

506 14th Street  
Charlottesville, Va,  
22903  
January 24, 1976

Dear Ms. Meagher,

Since I last wrote you I have been doing research in the National Archives on Oswald's trip to Mexico City and his movements immediately preceding it. After reading your section on Sylvia Odio in Accessories, I decided to do a study on whether Oswald visited Odio. Enclosed is my paper on the subject. I hope you find it worthwhile.

Naturally I welcome any comments you might have on my work. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope if you care to respond.

You might note that I have also enclosed copies of the Fuchs and Fisher interviews which you correctly noted in Accessories (Pg. 382) were not in the Hearings and Exhibits. It is interesting that the very next page after these interviews, C.D. 170, pg. 16, is still withheld from research.

I have run into some well known figures in the Archives, including Orestes Pena, Jones Harris, and Seth Kantor. Kantor was researching some story which he wouldn't disclose. He said he was favorably impressed with your book, but did note one thing concerning him which he thought was inaccurate. He was quoted as saying the security in the Dallas police basement was lax. Kantor said as for him, this was not the case at all and he doesn't know where you got that from.

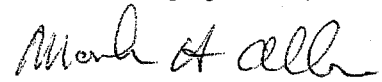
I am, of course very pleased to hear your book will be be

reprinted in the Spring. My best wishes for a best seller.

I am told the House will hold hearings on the Downing bill within the next few weeks. Naturally the critics will be watching developments on this front with a great deal of interest.

I certainly hope that your health is good and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Allen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mark A. Allen

## Could Oswald Have Visited Sylvia Odio ?

### His Movements September 23-26

Sylvia Odio, a Cuban emigree living in Dallas testified that Lee Harvey Oswald, accompanied by two men who claimed to be members of an anti-Castro organization, visited her apartment in late September, 1963.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Odio believed the visit took place between 6 and 9 pm on either September 26 or 27. She conceded, however, it could have been the 25th.<sup>2</sup>

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald did not visit Sylvia Odio as she claimed.<sup>3</sup> U. S. - Mexican boarder records appear to firmly place Oswald in Mexico the nights of September 26 and 27.<sup>4</sup> Marina Oswald, Ruth Paine, and several of Oswald's neighbors place him in New Orleans until the 23d.<sup>5</sup> Therefore the focus of this analysis is on the period September 23 to 26.

Following are the Commission's conclusions concerning Oswald's movements during this critical period:

After helping Mrs. Paine and Marina pack the Oswald belongings into the Paine station wagon, Lee Oswald saw his family and Mrs. Paine off on the morning of September 23.<sup>6</sup> He stayed at his apartment that night, possibly continuing to pack for his impending trip.<sup>7</sup>

At an unspecified time the next day, Oswald visited the Louisiana Division of Employment Security, 630 Camp Street, to file an unemployment claim.<sup>8</sup> He returned to his apartment and in the early evening left hurriedly with two bags to catch a bus headed downtown.<sup>9</sup>

He stayed in New Orleans that night, perhaps returning unnoticed to his apartment or staying at an inexpensive hotel or roominghouse.<sup>10</sup>

Sometime between 5:00am and 10:20am on the 25th he picked up an unemployment check at his post office box at the Lafayette Square sub-station.<sup>11</sup> At the same time he mailed a post office change of address card.<sup>12</sup> After 8:00am and prior to 12 noon he cashed the check at Winn Dixie Store #1425, 4303 Magazine Street.<sup>13</sup>

At 12:20pm he boarded Continental Trailways bus no. 5121,<sup>14</sup> having purchased a ticket from New Orleans to Houston. Shortly after arriving in Houston at 10:50pm<sup>15</sup> Oswald called the home of Horace Elroy Twiford, a national committeeman at large for the Socialist Labor Party.<sup>16</sup> Mr. Twiford was not at home,<sup>17</sup> but Mrs. Twiford made a note of Oswald's call to remind her husband when he returned.<sup>18</sup>

About an hour later, around midnight, Oswald went to the ticket counter of E. P. Hammett and inquired about the price of a ticket to Laredo and to Mexico City.<sup>19</sup> After some discussion Oswald returned later to purchase ticket no. 112230 to Laredo.<sup>20</sup>

At 2:35 am the 26th Oswald left Houston aboard bus no. 5133.<sup>21</sup> About 6:00am, after it became light, Oswald was noticed on the bus by John and Meryl McFarland, an English couple touring North America.<sup>22</sup> At 8:15am the bus reached Corpus Christi where Oswald changed to bus run no. 304.<sup>23</sup> At 1:20 pm that day the bus reached Laredo, Texas.<sup>24</sup>

The Commission's evidence for these conclusions will now be examined. The strengths and weaknesses of this evidence will then be analyzed in terms of the Sylvia Odio case.

On September 20 Ruth Faine and her two small children arrived in New Orleans by car to take Marina, her infant child June and the Oswald belongings back to Irving, Texas,<sup>25</sup> A few days later, on September 22,

Oswald was observed by his landlord, Jesse Garner, packing the Paine station wagon.<sup>26</sup> Garner decided to inquire, as Oswald was a few weeks behind on his rent.<sup>27</sup> Oswald assured him, according to Garner, that though his wife and child were leaving temporarily, he would remain.<sup>28</sup>

On the following day, the 23d, the Paines, Marina and June Oswald departed New Orleans for Irving, Texas.<sup>29</sup> Mrs. Paine established this day by recalling that the group stayed at a Texas motel that night. The F.B.I. located the establishment, where a registration card for Ruth Paine was located for the night of the 23d.<sup>29</sup>

According to Ruth Paine and Marina, Oswald was there to greet them off when they left New Orleans that morning.<sup>30</sup> Oswald was next seen waiting to board a bus at a stop near his home between 4:00 and 5:00pm that day by Mrs. Jesse Garner, the wife of his landlord.<sup>31</sup>

Little else is known about Oswald's movements that day. The Commission never established where Oswald went that afternoon, nor did anyone witness his return to his apartment. A neighbor, Mrs. Alexander Lames, did recall seeing a light on in the Oswald apartment that night,<sup>32</sup> and Jesse Garner believed he heard Oswald packing there between 7:00 and 7:30pm.<sup>33</sup>

On the next day, Tuesday the 24th, Oswald apparently visited the Louisiana Division of Employment Security, 630 Camp Street, to file an unemployment claim.<sup>34</sup> Oswald filled out and signed an interstate claim form in the presence of a claims interviewer, Fredrick Christen.<sup>35</sup> The claims form was dated the 24th, and this is consistent with Oswald having visited the agency every Tuesday for the past two months.<sup>36</sup> It is possible however, that Oswald visited the agency the previous day, the 23d. The claims interviewer, Fredrick Christen, apparently had no independent recollection of Oswald and was only able to refer to his records.<sup>37</sup> It is not clear from reading the relevant Commission Exhibits how many records were kept of Oswald's visit the 24th. If "records"

only refer to the claim form Oswald filled out, then it should be noted that the only date on the form was filled out by Oswald himself.<sup>38</sup> It is possible that Oswald intended to leave New Orleans early the 24th and decided to make his weekly trip a day early. If he were allowed to do so, he might have postdated the form to conform with the agency's records.

Nevertheless, two eyewitnesses do place Oswald in New Orleans until late the afternoon of the 24th. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rogers saw Oswald hurriedly leaving his apartment with two bags in the "late afternoon or evening" the day after they remembered the Paine station wagon left.<sup>39</sup> According to their testimony Oswald caught and boarded a bus headed for downtown at a stop near their home.<sup>40</sup> While the Commission did not press the Rogers' for the exact time they witnessed Oswald's departure, Mr. Rogers did tell the F.B.I. that it was "just before dark and the street lights had not yet been turned on."<sup>41</sup> Weather Bureau records showed that sunset was at 5:55pm that day.<sup>42</sup> Street lights in New Orleans went on 22 minutes after sunset on a clear day and as early as 12 minutes on a cloudy one.<sup>43</sup> Bureau records further showed that the 24th was a cloudy day.<sup>44</sup> If Rogers' memory is correct, then Oswald caught his bus around 6:07pm. But further cooperation of Rogers' observations is given by the New Orleans Public Service, Inc. At 6:07 a bus driven Earl Spencer Anderson was scheduled to ~~have~~ arrived at Oswald's bus stop.<sup>45</sup> Anderson is the local bus driver mentioned in the Warren Report who recalled a passenger boarding his bus with two suitcases sometime in late September.<sup>46</sup> The passenger, Anderson recalled, asked for directions to the Greyhound Bus station.<sup>47</sup> Anderson let him off where he could catch a connecting bus there.<sup>48</sup> It would seem then that around 6:07pm is at least a reasonable guess for the time Oswald left his apartment.

The Rogers are the last witnesses to positively place Oswald in New Orleans. Nothing is known about Oswald's movements this night. Since the

night of the 24th not only immediately precedes Oswald's alleged visit to Sylvia Odio but his suspicious trip to Mexico City as well, the lack of knowledge in this area is particularly significant. The Warren Report only states that "Oswald's whereabouts on the night of September 24 are uncertain, but in view of his limited finances, he probably returned to the apartment to sleep after checking his luggage at a bus station or spent the night at an inexpensive hotel or roominghouse."<sup>49</sup> If Oswald did stay at an inexpensive hotel or roominghouse that night, the F.B.I. was unable to locate it. An extensive survey of inexpensive lodging in the downtown New Orleans area failed to turn up a sign of Oswald.<sup>50</sup> If he returned to his apartment, he did so unheard and unseen by neighbors who paid remarkably close attention to his movements. And if he checked his bags at the bus station, no baggage handler was interviewed who remembered something as unusual as someone checking their bags overnight. We know very little then, about Oswald's movements the night of the 24th.

Another piece of evidence concerning Oswald's presence in New Orleans is a post office change of address card mailed in New Orleans and filled out by Oswald himself.<sup>51</sup> Postal authorities told the F.B.I. that the card, stamped 11:00am September 25 at the Main Post Office in New Orleans,<sup>52</sup> could have been mailed as early as 5:00pm the 24th in an outlying section of the city or as late as 10:30am the 25th at the Main Post Office.<sup>53</sup> The Commission concluded that when Oswald picked up his unemployment check at the Lafayette Square Substation the morning of the 25th (which will be dealt with next) he then mailed his change of address card.<sup>54</sup> They noted that mail delivered to the substation by 10:20am would arrive at the Main Post Office in time to bear an 11:00am postmark.<sup>55</sup>

Unless Oswald had a confederate mail the card, the evidence suggests that he was in New Orleans until at least 5:00pm the 24th. This, of course, is

consistent with the testimony of Eric Rogers.

The Commission concluded that Oswald did not leave New Orleans until at least 8:00am September 25. It based this finding on a Texas unemployment check issued to Lee H. Oswald and cashed at Winn Dixie #1425, a New Orleans grocery store. Neither the store stamp nor the markings of the store employees on the back of the check preclude from being cashed the afternoon of the 24th instead of the morning of the 25th. The date of the cashing was not recorded and the employees involved in the transaction, cashier Thelma Fisher and manager J.D. Fuchs both worked the afternoon of the 24th and the morning of the 25th. Instead, the Commission's assertion that Oswald cashed the check the 25th is based on their conclusion that the warrant did not reach Oswald's post office box until 5:00am that morning.

The unemployment check in question was prepared at the Texas Employment Commission Building in Austin, Texas on September 23. Jack Burcham, Chief of Unemployment Insurance, advised the F.B.I. that Texas Employment Commission records show that Oswald's warrant was prepared in a group of warrants completed at 2:20pm that day. It was then sent to the mail room for stuffing and mailing by August Michtom, Supervising Claims Examiner. Records further show that at 4:32pm Vurl Collins, Mail Services Supervisor, received a call from Michtom's office advising the accounts were properly balanced and the warrants could be placed in the mail. Burcham further advised the F.B.I. that a U.S. mail truck picked up all mail at the mail room of the Texas Employment Commission building at 5:15pm.

Mail picked up at 5:15pm would have left Austin at 10:00pm by truck via Central Freight Lines. Post Office records show that the truck reached Houston at 2:40am the 24th, ahead of schedule. Jacob Lutzi, Jr., General Superintendent of Mails, Houston, Texas, advised that mail from that truck would "invariably" proceed from Houston to New Orleans via Southern Pacific train #2, which his records showed left Houston at 9:45am, 20 minutes be-



hind schedule.<sup>65</sup>

Records of Henry J. Tio, Post Office Transfer Clerk at New Orleans, showed that Southern Pacific train #2 arrived in New Orleans at 6:00pm, September 24.<sup>66</sup> By 6:40pm Oswald's warrant would have reached the main Branch of the New Orleans Post Office.<sup>67</sup> According to Marcus M. McWaters, the mail would have arrived at the Incoming section of the Main Post Office and then been transferred to the Primary section.<sup>68</sup> Sometime during the night mail bound for the Lafayette substation, where Oswald's unemployment check was sent, would have been sorted into a separate bin.<sup>69</sup> Mr. McWaters further advised that his records showed that the Lafayette Square substation closed for the day at 5:45pm the 24th, with no employees working the evening hours.<sup>70</sup> Mail bound for the substation then, was not transferred there until the first employees arrived there at 4:40am the 25th.<sup>71</sup> Oswald's check, therefore, could not have reached his box until early the morning of the 25th. Since Winn Dixie Store #1425, where the Oswald check was cashed, did not open until 8:00am the 25th,<sup>72</sup> the Commission concluded that Oswald was in New Orleans until at least this time.

This conclusion appears quite sound. Only an independent check of post office records might alter the situation. In addition store procedures at Winn Dixie #1425 support the Commission's contention.

Store manager J.D. Fuchs told the F.B.I. that on both September 24 and 25 the store's cash registers were cut off at 4:00pm.<sup>73</sup> At that time all of the day's checks were taken out of the registers and prepared for deposit.<sup>74</sup> At 8:00am the following mornings, all receipts taken in before 4:00pm the previous days would be taken by armour car to the National Bank of Commerce for deposit.<sup>75</sup> On the back of Oswald's check is a bank stamp dated "Sep 26 63"<sup>76</sup> which appears to be from the above mentioned bank. Had Oswald's check been cashed before 4:00pm the 24th, store procedure dictated it would have been deposited September 25 and presumably been stamped by the bank that day. If he had

cashed it between 4:00pm and closing at 7:00pm, it would have been consistent with the September 26 bank stamp, but there is another problem.

The check, according to Fuchs, was approved by himself and cashed by cashier <sup>77</sup> Thelma Fisher. But store time cards show that J.D. Fuchs got off work at 4:00pm and would not have been present to approve the warrant from 4:00 to 7:00pm. <sup>78</sup> He could have approved the warrant the next day as a formality, as a Texas unemployment check would likely have been routinely approved. Also, time records are hardly precise and could easily be a half hour off either way. Even so, if Fuchs approved the warrant at the time it was cashed, it greatly limits the time Oswald could have cashed the check on the 24th to <sup>79</sup> sometime around 4:00pm. According to Postal authorities, Oswald's check had not even reached the city of New Orleans by then. <sup>80</sup>

It should be noted that neither J.D. Fuchs, Thelma Fisher, or any other employee of Winn Dixie store #1425 have any recollection of Oswald or his <sup>81</sup> wife. In that connection it is significant that the F.B.I. laboratory apparently never identified the endorsement on the back of the check as the hand-  
<sup>92</sup> writing of Oswald. The signature, which is obscured by various bank stamps, was deemed too indistinct by the F.B.I. lab for adequate handwriting compar-  
<sup>93</sup> ison. However, the lab only examined a photostatic copy of the check, and it is doubtful they ever looked at the original. Although the signature, from what can be seen of it, does appear to be authentic, the possibility it is not should be investigated.

The Commission does not appear to be certain exactly when or by what means Oswald left New Orleans. On page 323 of the Warren Report it states: "Although there is no firm evidence of the means Oswald left New Orleans..." Four hundred pages later the Commission becomes more certain: "He left New Orleans by bus, probably Continental Trailways Bus No. 5121, departing New Orleans at 12:20pm...." <sup>84</sup>

The evidence Oswald left New Orleans by bus consists simply of the testi-

mony of Marina Oswald and the affidavit of John and Meryl McFarland, an English couple touring North America. Marina Oswald told the Commission that her husband had told her that he had traveled to Mexico City and back to Dallas by bus. No one familiar with this case would accept something as fact solely on the testimony of Marina Oswald. On the very subject of Oswald's travel to Mexico City she lied repeatedly to the F.B.I., denying she knew anything about the trip. On the other side, if Oswald was up to anything secret in his journey to Mexico City, he might well lie to his wife about it.

Bryan and Meryl McFarland did not testify before Commission counsel, but filed a short, joint affidavit in Liverpool, England. Near the end of the affidavit the following exchange took place between the McFarlands and Consulate employee Wilfred Duke:

Q. Did he mention any names or places either in the United States or Mexico in any connection whatever?

A. Only New Orleans, whence he said he had come. In the course of conversation, we worked out that he must have left New Orleans at about the same time we had left Jackson, Mississippi, i.e. 2:00pm on Wednesday, September 25th, 1963.

One can see the Commission does not have an impressive case Oswald left New Orleans by bus. The F.B.I. did not locate a single bus employee or passenger to support their assumption. Had Oswald access to some form of private transportation ( automobile, private plane), he could have just as easily left New Orleans by other means.

The next possible witness to Oswald's movements is Mrs. Horace Twiford, wife of the National Committeeman at Large for the state of Texas of the Socialist Labor Party. Though the Twifords lived in Houston, neither Mr. and Mrs. Twiford testified before Commission counsel but were deposed by short affidavits.

Mrs. Twiford's affidavit states that in late September, 1963 she received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Lee Oswald.<sup>90</sup> The man stated he had a few hours before he flew down to Mexico and wanted to discuss "ideas" with her husband.<sup>91</sup> The individual told Mrs. Twiford he was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and inquired about a possible local branch in Houston.<sup>92</sup> Mr. Twiford, a merchant seaman, was out at sea at the time,<sup>93</sup> and Mrs. Twiford stated she wrote down the information about Oswald on a slip of paper to remind her husband of the call.<sup>94</sup>

The name, address, and two phone numbers of Horace Twiford's are indeed found in Oswald's address book.<sup>95</sup> The entry contains not only Twiford's current number as of September, 1963, but a previous one as well.<sup>96</sup> The previous number was the one which appeared in the 1963 Houston telephone directory, as the book was prepared before the Twifords moved in November, 1962.<sup>97</sup> The entry of the old Twiford number strongly suggests Oswald was in Houston at some time. There is only one public source where he could obtain the outdated number, the Houston telephone directory. It is possible that an associate gave it to him or he looked it up at the New Orleans public library. It is more likely however, that he arrived in Houston, looked Twiford up in the phone book and wrote down the old number in his address book. When that number didn't work he called directory assistance and got the right number, scratching out the old one in the process.

There are however, a few problems with the Twiford incident and Mrs. Twiford should have at least testified before Commission counsel to shed some light on them. Mrs. Twiford told the F.B.I. on December 2, 1963 that she thought the call came in late October or early November.<sup>98</sup> Since she must have tried to recall the date on the day of the assassination, it is odd she would be so far off. She should have been asked to explain her mistake.

A second factor concerns the time of night Oswald supposedly called. She told the F.B.I. that she thought the call came between 7:00 and 9:00pm.<sup>99</sup>

She said that had the call come as late as 10:00pm she would have thought it unusual and would have remembered it. This would seem to be especially true since Oswald wanted to talk to Twiford for a few hours. Yet the bus the Commission assumed Oswald took, Continental Trailways #5121, leaving New Orleans at 12:20pm, did not arrive in Houston until 10:50pm. It does seem odd that Oswald would call that late on a weekday night and expect to talk to Twiford for a couple of hours. The Commission's explanation of this time factor was that the call was probably made "later than Mrs. Twiford remembered."

Another odd aspect of the case is the note Mrs. Twiford allegedly wrote to remind her husband of the Oswald call. Both the F.B.I. report and the separate Twiford affidavits describe the note as containing the name Lee Oswald and the reference "Fair Play for Cuba". But there is another piece of information on that note which is not explained in any of the Twiford interviews or documents. Sandwiched between Lee Oswald and Fair Play for Cuba is "Dallas, (P.O. Box 2915)".

It seems strange that Oswald would give Mrs. Twiford the address of a post office box he closed out permanently four months earlier. More likely is the possibility Mrs. Twiford checked her records and found the envelope which Oswald had sent to National Socialist Party headquarters (and who in turn had forwarded it to the Twifords). That envelope gives Oswald's return address as P.O. 2915, Dallas, it having been mailed a year earlier in November, 1962. She might then have noted the address and written it with the rest of the information. In any event, she should have been asked to explain the outdated address.

The next possible sighting of Oswald occurred at the Houston Trailways bus station around midnight of the 25-26th. E.P. Hammett, a ticket salesman at the station on duty from 10:00pm to 6:00am, told the F.B.I. that in late Sep-

tember, 1963 a customer who could have been Oswald came to his counter inquiring about the price of tickets to Laredo and Mexico City.<sup>109</sup> Hammett said the customer seemed rather uncertain as to whether he wanted to buy a ticket and only returned later to purchase a ticket to Laredo,<sup>110</sup> leaving Houston at 2:35am.<sup>111</sup> Hammett remarked that he sometimes only sold one ticket a week to Laredo and this is why he remembered the customer.<sup>112</sup> He described the man as wearing a brown and white pullover sweater, white dungarees, and dirty white canvas shoes.<sup>113</sup> The ticket agent did not see how the man arrived at the terminal.<sup>114</sup>

It seems unusual that Oswald would be so undecided about buying a ticket. As the report itself states: "There is no evidence that Oswald was in such a hurry to reach Mexico that he would have felt it necessary to travel by airplane rather than a less expensive form of travel."<sup>115</sup> It should be noted though, that Mrs. Twiford stated that Oswald told her he was flying to Mexico,<sup>116</sup> indicating he might have been considering air flight. Perhaps he was just tired of riding the bus and thought he might be able to afford the plane. The F.B.I. did check Pan American Airways, the only airline with direct service from Houston to Mexico City, to see if Oswald had made an exploratory inquiry. The airline could locate no records of Oswald.<sup>117</sup>

The main problem with Hammett's story is his description of the man's clothing. The F.B.I. interviewed Marina Oswald after receiving Hammett's information and found that Oswald was not known to have owned any of the clothing the ticket agent described.<sup>118</sup> Moreover, Hammett's description is inconsistent with what other possible eyewitnesses said he was wearing on his Mexico City trip. (McFarlands, Patrica Winston, Pamela Mumford)<sup>119</sup>

Hammett was interviewed nearly four months after he sold ticket 112230.<sup>120</sup> He apparently was not certain enough of an Oswald identification to notify authorities. He could easily have confused his customers and dates over that period of time.

The next witnesses are the McFarlands, who along with Hammett's testimony, constitute the Commission's case that Oswald boarded bus No. 5133 in Houston. The McFarlands did board this bus in Houston at 2:35am the 26th and their <sup>121</sup> short affidavit states that when they first saw Oswald "it was probably around 6:00am, after it became light." <sup>122</sup> Between 5:35 and 8:15am, according to the schedule, the bus was traveling nonstop from Victoria, Texas to Corpus Christi. <sup>123</sup> At Corpus Christi passengers bound for Laredo changed to bus No. run 304, leaving Corpus Christi at 8:50am. <sup>124</sup> Had the McFarlands been thoroughly questioned, they would have been asked if they remembered Oswald at this important transition point. It is possible that only a handful of passengers transferred from bus 5133 to bus run No. 304. If the McFarlands recollection is that specific, they should remember the bus change in Corpus Christi. Without a thorough deposition from the McFarlands, the possibility remains they first saw Oswald later than they believed.

From Corpus Christi, bus run No. 304 traveled to the U.S. -Mexican boarder town of Laredo, Texas. <sup>125</sup> It was scheduled to arrive there at 1:20pm that day, <sup>126</sup> En route it made a stop in Alice, Texas, with a scheduled arrival of 10:05 and scheduled departure at 10:35am. <sup>127</sup> The Alice stop will be significant in the study of the Odio case.

From the foregoing evidence it would appear unlikely that Oswald visited Sylvia Odio without the use of a private plane. The Commission established a strong case that Oswald did not leave New Orleans until at least 8:00am, September 25. Sylvia Odio believed she was visited by Oswald between 6 and 9:00pm. No buses leaving New Orleans after 8:00am would have reached Dallas until midnight.<sup>128</sup> One train leaving New Orleans at 8:10am was scheduled to arrive in Dallas at 8:25pm.<sup>129</sup> It is doubtful, however, that Oswald could have cashed his check at 8:00am sharp and then have caught the train. The F.B.I. checked commercial air flights and found that no passenger lists contained the name of Oswald or any of the aliases he allegedly used.<sup>130</sup>

The Warren Report conceded that Oswald could have traveled to Dallas by car and arrived in time to visit Sylvia Odio.<sup>131</sup> From New Orleans to Dallas is 503 miles,<sup>132</sup> a distance which can be covered by car in 8½ hours, averaging 60 miles per hour. It is possible that Oswald reached Dallas by 6:00pm, talked to Odio shortly thereafter, and then left for Houston. If he left Dallas by 7:00pm, he could have traveled the 244 miles to Houston in time to make the 11:00pm phone call to Mrs. Twiford.

While this scenario is possible, it also seems rather unlikely. Unless Oswald was blindly following orders from some unknown source, it is hard to see what motivation he would have for speeding to Dallas, making a short visit to Sylvia Odio, and then speeding back east to Houston.

As noted earlier, the Twiford phone call and the outdated Twiford phone number strongly suggest that Oswald was in



Houston at some point. In addition, Oswald allegedly told Mrs. Paine after he returned from Mexico City that he had been in Houston looking for a job. None of this evidence is very concrete however, therefore we can seriously consider the possibility that Oswald did not visit Houston on his way to Mexico City.

The Report noted that if Oswald somehow managed to reach Sylvia Odio's by 9:00pm, he could then have caught an 11:00pm bus leaving Dallas and arriving in Alice, Texas at 10:20am the next day. In Alice, Oswald could have caught bus run No. 304, the same bus the McFarlands boarded in Corpus Christi.

The Twiford phone call creates the most problems here. It is hard to completely rule out a possible impersonation, although there is no evidence of a second Oswald operating in Houston. It is possible that Oswald called long distance from Dallas, thinking his plans called for him to be in Houston that night. Mrs. Twiford thought the call was local as she did not hear an operator assist in the call. However, she could have been mistaken on that point or Oswald might have been calling on a rented long distance line.

The Commission raises two other objections to the Dallas to Alice possibility. First, Trailway records indicate that no tickets were sold from Dallas to Laredo or points beyond on the night of the 25th. However, if Oswald for some reason bought a ticket from Dallas to Alice, and then Alice to Laredo, this check would be meaningless. While it might seem unreasonable for Oswald to have bought two tickets when he could have bought one straight through, one should note the official version of Oswald's movements. While he could have purchased a

ticket to Mexico City in New Orleans, he instead bought one from New Orleans to Houston, another from Houston to Laredo, and yet another from Laredo to Mexico City.

The Commission's second objection is that the McFarlands reported seeing Oswald around 6:00am the 26<sup>th</sup> and had Oswald taken the 11:00pm bus out of Dallas, he would not have connected with the McFarlands until 10:20am<sup>139</sup> when the Dallas bus reached Alice. As was noted earlier, without a more thorough questioning of the McFarlands one can not be reasonably sure they did not see Oswald later than they believed. The McFarlands were on the bus for two straight days.<sup>140</sup> It is quite possible they could be four hours off.<sup>141</sup>

One further note on the possible Dallas to Alice route. In her book Accessories After the Fact, Sylvia Meagher points out an August 31, 1964 article in the New York Post which contained information apparently not investigated by the Commission. Concerning Oswald's travel to Mexico City, the newspaper wrote,

"It is known, for instance, that he was seen in a Dallas bus station at 6:00pm September 25 and he crossed the border at Nuevo Laredo the next day."

As Meagher noted, "That is the first and the last we hear of witnesses who saw Oswald in a Dallas bus station at six o' clock Wednesday; the Report does not dignify that rumor with a refutation."<sup>142</sup>

Of course, if Oswald had access to a private plane he could have been present in both Dallas and Houston for the Odio visit and Twiford phone call. Perhaps flight records still exist at New Orleans, Dallas, and Houston airports which would shed light on the subject. Many people have suggested to me David Ferrie, an airplane pilot who figured heavily in the Garrison

investigation, as a possible chauffeur of Oswald. Ferrie was known to be active in anti-Castro activities and possess a private plane, although it was not thought to be operable in late September, 1963. I do not know anything about Ferrie's whereabouts during this period, but this angle certainly deserves some investigation.

Despite all of the possibilities, the Commission did construct a reasonable scenario of Oswald's movements September 25-26th, which at least did not conflict with the Commission's own evidence. (with the exception of the time of the Twiford call) It could well be that Oswald did not visit Sylvia Odio as the Commission concluded. This paper only points out the possibility that Oswald could have visited Sylvia Odio without conflicting with the Commission's strongest evidence.

Notes

1. WR 321-4; 11H 367- (Sylvia Odio)
2. 11 H 367-; CE 3147
3. WR 324
4. CE 2566, pps 2-3; CE 2123; CE 2193, pps 1-2
5. CE 2124, pg. 383; 10 H 276 (Jesse Garner); WR 730;  
11H 462-3 (Eric Rogers)
6. ~~BH~~ 120- (Ruth Paine)
7. WR 731; 10 H 276;
8. CE 2541; CE 2131;
9. 11H 462-3; WR 730
10. WR 731
11. Ibid
12. WR 868, ftnte 1123;
13. WR 731
14. Ibid; WR 323;
15. CE 2134
16. WR 289; CE 2335; 11 H 179;
17. 11 H 179-80 (Horace and Estelle Twiford); WR 731-2;
18. See Twiford Exhibit 1, 11 H 179-80; CE 2136
19. WR 323; CE 2191, pps 5-6;
20. Ibid
21. WR 323; WR 732
22. Ibid; 11 H 214-5;
23. CE 2534
24. WR 732; CE 2534;
25. WR 729
26. 10 H 276; WR 730
27. Ibid
28. WR 730; CE 2124 pg. 383; CE 2125 pps 475, 477-8; CE 2479;  
One of Oswald's neighbors, Eric Rogers, told the F.B.I.  
on one occasion that he was certain a man was present  
when Ruth Paine and the Oswalds left New Orleans. If Rogers  
was correct, the identity of this man is unknown. See CE  
1154.
29. CE 2479;
30. ~~B~~ H pg. 120 ; (Ruth Paine)
31. CD 75, pg. 124;
32. CD 75, pg. 126;
33. 10 H, pg. 276
34. CE 2131; CE 2541;
35. See Appendix, Ibid;
36. CE 2462;
37. See CE 2131
38. See Appendix for copy of form.
39. 11 H 462-3; CE 1915; CD 170, pg. 4;
40. Ibid;
41. CD 170, pg. 4
42. CD 170, pg. 7
43. CD 170, pg. 6
44. Ibid, pg. 7;
45. Ibid, pg. 8
46. WR 730; CE 2126
47. Ibid

48. Ibid;
49. WR 731
50. CD 1553
51. CE 2476
52. CE 2131; CE 2476
53. CE 2131
54. WR 868, ftnte 1123;
55. CE 2131
56. WR 731
57. See CE 1157, F.B.I. Exhibit D-105, CD 761
- 57a Ibid, CE 2939; CE 2131
58. CE 2131; CD 183, pg. 24
59. CD 183, pg. 24
60. Ibid
61. Ibid
62. Ibid, CE 2131
63. CE 2940
64. Ibid
65. Ibid
66. CE 2939
67. Ibid
68. Ibid
69. Ibid
70. Ibid
71. Ibid
72. CE 2939
73. CD 170, pg. 14
74. Ibid
75. Ibid
76. CE 1157; F.B.I. Exhibit D-105; CD 761
77. CD 170, pg. 14
78. CE 2939
79. CE 2939; CD 170, pg. 14
80. CE 2939
81. CD 170, pps 14-15; Other employees also questioned in CD 170
82. CE 2462
83. Ibid
84. WR 731
85. 11 H pg. 27 (Marina Oswald)
86. See CE 1156, for example
87. 11 H 214-5 (John and Meryl McFarland)
88. Ibid
89. WR 289
90. 11 H 179-80
91. Ibid
92. Ibid
93. Ibid
94. Ibid
95. CE 18, pg.63
96. Ibid, CE 2335, pps 7-8
97. CE 2335, pps. 7-8
98. Ibid, pg. 4;
99. CE 2136; In 11 H 179-80 Mrs. Twiford gives the time as 7-10pm
100. CE 2136
101. 11 H 179
102. CE 2134

103. WR 731
104. 11 H 179-80; CE 2335; CE 2136
105. See Twiford Exhibit 1
106. CE 2342; WR 570
107. Twiford Exhibit 1
108. Ibid
109. CE 2191, pps 5-6
110. Ibid
111. Ibid
112. Ibid
113. Ibid
114. Ibid
115. WR 732
116. 11 H 180; WR 732
117. CE 2191, pps 2-4
118. Ibid, pg. 7
119. 11 H 214; See also testimony of Pamela Mumford
120. CE 2191, pg. 5
121. 11 H 214
122. Ibid
123. CE 2534
124. Ibid; CE 1143
125. Ibid
126. Ibid
127. CE 2534
128. CE
129. Ibid
130. CE 3075; CE 3086
131. WR 323
132. CE 3090
133. 3 H 29 (Paine) *See also, 10, 29.*
134. WR 323
135. Ibid
136. There is evidence of an Oswald Look-alike in Houston.  
See CD 75, pg. 658 and CE 2191, pps. 7-8
137. CE 2335, pg. 5
138. WR 323-4, CE 2732
139. WR 323; 11 H 214
140. CE 2534
141. 11 H 214 The McFarlands reached Mexico City 10:00am  
September 27th
142. Meagher, Sylvia, Accessories After the Fact, pg. 383

LOUISIANA-19  
Flexible Week

Claimant: Please do not write in this box

1. NAME: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
(Print) (First) (Middle) (Last)  
2. LOCAL MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 30061  
(No.) (St. or Rural Route)  
NEW ORLEANS Louisiana  
(City) (Zone No.) (State)

4. SSA No. 433 54 3937  
 UY  UCFE  UCX  
5. Liable State Texas  
6. Week Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_  
7. Week Ending Date 9-23-67  
8. Actual date claim taken: 9-24-67

Have you moved since last week?  Yes  No  
3.  Male  Female

9. During the week(s) claimed in #6 and #7 above, did you work or earn wages of any kind?  Yes  No  
If "yes", furnish the information below for each day you worked.

DATE	EMPLOYER-NAME AND ADDRESS	GROSS PAY AMOUNT

Reason for separation from any employment shown above: Lack of work  Other\*

10. For the week(s) claimed in #6 and #7 above, how much did you receive in income in the form of:  
a. Earnings from self-employment? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Commission payments? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Wages in lieu of notice? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Dismissal or severance pay? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
e. Vacation pay? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
f. Holiday pay? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
g. Tips and gratuities? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
h. Board, or room, or both? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
i. Railroad retirement benefits? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
j. Social Security (OASI)? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
k. Pension from former employers including government and armed forces? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
l. Workmen's compensation? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
m. Veterans education and training or subsistence allowance? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
n. Educational Assistance Allowance under the War Orphans Act 1956? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

11. For the week(s) claimed above in #6 and #7:  
a. Were you fully able to work?  Yes  No\*  
b. Were you available for work?  Yes  No\*  
c. Did you refuse any jobs offered you?  Yes\*  No  
d. Did you attend school?  Yes\*  No  
e. Did you work on a farm?  Yes\*  No  
f. Did you work on a commission basis?  Yes\*  No  
g. Were you self-employed?  Yes\*  No  
h. Did you receive, or are you seeking benefits under any other State or Federal unemployment insurance law?  Yes\*  No

For any amount entered in #10, show in #15 REMARKS, the period covered by payment and employer name and address if applicable.

12. Use L. O. stamp or enter L. O. Address and No.

13. For use of Liable State

DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY  
630 CAMP STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

PROCESSED

Itinerant Point Location \_\_\_\_\_

Report every \_\_\_\_\_ week(s)

\*CLAIMS TAXER: Explain on Form IB-11, Fact Finding Report

contacted.

Date	Places Contacted	Type of Work Sought	Results
Sept 11	Cajon Inc Photographers Photo		Left application
Sept 19	W. B. Lanson shipping Agency		not accepted
Sept 20	532 magazine B.D. Co. Clerk		position taken

If you have done nothing, explain why.

15. REMARKS: Give below any additional information on any of items 1-11, particularly item 10, which require further explanation.

16. I hereby register for work and claim unemployment insurance benefits. I am unemployed, able to work and available for work, except as stated hereon. I have been informed that I must report as directed to the State Employment Service office to continue my registration for work and my claim for benefits. I understand that the law prescribes penalties for false statements made for the purpose of obtaining benefits not due or of increasing benefits. I hereby certify that the statements made in connection with this claim are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

NOTE: Do not sign here until instructed to do so by the claims taker.

*Lee H. David*  
(Claimant's signature)

17. Claimant—In case of mail claim, obtain signature of notary, or signatures and addresses of two adult witnesses not related to you.

- (1) Signature and address \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Signature and address \_\_\_\_\_

18. I hereby witness the signature of this claimant and certify that he has met the registration and reporting requirements of this State.

*[Signature]*  
(Claims taker's signature)



1Date 12/12/63

Mr. J. D. FUCHS, Manager, Winn-Dixie Store Number 1425, 4303 Magazine Street, advised as follows:

Store hours on September 24 and 25, 1963, were from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. On both dates, cash registers were cut off at 4:00 p.m. or within a few minutes thereafter to recap the days work. At the time of cut off, checks on hand in each register were removed along with the cash register tapes. The checks were then listed in total on adding machine tapes to prepare for deposit in the bank on the following day. Such deposits were picked up at the store just before 8:00 a.m. on these days and on September 26, 1963, for delivery to the main office of the National Bank of Commerce.

A deposit of \$1,552.33 was credited to their account on September 26, 1963, by the National Bank of Commerce. Any check deposited at the bank on September 26, 1963, would have been cashed at the store between 4:00 p.m., September 24, and 4:00 p.m., September 25. The adding machine tapes listing the checks included in the deposit were destroyed after approximately one week, and the cash register tapes showing details of transactions were destroyed within one month.

He viewed copy of Warrant Number G459698, issued by State Comptroller of Public Accounts, Austin, Texas, dated September 23, 1963, in the amount of \$33, and made payable to L. H. OSWALD, P. O. Box 30061, New Orleans, Louisiana. This warrant bears an endorsement by LEE H. OSWALD, 4707 Magazine. MR. FUCHS stated this item was okayed by him for cashing and was actually handled by Mrs. THELMA FISHER, Cashier Number 3. He noted that the warrant is endorsed for deposit to the account of Winn-Dixie Store Number 1425 through Cashier Number 3. He has no recollection of OSWALD or his wife, and has no recollection of having approved the warrant for payment.

On 12/11/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601  
by SA DONALD L. HUGHES /mrk Date dictated 12/11/63

1Date 12/12/63

Mrs. THELMA FISHER, Check-Out Cashier Number 3, Winn-Dixie Store Number 1425, 4303 Magazine Street, viewed a copy of Warrant Number G459698, issued by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, Austin, Texas, dated September 23, 1961, in the amount of \$33 and made available to L. H. OSWALD, P. O. Box 30061, New Orleans, Louisiana. This warrant bears an endorsement by LEE H. OSWALD, 4707 Magazine. It bears a further endorsement of the Winn-Dixie Store Number 1425, through Cashier Number 3.

Mrs. FISHER stated this endorsement indicates the warrant was paid at her cash register. She has no recollection of OSWALD or his wife, and has no recollection of having cashed the warrant.

On 12/11/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 100-16601

by SA DONALD L. HUGHES /mrk Date dictated 12/11/63

CD 183

pg. 24

JACK BURCHAM, Chief of Unemployment Insurance, Texas Employment Commission, Austin, Texas, advised SA H. T. BURK that all warrants in payment of unemployment insurance claims in Texas are actually prepared at Texas Employment Commission offices, Austin, Texas, by Texas Employment Commission personnel under supervision of representative of Texas State Comptroller's Office and mailed directly from Texas Employment Commission mailing room by Regular Mail. Texas Employment Commission records revealed Texas State Comptroller's warrant number G459698 issued in name L. H. OSWALD dated September 23, 1963, was prepared in group of warrants completed at 2:20 p.m., September 23, 1963, and sent by AUGUST MITCHON, Supervising Unemployment Insurance Claims Examiner, Texas Employment Commission, to mail room of Texas Employment Commission for "stuffing" and mailing. VURL COLLINS, Mail Services Supervisor, Texas Employment Commission, at 4:32 p.m., September 23, 1963, received a call from MITCHON's office advising all balancing and accounting regarding above group warrants was properly balanced and warrants could be placed in mail.

U. S. Mail Truck picked up all mail at mail room, Texas Employment Commission building at 5:15 p.m., September 23, 1963.

On 12/10/63 at Austin, Texas File # SA 105-2909  
 by SA H. T. BURK/dte Date dictated 12/10/63

ENDORSEMENT

