

stuff would just be brought . . . a bunch of fellows connected with the Cuban deal asked to leave it there overnight." It was all right, assured Banister. "I have approval from somebody."  
The "somebody" one can surmise from the Gordon Novel episode which follows, was the CIA. Novel is wanted by the DA as a material witness in the 1961 burglary of the Schlumberger Well Co. munitions dump near New Orleans. Subpoenaed by the grand jury last March, Novel fled to McLean, Virginia, next door to the CIA complex at Langley, and took a lie detector test administered by a former Army intelligence officer which, he boasted to the press, proved Garrison's probe was a fraud. He then skipped first to Montreal and then to Columbus, Ohio, from where Governor James Rhodes, in one of the most absurd stipulations ever attached to a normally routine procedure, refuses to extradite him unless Garrison agrees not to question him on the assassination.

From his Ohio sanctuary the fugitive cryptically asserted that the munitions caper was one of "the most patriotic burglaries in history." When an enterprising reporter took him to a marathon party, Novel's indiscreet tongue loosened further. According to the States-Item article, Novel's oft-repeated account was that the munitions bunker was a CIA staging point for war materiel destined for use in the impending Bay of Pigs invasion. He is quoted as saying that on the day the munitions were picked up, he "was called by his CIA contact and told to join a group which was ordered to transport munitions from the bunker to New Orleans." The key to the bunker was provided by his CIA contact. Novel reportedly said the others in the CIA group at the bunker were David Ferrie, Sergio Arcacha Smith—New Orleans delegate to the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front—and several Cubans. The munitions, according to his account, were dropped in Novel's office, Ferrie's home and Banister's office-storeroom.

Ferrie worked on and off for Banister as an investigator, and the mutual affinity was such that in 1962, when Eastern Air Lines was in the process of dismissing Ferrie for publicity over alleged homosexual acts, Banister appeared at a Miami hearing and delivered an impassioned plea on his behalf. When Banister suddenly died, the ex-pilot evidently

acquired part of his pile. He realized he was a prime suspect in Garrison's probe, Ferrie systematically disposed of his papers and documents for the years 1962 and 1963. But in photocopying the bibliography of a cancer paper he had written (at one time he had caged mice in his home on which he experimented with cancer implants), he inadvertently overlapped the bottom portion of notes recording the disposition. Included is the notation: "Copies of B's [presumably Banister's] memo on files to Atlanta rite-wingers [sic]."

The Banister files were reputed to be the largest collection of "anti-communist intelligence" in Louisiana, and part were sold by his widow to the Sovereignty Commission, a sort of state HUAC, where a Garrison investigator was able to examine them. Banister's filing system was modeled after the FBI's, and contained files on both friends and foes. The "10" and "23"-classification dealt with Cuban matters; 23-5, for example, was labeled Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front and 10-209 simply Cuban File. There was a main file, 23-14, labeled Shaw File, but someone had completely stripped it before Garrison's man got there.

The Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front, which occupied what was grandiosely called Suite 6 at 544 Camp Street, was the coalition of Cuban exile "liberation" groups operating under CIA aegis that mounted the Bay of Pigs invasion. Arcacha, the New Orleans delegate of the Miami-based organization, is a dapper, moustachioed man who had served in Batista's diplomatic corps. There are numerous witnesses who attest that he was a confidant of Banister and Ferrie, and that his office was a way station for the mixed bag of Cuban exiles and American adventurers involved in the "liberation" movement. Late in 1962, the Front closed up shop, at which time Arcacha became a founder of the Crusade to Free Cuba, a paramilitary group of militant right wingers. In March 1963, he moved to Houston, Texas. Early in his investigation, Garrison charged Arcacha with being a party to the munitions burglary with Novel and Ferrie, but by this time he was living in Dallas, where he refused to talk to the DA's men without Dallas police and assistant DA Bill Alexander present. When Garrison obtained an arrest warrant and sought to extradite

him, Texas Governor John C. would not sign the papers.

As for Oswald and 544 Camp, Garrison declares that "we have witnesses who can testify they saw Oswald there on a number of occasions. One witness is David L. Lewis, in Banister's stable of investigators late 1962. Lewis says, he was a coffee in the restaurant next to 544 Street when Cuban exile Carlos C. who was a close to Arcacha, came a congressman he introduced as I. wahl. A few days later, Lev Quiroga, Oswald and Ferrie took 544 Camp Street. A few days after he barged into Banister's office interrupted a meeting between B. Quiroga, Ferrie and Leon Oswald not until he was interviewed by G. that Lewis concluded that Leon was probably Lee Harvey Oswald, ing that the "natural deaths of and Ferrie were strikingly similar. Lewis has slipped into seclusion.

[CIA: THE COMMON DENOMINATOR]

ON OR ABOUT THE NIGHT of September 16, 1963, a non- Leon Oswald, the brilliant David Ferrie, and a executive-type man named Clem Bertrand discussed a guerrilla ambush President Kennedy in Ferrie's ment. There was talk of "triangling of fire . . . the availability of exit . . . man had to be sacrificed to give the one or two gunmen time to escape out of the country would be plane flown by Ferrie. This was the testimony of Perry Ray Russo at a preliminary hearing to Shaw, accused by Garrison of complicity in the assassination. Russo identified Leon Oswald as Lee Harvey Oswald, Clem Bertrand as Clay Shaw.

What would bring three such disparate men together in the first One possible answer: the CIA.

On the fringe of downtown New Orleans, the building at 544 Camp Street, across the street from the government building which in 1963 housed the CIA headquarters. One block away 640 Magazine Street, is the Will Reilly Co., a coffee firm where Oswald was employed that pivotal summer worked from May 10 to July 19, 1963, a total of \$548.41 (Commission E-1154). Despite this, he did not hard put to support Marina and

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