

Dallas Times Herald said. The unidentified sender telegraphed Oswald \$10 to \$20 at a time.

Here apparently are some of the Western Union items about which the FBI has been so secretive — but why this secrecy? If the money came from the Communist Party, it is hard to understand why the FBI should cooperate in a Bolshevik plot. If it came from a right-wing or Fascist source, the FBI could not lose much by revealing it. But if the money came from a government source, then the agency's reticence is understandable.

Shortly before the assassination, Oswald seemed to be expecting better times:

Mrs. Ruth Paine, the woman with whom Marina was staying, said: "He seemed in exceptionally high spirits." [When he visited his wife the weekend prior to President Kennedy's arrival in Dallas.] Oswald told his wife "things are looking up" and that soon they would have enough to look for in an apartment, buy furniture. (Sunday Bulletin, Philadelphia, 12/15/63.)

If the FBI did not employ Oswald or work with him, then who wrote the letters he addressed to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New York? Oswald alone certainly didn't. Whoever wrote the letters to New York was coherent, commanded a good vocabulary, rarely misspelled a word, and punctuated decently. Oswald himself wrote English that a sixth-grader would blush to acknowledge. Here is a letter he wrote to his mother from Russia on June 28, 1963. I preserve the original spelling and punctuation:

Dear Mother.

Received your letter today in which you say you wish to pay me back the money you used last year, that, of course, is not necessary however you can send me some things from there every now and then.

If you decide to send a package please send the following:

One can Rise shaving cream (one razor) (Gillet)

Pocket novels westerns and science fiction — Time or Newsweek magazine

Chewing Gum and chocolate bars.

Thats about all. Ha-ha

I very much miss sometime to read you should try and get me the pocket novel "1984" by Wells.

I am working at the local Radio plant as a metall worker. We live

only five minutes from there so it is very convenient.

Well thats about all for now. I repeat you do not have to send me checks or money!

Love XX

Lee

P.S. Marina sends a big Hello to you also

Now compare this semi-literate effusion with the following addressed to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee about two years later. (A New York Times report on the letters to FPCC indicates that they were handwritten, so presumably no public stenographer improved their style.)

Dear Mr. Lee:

I was glad to receive your advice concerning my try at starting a New Orleans F.P.C.C. chapter.

I hope you won't be too disapproving at my innovations but I do think they are necessary for this area.

As per your advice I have taken a P.O. Box (N.O. 30061).

Against your advice I have decided to take an office from the very beginning.

I u c [apparently meaning, as you see] from the circular I had jumped the gun on the charter business but I don't think it's too important. You may think the circular is too provocative, but I want it to attract attention even if it's the attention of the lunatic fringe. I had 2,000 of them run off.

The major change in tactics you can see from the small membership blanks, in that I will charge \$1 a month dues for the New Orleans chapter only and I intend to issue N.O. F.P.C.C. membership cards also.

This is without recourse to the \$5 annual F.P.C.C. membership fee.

However, you will lose nothing in the long run because I will forward \$5 to the national F.P.C.C. for every New Orleans chapter member who remains a dues paying member for 5 months in any year. . . .

And so on for several more well-integrated paragraphs.

He now spells "receive" and "necessary" correctly. He has mastered the apostrophe. His ideas cohere. He tackles words like "innovations," "provocative," "recourse," "disapproving," "approaching" and "application" with success, something that would have been clearly beyond the powers of the voluntary exile in Minsk.

Until the authorship of the letters to FPCC is settled, I think it reasonable to suppose that Oswald did not compose them, at least not without help. Who, and where, is the invisible scribe? No associate of

his New Orleans period has been found, or even hinted at. If Oswald was employed by the FBI to operate in "Castro groups," as the news report suggests, it is also reasonable to suppose that in the letters to FPCC his pen was guided by the FBI.

It is no simple matter any longer for a radical American to get a passport from his government. If he is a known Communist or subversive, it is almost impossible. Let a man be known as a do-gooder, bleeding heart or a nonconforming screwball, and his application for travel will be greeted with jaundiced eye and dragging feet. But Lee Oswald got one readily as late as June, 1963.

One day last June, he applied for a passport and — despite his record — got it in a single day. He called himself a "photographer"; he said he planned to take a long trip abroad — perhaps including Russia — late this year. (Newsweek, 12/9/63.)

By that date, Oswald was known as a Soviet defector, had praised Castro on a radio program, and on November 2, 1959, had written an affidavit saying, "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic." But his passport application was granted—and posthaste! "It still isn't clear how it was processed so rapidly," commented the New York Herald Tribune.

Oswald's apartment, too, was filled with fascinating things. Besides the batches of leaflets with the legend "Hands Off Cuba!" and bearing the unauthorized imprint of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, police found seven metal file boxes filled with names of Castro sympathizers. How did he manage, in so short a time, to compile so extensive a list?

The FBI appears once more in Oswald's news life during the last two days before he was killed. One report details two telephone calls made by FBI agents to the Dallas Police on November 24, warning them of threats against Oswald's life. The threats materialized later the same day under circumstances which raised a forest of questions throughout the world.

Equally puzzling, his mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, has insisted that an agent of the FBI showed her a photograph of Jack