

Date November 30, 1963

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MELVIN STACEY COFFEY, 616 North Pierce Street, who is employed by Chrysler Corporation, Michoud Plant, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that he has lived in New Orleans most of his life. COFFEY said he has known DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE for the past eight or nine years. He related that in 1953 he started hanging around the CAP Squadron at Moisant Airport, but at that time was too young to join the unit. He said that he finally joined the Moisant Squadron of CAP in early 1954 and at that time either JOE LISMAN, an employee of Delta Airlines, or a Captain YOUNG was the Commandant. COFFEY said that later, during the time he was a member of the Moisant Squadron, the Commandant changed, but he does not recall the identity of this individual.

COFFEY said that when he first joined the Moisant Squadron, the entire membership, including cadets and senior members, was small, totaling approximately 15. He said that the membership of the squadron wavered between 15 and 30 members until 1956 when it grew to 50 - 70 members. COFFEY said he left the squadron in August or September, 1957.

COFFEY said that DAVID FERRIE was never directly associated with the Moisant Squadron, but FERRIE was a member of the New Orleans Squadron at the New Orleans Airport. He advised that the only time in his recollection that FERRIE had any direct association with the Moisant Squadron, was on one weekend when FERRIE coordinated a bivouac.

COFFEY stated that he entered the U. S. Army in November, 1958, and was honorably discharged in February, 1962, and that during the time he was in the service he saw DAVID FERRIE only on occasions when he was home on leave.

COFFEY said beginning in February, 1962, he started visiting DAVID FERRIE's home about once a month and during the intervening year it has finally built up to the point where in the past six or seven months he has visited FERRIE's home approximately two or three times each week. COFFEY stated that he does not recall anyone by the name of LEE HARVEY OSWALD as a member of or attending any meetings or activities of the Moisant Squadron of CAP. A photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD was exhibited to COFFEY at which time he advised that he does

On 11/29/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69
 by SA ERNEST C. WALL, JR. /cjo Date dictated 11/30/63

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now know OSWALD and he is unable to associate the photograph of OSWALD with any individual he knows. COFFEY further stated that he has never met anyone at DAVID FERRIE's home, nor has he been introduced to anyone by DAVID FERRIE by the name of LEE OSWALD and he has no recollection of FERRIE ever having mentioned anyone by that name. COFFEY stated that he has never met anyone at the home of DAVID FERRIE or been introduced to anyone by DAVID FERRIE by the names of V. T. LEE, O. H. LEE, ROBERT HIDELL, A. J. HIDELL, or ALEK JAMES HIDELL.

COFFEY informed that DAVID FERRIE owns a Stinson High Wing Monoplane which accommodates four passengers. He said that FERRIE's plane is located at the New Orleans Airport and to the best of his knowledge this plane has not been air-worthy for quite some time. He stated that the wings of the plane needed to be re-covered. COFFEY stated that he does not know exactly the period of time FERRIE's plane has been laid up and does not recall the last time FERRIE used his plane. However, he heard ALVIN BEAUBOUF talking about a flight he and FERRIE made around the New Orleans area either during Mardi Gras, 1963, or a year ago. COFFEY said he has never known FERRIE using his plane to fly to Cuba nor does he have any knowledge of FERRIE using any other plane for a trip to Cuba.

COFFEY stated on November 20, 1963, ALVIN BEAUBOUF mentioned to him that he and FERRIE planned to take a trip, possibly to Houston, Texas, for the purpose of relaxing and inquired as to whether he would be interested in accompanying them. COFFEY stated that he contacted his supervisor and made necessary arrangements to make the trip with BEAUBOUF and FERRIE. He stated that at the time they were undecided as to whether they would go to Houston, Texas, or to Florida. However, DAVID FERRIE and BEAUBOUF were particularly interested in ice skating and for that reason they were in favor of going to Houston, Texas. COFFEY said that to the best of his knowledge, DAVID FERRIE placed a call to an ice skating rink in Houston, Texas, on Thursday night, to determine whether there was an ice skating rink in Houston and whether it was open at that time.

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COFFEY stated that FERRIE picked both he and BEAUBOUF up on Friday evening, November 22, 1963, and they left New Orleans in FERRIE's Comet station wagon and drove to John Paul's Restaurant in Kenner where they ate supper. He said they left Kenner between 9:00 and 9:30 PM that night and traveled by way of Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and on to Houston, Texas.

COFFEY stated that they arrived in Houston, Texas, at approximately 4:30 AM, November 23, 1963, and checked into the Altamotel. He stated that they did not leave the motel that morning, but retired shortly after their arrival. He stated that to the best of his recollection, they arose at approximately 2:00 PM and that the three of them went to Sears, Roebuck and Company where they purchased jackets and sweaters. COFFEY stated that they then went to Winterland Skating Rink where they went ice skating for a while and later contacted the owner of the skating rink. COFFEY related that FERRIE was interested in the possibility of opening a skating rink in New Orleans and talked to the owner of the Winterland Skating Rink concerning the cost of installation and operation of a skating rink.

After leaving the skating rink, they returned to the motel where they remained until approximately 7:30 or 8:00 PM, at which time they checked out. They stopped to eat at an unknown restaurant and then proceeded to Galveston, Texas. He stated that they arrived at Galveston, Texas, at approximately 11:00 or 11:30 PM and checked into the Driftwood Motel and retired for the night.

COFFEY stated that they arose early on the morning of November 24, 1963, and after having breakfast, drove to Port Arthur, Texas. He said that they purchased a set of spark plugs for the Comet station wagon at an unknown service station in Port Arthur, Texas. They then drove through Orange, Texas, and after crossing the Louisiana State Line, stopped at a bar and restaurant operated by an individual known only to him by the name of BUSTER. COFFEY said that FERRIE knew BUSTER and that after FERRIE had conversation with BUSTER of approximately one-half hour, they proceeded to Alexandria, Louisiana.

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COFFEY stated that ALVIN BEAUBOUET had relatives in Alexandria and that they planned to "socialize" while in Alexandria and then return to New Orleans. He said that after arriving in Alexandria, DAVID FERRIE attempted to contact Attorney G. WRAY GILL, but was unsuccessful in contacting him. FERRIE then called his home and learned from LAYTON MARTENS that allegations had been made involving FERRIE in the assassination of President KENNEDY. COFFEY said that after learning this, they immediately returned to New Orleans and that on arrival in New Orleans FERRIE dropped him at his home.

COFFEY stated that he has never heard DAVID FERRIE make any statement that he thought President KENNEDY should be killed and has never heard him outline any plans or make any comments as to how this could be done or how should do it.