

*Your list of witnesses interviewed by Webster
should have the following added:
Andrews, Rodgers, Pina, O. 1967, Pina, Pina
Gen. Walker, Pina, Pina, Pina, Pina*

c/o Penn Jones,
Midlothian,
Texas, 76065

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

First, I should say I am staying with Penn Jones, working on the assassination. I have also been in contact with Harold Weisburg and he may be able to tell you a bit more about what I am doing.

I am very concerned about the Sylvia Odio episode in this case, and I include as complete a listing as I can find in the 26 volumes of references to her, which you may be interested in incorporating in any later editions of your Subject Index. These are listed in chronological order, rather than in CE numerical order; this way one can make better sense of the whole episode.

- (1) CE 3108 (FBI) Nov 29 1963. Interview with Mrs. Connell
- (2) Clements Report. (SS) Dec 14 1963 Referred to in CE 3045, Dallas
- (3) Gemberling Report, p 640 et seq., (SS) in CE 3045, Dallas Dec 23 1963
- (4) O'Connor Report, p 18 et seq., (SS) Dec 31 1963 in CE 3045, Miami
- (5) CE 2943 (SS) interview with Father McChann in N.O. on April 30, 1964.
- (6) CE 2896 (SS) from Miami on McChann, Cisneros, Juan Martin, May 5, 1964
- (7) WCR XI p.367-389. Sylvia Odio testimony (Léabeler) July 22 1964
- (8) CE 2907 (FBI) interview with Annie Odio, Miami. July 30-1964
- (9) CE 2942 (FBI) interview with Sylvia Odio, Dallas. Aug 5 1964
- (10) CE 3045 (WC) Letter to FBI requesting further information. Aug 28 1964
- (11) CE 3148 (FBI) Interviews with Manuel Ray & Rogelio Cisneros, Miami Sep 8 1964
- (12) CE 3147 (FBI) Interview with Sylvia Odio, Dallas. Sep 10 1964
- (13) CE 2390 (FBI) interviews with Mrs. Robert Rogers, Osvaldo Pino, Felix Pacho, Sep 12, '64
- (14) CE 3146 (FBI) interview with Loran Hall, Johnsondale, Calif. Sep. 21 1964
- (15) Comm. Doc. 1553 (FBI) interviews with Hall, Howard, Seymour, Alba. Oct 2 1964
- (16) Odio Exhibit

I cannot claim this is complete, but it gives one a great deal to go on. Frankly, I am alarmed at the number of discrepancies in Odio's story. She told Mrs. Connell one thing, then denied it and told a different story to Father McChann, which he relayed to the Secret Service, then changed her story again to Léabeler. The Commission then chose not to believe any of these, but to place reliance on the Loran Hall story, later denied by himself.

What do you make of all this. There has definitely been some lying going on here, and I wondering if Odio didn't make the whole thing up. This seems unlikely, especially that she would want to implicate Cubans in the assassination, but it remains a possibility which must not be ruled out. Mrs Connell's story is particularly disturbing (that LHO had been talking to small groups of Cubans in Dallas etc.) Did Connell make this up, or did Odio, or, if true, why did Odio deny it in her testimony? In an attempt to clear this up I tried to locate Mrs Connell in Dallas today, but found she had moved to New York, which is one reason I am writing to you. I spoke to her former husband, Mr. Lee Connell on the phone (FLL-3482), who had met Odio, but volunteered no information. He said his former wife had married a William R. Light, and was living in Syossett, L.I., NY. Do you think you could speak to her and see if you can find out what Odio really did tell her, and what her opinion of Odio's reliability is.

I also heard that Sylvia Odio herself has moved to New York from Miami from one Roberto Del Rio, a Cuban (Kennedy hating, Johnson loving) exile in Dallas. He had heard this only as a rumour however. People in New Orleans are also trying to locate McChann and Augustine Guitart (Odio's uncle, who was also in court when Oswald was arrested in N.O. in Aug. 1963). I think Mrs Connell (Light) is important as it was through her that this episode was disclosed. One wonders if Odio would ever have informed the authorities. I do not know where Annie Odio is either. Last heard of Miami, she may also be in NY now.

I am very much hoping to come to Washington to work in the Archives soon. If so, I will contact you and do the necessary work in NY myself. If I do come up I will be in contact with Harold Weisburg. Meanwhile it might be worth contacting Mrs Light,

Best Wishes,
Tom Bethell

P.T.O.

6 Penn Jones
Midtown
Texas, 76005

your list of witnesses interviewed by Leebler
should have the following added:

Andrews, Rodriguez, Pena, O. Pena, R. Odio, Ruth Pame,
Gen. Walker, Reynolds, Rogers, Lehrer.

2/ What do you make of the withholding of listing of
the Texas theatre witnesses? Could be police don't want anyone
testifying to police brutality. Oswald did admit he had a gun
on him when arrested, if not one would be very suspicious.
In fact this is one of the few things he did admit.

3/ Has anyone found Julia Ann Mercer yet? A person can't just disappear.
I think, more & more, that the 'Norman Mailer Theory' in Esquire is
correct. This would explain so much. Of course this does not implicate
say, the CIA or FBI, but they may have figured they would have
a hell of a time convincing the public of that, & so decided to
hush it up.

- (1) Comm. Doc. 1553 (TBI) Interview with Hall, Howard, Baytown, Ala. Oct 2 1964
- (12) CE 3146 (TBI) Interview with Loren Hall, Johnsonville, Calif. Sep. 21 1964
- (13) CE 3390 (TBI) Interview with Mrs. Robert Rogers, Gavalito Pinar, Felix Pacho, Sep 12, '64
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- (17) CE 3045 (TBI) Interview with Sylvia Ohio, Dallas. Aug 28 1964
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- (50) CE 3045 (TBI) Interview with Sylvia Ohio, Dallas. Aug 28 1964

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Tom Baker
Gen. Walker