to know that despite the attention those works got from that era's hack reviewers their work was nothing but dishonest in concept and propaganda as issued, with no substance of any kind about anything at all. With ~~the~~ Epstein and Davison, Mailer had to have recognized that they were fierce political partisans determined to make political case and that in alone should have told him what I believe he knew very well, that they could not be trusted to be either honest or exhaustive in their inquiries and their writings. Posner was different in that he was as cold-blooded in his corruption as a shyster can be. That gave Mailer a different kind of alert, that he would angle what ever he used and said and would eliminate what he knew contradicted it, ~~the it being~~ what he wanted to say ^{was} in accord with the corrupt formula with which he began. *anyway.*

If in any chance Mailer did not perceive these problems for an honest man intending honest writing, there was what honest writers intending honest writing always do: check their sources. If as without doubt he knew and said in his nonresponse to my asking him about ~~the~~ ^{their} Minsk deal, I am an expert he could consult and my work is not limited to arguing any preconception. The very first words in the paperback reprint of Posner's deliberately mistitled Case Closed told him that I had written a book critical of Posner's and that Posner was not able to refute a word I said about him. *(Mailer used the reprint version.)*

These three were part of a great subversion and Mailer by using and depending on them joins them in that great subversion.

It makes little or no difference whether Mailer knew they had to be dishonest, int endedly dishonest from the mere reading of their books, he had the obligation all serious and honest writers have to check their sources and that he did not do. This alone leaves it without question that rather than seeking information ^{based on which he could} to write the truth he wanted only what he believed could rescue his failed Oswald in Minsk, ~~to~~ to

seem to have dependable sources that supported the preconception with which he began, as he knew they had. Their books alone make that obvious.

end 407

In not doing what he knew honesty and ~~princ~~ principle required of him and in doing what he knew they required he not do ^{maila} ~~make~~ himself into his Harlot of his own Harlot's Ghost.

And he whored with the innocent Sylvia Odio as he had with Marina ~~Sw~~ Oswald Porter, albeit considerably different in degree and in ~~merely~~ giving greater attention than they had earlier ^{inc} received to the libels of her, particularly by Posner,

If Mailer was ~~an~~ familiar with the literature, particularly the earliest

assassination literature, he knew that it was I who brought ^{Odio} ~~her~~ and her story to light in the very first book on the Warren Commission, which I repeat again dates to 1965. *That*

was in Whitewash, on pages 149-50 and 152-4, ^I ~~and~~ added to this considerably in Whitewash II,

which was published in December, 1966, in the chapter "The Hoover Diverson," pages

51ff. There is ~~more he probably~~ ^{about this what he knew he} did not know that should have told him to speak to

me before writing a word about that matter. *If he intended honesty.*

When Oswald was en route to Mexico City from New Orleans, according to

what Odio swore to, she was visited by some of those who said they were fighting

Castro and seeking funds for that. ^{I did not believe that Oswald ^{was} with those men *on*} ~~These were parts of the first words published about and with regard to the matter and others that visit and what odio said about it:~~

In both of my first two books I referred ^{to} ~~to~~ that man and ^{to} ~~to~~ others said to have been ^u ~~was~~ "The False Oswald." Here are the

first words published about Odio and that visit:

Meanwhile, back in Dallas, the "False Oswald" and his companions were busy. Within a day or two of Oswald's departure from New Orleans, they knocked on the door of the modest apartment of Mrs. Sylvia Odio, the United States-educated daughter of a once prominent Cuban couple, then imprisoned on the Isle of Pines (R321-4; 11H367-89).

Representing themselves as friends of her father and as coming from the Cuban anti-Castro group known as JURE, led by Manolo Ray, they quickly overcame her initial uneasiness. Ray, she said, "is a very close friend of my father and mother. He hid in my house several times in Cuba" (11H369). The presumed purpose of their visit was to enlist her assistance in JURE activities. To a degree, she assented.

The detailed information these men had about her family convinced her, "... details about where they saw my father and what activities he was in. I mean, they gave me almost incredible details about things that somebody who knows him really would or that somebody informed well knows. And after a little while, after they mentioned my father, they started talking about the American" (11H370). "The American" was introduced as "Leon Oswald", a former

indent single space

indent
single
space

Marine. The other two used aliases she described as "war" names, a device to hide identities from the Castro government. One she recalled was "Leopoldo". Of the other she is uncertain, but believes he called himself "Angelo".

Representing themselves as having just left New Orleans (as the real Oswald had), they said "they were leaving for a trip (on which the real Oswald had started) and they would like very much to see me on their return to Dallas ..." (11H372-3).

Mrs. Odio's sister was in her apartment at the time of the visit. They both immediately "recognized" Oswald at the time of the assassination. Mrs. Odio's shock was spectacular. She immediately connected these men with the assassination and fainted before the suspected assassin's name was broadcast. She was taken to the hospital by ambulance from her place of work, where she lost consciousness at about 1:50, almost to the second the time the real Oswald was being arrested at the Texas Theatre. She said she thought "the three men ... had something to do with the assassination" (11H383).

There was, indeed, reason for Mrs. Odio to have made this association. "You know," Leopoldo had said of the "False Oswald", "our idea is to introduce him to the underground in Cuba, because he is great, he is kind of nuts ... He told us we don't have any guts, you Cubans, because President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs, and some Cubans should have done that, because he was the one that was holding the freedom of Cuba actually ... And he said, 'It is so easy to do it'. He has told us ..." (11H372-3).

The next day "Leopoldo" again spoke of the "False Oswald", saying he "would be the kind of man that could do anything like getting underground in Cuba, like killing Castro. He repeated several times that he was an expert shotman ..." (11H377).

end
409

As I plumbed ~~the~~ its records that the Commission did not publish I was able to add what it is not necessary to include here but I believe ^{shows} ~~to~~ the Commission handled this, with a great non sequetur, ^{as} readers should have in mind. This is how I began ~~the~~ my ^{first} further development of this in my second book:

indent
single
space

Of this the Report says merely:

On September 16, 1964, the FBI located Loran Eugene Hall in Johnsandale, Calif. Hall has been identified as a participant in numerous anti-Castro activities. He told the FBI that in September of 1963 he was in Dallas, soliciting aid in connection with anti-Castro activities. He said he had visited Mrs. Odio. He was accompanied by Lawrence Howard, a Mexican-American from East Los Angeles and one William Seymour from Arizona. He stated that Seymour is similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald; he speaks only a few words of Spanish, as Mrs. Odio had testified one of the men who visited her did. While the FBI had not yet completed its investigation into this matter at the time the report went to press, the Commission has concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was not at Mrs. Odio's apartment in September of 1963 (WHITEWASH 154).

The Commission like the FBI ^{at} before it believed that Odio had such a visit but they believed, as I did, that Oswald was not with those two anti-Castros both of whom I later interviewed. Those were the points I'd made, that it had happened and that the third man was not Lee Harvey Oswald. In any honest investigation this should have been the ~~the~~ beginning, not as with the Commission and the FBI ^{it} was, the end.

Hall and I ^{and} to a lesser degree, Larry Howard and I developed a friendly relationship. With Hall it took some strange forms.

On being reinterviewed by the FBI, the FBI's reports I brought to, ^{light} ~~light~~ in Whitewash II say that Hall told it he had made a mistake in saying that he had been at Odio's.

Not long after Whitewash II appeared I found Hall in rather much pain in the veterans' hospital in Los Angeles. He was given injections of morphine in my presence. We hit it off well and I spent most of three days interviewing on in tape, the tape recorder on his bed where he could turn it off any time he wanted, with the microphone on his chest most of the time. Among other things that he told me is that he was in Dallas at the time in question, that he was in the housing ~~develop~~ development in which Odio lived, and that he remembered clearly visiting a refugee Cuban dentist he went there to see. He also said that he could have been to Odio's, ^{and was} ~~as~~ inclined to believe that he had been, but that with all that had happened he was not ^{certain} ~~certain~~ either way. end
410

That was not long after Jim Garrison's "probe" got to be public knowledge but it was long enough so that whe Garrison ^{had} ~~as~~ tried to subpoena Hall and Hall had gone to court to get the subpoena invalidated, ~~which~~ ^{that} Texas governor Ronald Reagan did for him. I persuaded Hall that he had nothing to fear, that he'd get an all-expense trip to New Orleans to visit friends, and that in going there he would get that monkey off his back.

Hall said he would go if I went with him and if we had connecting rooms. I told him I was willing but could not afford it ^{and he} ~~and~~ he went anyway and it was as I had told him it would be, nothing would happen to him and that monkey would be off his back. ^{Several years later when} ~~It was until~~ the House assassins committee went after him, Hall then phoned me ^{He} ~~and~~ asked me to appear with him, to sit ~~to~~ next to him and give him advice, I told him there he needed a lawyer but that if I could get there I would.

That hearing was after it was no longer safe for me to ^{drive} ~~drive~~ to Washington. I got there a little late. There was not a single empty seat. A man since winner of a number of honors in TV reporting, then a friend and a student at George Washington University in Washington ^{Scott Malme his} ~~gave~~ me the seat almost next to the door, that far away from the witness table at which Hall and his lawyers were sitting. The committee was late getting there.

end
411

That caused added excitement. During the ^wait Hall got up to stretch and to look around the room. When he saw me he exclaimed, "Hey there, old buddy!" and with that he left the witness table and came back to me. He grabbed me like an old buddy, pumped my hand, and in the brief conversation we had, with the audience and the press quite interested in this unexpected development and listening and watching, he said, "How about when this shit is over we get the fuck out of there and have a few drinks?" I agreed. Seeing George Lardner of The Washington Post nearby and taking it all in, and I asked George if he would like to go with us. ^{when the hearing was postponed} He did. Hall, and his two lawyers, and ^{and I} Lardner went to the Shoreham Hotel, where they were registered and we did spend the ^{rest of the} afternoon and early evening talking and talking, mostly Hall doing the talking and me suggesting what he talk about. It was off the record for Lardner, as he'd agreed in advance, but he did make and I presume kept copious notes covering those hours of Hall's reminiscing much of which was not quite exactly as it was, some perhaps made up, but much also factual.

~~He~~ Hall and his lawyers, in fact, drove me home to save that big cab bill.

Hall borrowed some picture of himself I had of him and others in their so-called ^{w/} training camp off the Florida coast. He never returned them

Hall could be the kind of liar ^{Yuri's} mother said he was, in mailer's words, a "prodigious" liar. But he also did have the ^c experiences of which he spoke and he did from time tell the truth. His recollection of the Odio matter was as it had been those three days I'd spent with him when he was in the hospital. He was the kind of man who was capable of doing what he did was I left at the end of ^{that} the ^(in the Los Angeles hospital) third ~~day~~ day. He reached under his pillow and withdrew and pointed ^{at} me that ^{ed} I believe was a 38 caliber automatic pistol.

"This is what I had for you if you ^were were not for real," he said with a smile as he returned that ^a weapon to under his pillow. He'd gotten that pistol into the hospital and it was not ^e detected, how I cannot explain with the beds ^{daily} made and his not a short hospitalization.

end
412

There is more of a personal-experience nature I can add to this but it is not

if necessary to make the point that Mailer should have known that I had knowledge of what he wrote about, he had met me, he ~~had found that~~ ^{knew} I offered to help him all I could, and he was not interested in anything other than supporting the official mythology of the assassination. He preferred Posner's ~~disgines~~ ^{honesties} about Odio.

^{Mail} He also knew of the great volume of official records I ~~had~~ ^{had} acquired and made available to all ^w writing in the field and had offered to him.

He even knew this from Posner's book because of Posner's ~~thank~~ ⁱⁿ it for the three days of unsupervised ~~access~~ ^{access} to whatever he wanted and the use of our copier. Posner had had no interest in my ~~of~~ ^{of} Odio ~~file~~ ^{file} from what he wrote.

Because of my interest as reflected in my first book and later ^w writings about that matter I had interviewed a number of conservative ^{my} people in Dallas. ^{and who had lived there} They include the wealthy friends who had invited her ^{to} recuperate ^{with them} ~~with them~~ after serious surgery, several who knew her well from their activity with Cuban Catholic Cuban Relief, her priest who was also her ^{friend} ~~friend~~, and even ~~even~~ several relatives who did not live in ~~Dallas~~ Dallas.

Mailer's rehash begins with the Odio testimony I published in Whitewash (pages 622 ff). He then uses Commission information to indicate that at the time Odio specified Oswald ^{and} was en route to Mexico City. He even admits that the man Odio saw ~~as~~ ^{believed} was Oswald was an ~~imposter~~ ^{imposter}. Having admitted that he forgets it entirely.

By the time of the House ~~assassins~~ ^{is} committee Odio had moved to Florida. end
413
What Mailer ~~quotes~~ ^{is} says that ~~as~~ ^{is} as of the time the Commission finally asked the FBI to conduct a further investigation, which was eight months after it should have, the Commission's ~~report~~ ^{is} "report was already in galleys." In fact it was in page proof, with all the notes and the index completed, and the presses were about to roll. Those FBI reports, ~~so~~ ^{is} according to Wesley ~~is~~ ^{is} Liebler, reached him after dark ^{and} ~~and~~ the presses were to roll at midnight. I have his statement on what then happened on tape and the tape is transcribed.

He said he immediately went down the hall to Rankin's office and told him, "Mr. Rankin, we've got a problem." He then told Rankin what those FBI reports said.

Rankin hereg heard him out and then told him, "Correction, Mr. Liegeler. You have a problem and you have only a very short time in which to solve it."

So, in Liebel's^l account of himself as the boy with his finger in the dike, *which in effect he was* ~~he wrote the nonsequetur I quote above and had the~~ *not insignificant problems of not changing the length of that page or the number of or length of the notes or the same in any way altering* ~~the index.~~ Mailer's account, including none of the foregoing, even has the date on which the ^Rreport was printed wrong in two different ways, as he also gave the wrong time for the Commission's learning what it did. Giving details like that adds to credibility to the uninformed but it also exposes the ^Qignorance of the writer who makes such simple mistakes.

In pretending not to like the nasty things ~~Poser~~ ^lPosner write about Odio Mailer reprints them, giving them ever so much wider distribution, and at the same time avoids not only the truth - he avoids correct them. For example, Mailer writes:

"Posner writes that Silvia Hererra, her ~~[[Odio's]]~~ mother-in-law, 'went so far as to say that Odio was an excellent actress who could intelligently fabricate such an ~~incident~~ ^{episode} [as that visit to her apartment] if she wished.' Posner is not even calling on a ~~mother~~ ^{mother}-in-law to ^uake his case but an ex-mother-in-law" (page 629).

True but enormously understated as the records reflect. Hererra's son had abandoned Odio in Puerto Rico with ~~three~~ ^{four} small children and ^{d/}no means of support for herself or for them and the divorce was messy. ^{her son} Could Hererra ~~t~~ say that ~~he~~ ^{she} had abandoned the young Odio with their ^{n/}four small children, in a strange land and with no means of supporting herself or them?

Posner also had a highly prejudicial and unfaithful account of Odio and her alleged mental and physical capabilities and alleged ^{"metable" condition} "unstabillity" in an effort to make the story she told seem incredible. While Mailer seems to want to defend Odio and refute Posner, all the while giving much more and wider attention to what Posner said, he did not prepare himself to make any meaningful reputation. (pages 628-9)

When I wrote Case Open I used Posner's ^{cheap} ~~chief~~ prosecution-type brief against Oswald, which is what his book really is, as defense counsel would have used it in court if there had been a trial. In what I wrote I refuted Posner's stories ~~with~~ with the official evidence itself. ~~For~~ ~~Reasons~~ never explained to me about seventy-five per- cent of what I wrote was eliminated. ^{Eliminated was} (this part, the defense of Oswald and the refutation of the ~~cheap~~ ^{Jimmy} case Posner has ~~sys~~ ~~st~~ ~~shyster~~ed up. In it I went into considerable detail on ~~the~~ ^{Posner's} deliberate dishonesty about Odio, including with the medical ~~records~~ ^{reports} on her in the official ~~rec~~ ~~ords~~. What ~~Pos~~ Posner did as a dirty peice of business. ^{FVD.} ~~and~~ here is one ~~of~~ of the places where Mailer is critical of him, ^{but} yet despite these valid if greatly unade- quate criticisms Mailer makes of Posner he still used ~~him~~ ^{her} as a source throughout the book and on Odio, too. end 415

There is no impartial reading of the official records that does not conclude that Odio was responsible and testified truthfully, ~~despite~~ ~~all~~ the many ~~of~~ efforts to make it appear she made that story up. So far was that from the fact when she was ~~at~~ ~~work~~ and learned that Oswald ~~was~~ ~~arreste~~ arrested as the assassin she passed ~~out~~ and did not come back to consciousness until after she was in the hospital. That was no amateur ~~actress~~ playing any role.

Aft er having been goniffed by the KGB in Minsk in his ~~to~~ "Mexico" chapter (pages 633 ff) Mailer uses the palpable fiction of another of them, Oleg ~~Ne~~ ~~ch~~ ~~ip~~ ~~ore~~ ~~nto~~, Passpoart to Assassination so extensivley that in this chapter, for which Mailer has eleven source notes, nine are to that attempt to commercialize the assasstion and the other two are to Posner. Mailer quotes ~~Ne~~ ~~ch~~ ~~ip~~ ~~ore~~ ~~nto~~ as identifying the con- sular official who spoke to Oswald when he went to that Mexico city consulate seeking a visa to the Soviet Union ~~to~~ ^{yes} Valery Vladimir Kostikov. Nechiporenko claims he was, in Mailer's words, one of the three "KGB agents doubling as consular officials" to whom Oswald spoke. The CIA's summaries of all its electronic surveillances ~~of~~ that consulate which I have thanks to Anna Marie ~~uhns~~ ~~Ealko~~, identified as its Box 57 of ~~its~~ ~~dis~~ ~~cl~~ ~~os~~ ~~u~~ ~~r~~ ~~e~~ ~~s~~ under the historical records act but in actual anticiaption of greater disclosure being ~~com~~ ~~pl~~ ~~i~~ ~~l~~ ~~l~~ ~~y~~ ~~the~~ 1992 Act requiring dfull disclosure of all assassination records,

do not include Nechiporenko and refer to but two men to whom Oswald spoke. Those tape transcripts also make a liar of Nechiporenko on his claim that Kostikov put him on the phone when ^wOsald called (Pages 634-5),

In the official mythology Kostikov is said to have been an expert on what Mailer liked to refer to as "wet jobs," meaning assassination. So, having Oswald meet with him suggested strongly that the Soviets were behind the assassination. end 416

However, as the CIA's own records leave without any reasonable question, Oswald did not ^{see} ~~see~~ ^{HeRMM} ~~see~~ speak to Kostikov and did speak to Pavel Yatskov.

So, in that word he often likes, what Mailer has here is more bullshit.

That is how he began his Part V and it is how he ends it.

(without the KGB's merchandizing its records from which Schiller and Mailer expected so much that was not there Mailer would not have tried to commercialize what he believed the KGB would deliver in return for Schiller's money. Mailer has pretended that there was no such deal, that the KGB merely preferred him and Schiller to ~~use~~ make use of the records that from the kindness of the KGB heart ^{it} would ~~be~~ given to them.

On the other hand, Schiller, without giving any details, has admitted that he made a deal with the KGB for an amount of ^{money} ~~money~~ he has not disclosed. Mailer did not respond when ^{how much the KGB offered Schiller out of} ~~I asked him~~. But knowing full well that the KGB was seeking to make money of the assassination and knowing that he had gotten so little of any value ^{from it} ~~he~~ could not begin to think of publishing Oswald in Linsk, Mailer nonetheless treats the obvious fabrications of Nechiporenko as the unquestionable truth. I do not here repeat what I had already written about what the CIA's own records on that Mexico City business reflect, particularly from its own summary of those records in Box 57, because I did that in great detail in the chapters of Inside the JFK Assassination Industry devoted to Mark Riebling's distortion and misrepresentation of them in his book Wedge. ~~As~~ ^A an indication of what can be expected from those who like Mailer seek to exploit and commercialize the assassination in terms of their baseless preconceptions and with ~~specific~~ special formulas, where Riebling concludes that his imagined "wedge" that the FBI drove between it and the CIA led to the assassination, the exact opposite is the equally uninformed and

also preconceived conclusion of John Newman in his Oswald and the CIA (New York, Carroll & Graf, 1995), Newman concludes that it was the CIA that caused the assassination by withholding information from the ~~CIA~~^{FBI}. Like Mailer, neither is in any contact, no matter how remote, with the actualities as established by the official records of which they are ignorant or worse, of which they know and then suppress - without which they would not have had their books.)

end 417

end 418