

William K Stucky

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Q. Do you think that the United States government, under President Eisenhower, ever wanted to help the Castro regime? Ever offered or showed any help to it?

A. True to our democratic policies, certain policies were adopted, very late, but adopted, but the government (U.S.) helped Fidel Castro while he was still in the ~~the~~ mountains, that is very true. We cut off aid to Batista just before the revolution, just before it. That was too late. We had already done more harm than we could have done before. ~~That's~~ We were just rats leaving a sinking ship, you see.

In digested form, taken from that taped interview, here are other progganda points emphasized by Oswald

- All Cuban refugees are either Batista supporters, are lazy or are uneducated.
- The U.S. drove Castro into Russian arms by first cutting the Cuban sugar quota.
- The U.S. and U.S. private companies completely controlled the economy of Cuba before Castro, and complete controls the ecobony and political life of most Latin nations today. ~~The~~
- The countries which have abstained, in Organization of American States meetings, in supporting anti-Cuban resolutions are those larger countries which are relatively self-sufficient and which are not subject to the control of the U.S. — Mexico, Brazil, Chile, etc. (It is interesting that he left out Bolivia, which is almost completely subject to use U.S. aid for its day-to-day federal operating budget.)

Following this taped interview, Oswald left. In reflection, I was struck by his accent. It was not a Texas or a conventional New Orleans or southern ~~and~~ accent. Instead, it bore a closer resemblance to a mid-Western accent.

The following Monday, I asked WDSU news director John Corporan if he was interested in playing the entire 37-minute tape. Eventually, he said he was not. Instead, he suggested that I arrange a panel show for the 25-minute WDSU radio program "Conversation Carte

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For the panel, I invited the Cuban refugee Carlos Bringuier, who was also the New Orleans delegate of the ~~Student~~ ^{STUDENT} Revolutionary Directorate, a violently anti-Castro group based in Miami, and Mr. Edward Scannell Butler. Mr. Butler ~~is~~ is the director of a New Orleans-based organization called the Information Council of the Americas, (INCA), which makes and sends Spanish-language tape recordings of interviews with refugees from Cuba or other red nations to 126 radio stations in 16 Latin American nations. These are called "Truth Tapes." Mr. Butler is also an advocate of conflict management — counter propaganda, action groups which are trained to seized control of Communist demonstrations — as the answer to reducing the Communist advance in the Americas.

When Oswald called me that Monday to see if he was to appear on another show, I told him about the panel.

"How many of you am I going to have to fight?" he said, with a touch of humor.

On the day of the panel, I first discovered through news sources that Oswald had lived in Russia. Later that day, Butler called me and said his own sources had ~~told him~~ given him similar information. We agreed then to confront Oswald with this while the panel was on the air.

News announcer Bill Slater of WDSU asked me to give a brief introduction on the panel, and I reviewed the highlights of the previous 37-minute conversation, then confronted Oswald with the information on his residence in Russia. He admitted this on the air. Later, after he denied being a Communist, I asked, "Are you a Marxist?" and he answered affirmatively.

Oswald never lost his composure.

(the transcript of that "Conversation Carte Blanche" broadcast has already been released.)

We had some uncomfortable moments before this "Conversation Carte Blanche" broadcast.

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Oswald was punctual, as usual. We arrived at the station about 45 minutes before the panel was to begin. The ~~my~~ conversations between he, Bringuier and Butler were frosty and strained. Bringuier said, as I recall, "you made a very good impression on me at first. How ~~my~~ could a nice boy like you get involved with an organization like that? Any time you want to renounce ~~your~~ your ties and join my group (The Revolutionary Student Directorate) you will be welcome."

Oswald replied that his conviction ^{was} that his own ~~causes~~ causes were just ^{and were} just as deep as Bringuier's .

They all remained seated in the lobby and waited without talking ^{further} until the time of the ~~broadcast~~ broadcast.

But it was after the broadcast that I had my most revealing conversation with Oswald.

He looked awkward and uncomfortable in his iron-gray, Iron Curtain flannel suit.

He asked me if I was going home, and then I invited him for a beer. We went to a nearby bar at Royal and Toulouse, in the French Quarter, on that night of August 21, 1963. For the first time, the conversation was casual. I asked Oswald if any event in his personal life had led him to Marxism, to Russia and to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He answered:

"It wasn't from my family. They were pretty typical New Orleans types and don't understand ideas like these. For any one who is interested in the subject, though, all he has to do is to go to the public libraries. There are many books on these subjects there."

He said he had began reading Marx, Engels and others at the age of 15. But possibly his most significant comment on his background was this:

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He said it was when he was stationed in Japan with the Marine Corps — "and saw the terrible conditions of life there, how the people lived" — that he made up his mind to go to Russia. Marxism, he concluded then, was the best means evolved to date to solve the human problems.

His comments ~~xxx~~ on life in Russia, again, were candid and disarming.

"I was disappointed with Russia," he said. "It wasn't what I expected. In many ways, it's just as bad as it is here. In the factory where I worked, I saw a lot of selfishness and ineptness. It seems like they are trying to copy many of our ideas about the economy and about production, many capitalist ideas. They are a long way from true Communism."

I then got the idea that Oswald was possibly a young man who was shopping for the perfect revolution. This tendency, his conversation indicated, led him to espouse the ~~xxx~~ revolution of Fidel Castro.

At home, he said, he was also reading books on Indonesian Communism and on Sukarno. He added that he felt Sukarno was only an opportunist who was using the Communists, not a Communist himself.

He was having trouble drinking his beer, and declined a second. He didn't appear to care much money.

In trying to explain some of his views to me, he sometimes adopted the attitude that he was wasting his time because "you couldn't of course understand this." This also strengthened my impression that Oswald regarded himself — but without really offensive arrogance — as a man living among intellectual inferiors.

"You know, most of you think that Russia and the Iron Curtain countries are all alike," he remarked. "That's not true. Each country — Poland, Hungary, China, Cuba — have their own separate national identities."

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Since President Kennedy's murder, there have been many news reports indicating that Oswald was "gun happy." This was never apparent during our conversations. If it had been, I can assure you that there would have been no conversations.

In that meeting, I almost felt a little sorry for Oswald. His Russian background had been exposed to the public earlier that evening, and in the minds of New Orleanians who might have otherwise believed this neat and intelligent young man, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was inextricably connected with Russia. He even made the comment, "well, you've done your job."

With that, we shook hands. Oswald said he was going home by bus and left me at the corner of Toulouse and Royal in New Orleans' French Quarter, walking off into the moist night in his heavy iron-gray, Iron Curtain flannel suit.

I never saw him again.

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K. Stucky
25, 1963

Addenda

Oswald admitted to me, in our private conversation following the "Conversation with Blanche" program that "In Russia, they never would permit anything like the Fair Play for Cuba Committee to exist. Life is very bland there. They have eliminated all the dissenters."

On the morning of Aug. 17, Oswald showed me his membership card in the New Orleans chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. It was signed by _____ Hilda, president. (The Dallas District Attorney said yesterday that the gun that killed Kennedy was purchased through the mail by Oswald - using the assumed name of Hilda).

Make reference to cheap sugar in Russia.
"AZACAR Cubinski was offered in the store, while I was in Russia. I guess that our benefit Russia has gotten out of Russia."