

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Oswald Not A Communist?

By MAE BRUSSELL

(Mrs. A. W. Brussell of Carmel Valley has submitted the following article. She takes the view that Lee Harvey Oswald was not a Communist, as opposed to Henry J. Taylor whose articles on the subject here appeared from time to time on this page.)

The articles by Henry Taylor regarding Lee Harvey Oswald and his Cuban, New Orleans activities, do not in my opinion agree with the documents in the hearings and testimony before the commission.

If Lieut. T. Drake, chief of the Police Department of Intelligence in New Orleans, and Chief of Police J. Giarrusso, knew so much about Oswald's files and activities in New Orleans, how is it that neither of these men were ever called as witnesses or mentioned in the Warren Report?

They called ex-ladles when Lee was an infant, and a friend of a deceased baby sitter, so surely there was time and room for New Orleans officials with any information?

Mr. Taylor said these men "opened for this writer the arrest file of Lee Oswald." All there is to know about Oswald's arrest is in the 26 volumes, including the fact that the first person he called from the jail when arrested was the New Orleans FBI agent.

This is unusual, being

as he was getting ready to go back to Russia and this could hamper his passport qualifications. The implication that they "reopened" his file makes it sound very mysterious.

When the same Police Lieut. Martello is mentioned with reference to the fact that Oswald "did not want to teach his children English," Mr. Taylor did not continue to tell you what else Martello said.

Francis Martello had been an instructor at the New Orleans Police Academy. He was deputy commander of the Intelligence division of New Orleans Police Department, and is now platoon commander in the First District Police Department.

Volume X, pages 51-52, including the following remarks of Lieut. Martello who spent much time with Oswald and dictated extensive records on his New Orleans activities.

"I asked Oswald if he was a Communist and he said he was not."

"I asked him what his opinion was of the form of communism in Russia since he had lived there for two years and he said, 'it stunk'."

"He had a nonchalant attitude. He had done a heck of a lot of reading in his lifetime and his approach was academic, more or less theories but with no aggressiveness or emotional outbursts in any way, shape, or form."

Regarding the incident of Oswald's arrest while handing out pamphlets in New Orleans, "He seemed to have set them up, so to speak, to create the incident, but when the incident occurred he remained absolutely peaceful and gentle."

"As far as ever dreaming or thinking that Oswald would do what it is alleged that he has done, I would bet my head on a chopping block that he wouldn't do it."

A long list of Russian names, dates, a post office box number, an alias does not necessarily link Mr. Oswald with the Cubans. J. Edgar Hoover testified that Oswald "was not an agent because our agents use an alias." How confusing can they get?

Mr. Taylor has taken the word of two men never called or mentioned, as I said before, as against that of Martello, a man of long standing with the New Orleans Police Department.

The longer information is not challenged, the harder it is going to be for the American citizen when he discovers the truth regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. He was no "crackpot." Mr. Taylor is correct about that.

It would not speak well for our major intelligence and investigative agencies who taught Oswald Russian, paid his way to and from Russia, gave him a "job" in New Orleans.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11 Monterey Peninsula Herald

Monterey, Calif.

Date: 1/17/67  
Edition: Eve.  
Author: Mae Brussell  
Editor: F. K. Arthur, Jr.