

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW ORLEANS

The investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy is now receiving the assistance of the District Attorney's office in New Orleans. District Attorney Jim Garrison's motives for pursuing this investigation are a matter for speculation; they are undoubtedly partly political in that he is seeking to run for higher office and he is welcoming the opportunity to espouse a controversial issue which might well develop in such a way as to benefit him. Also, however, he has a more genuine interest in the case, in that he developed some information which might have been very important in the investigation, turned it over to the FBI, and was later amazed and annoyed that they took no further interest in the matter.

For this reason I am now working for District Attorney Garrison on this case. He told me that he no longer feels he can trust the FBI in this regard, and that therefore he is willing to turn to amateur assistance to help crack the case. His interest in the case is confidential, and not very many people in the D.A.'s office know about it. Garrison has shown himself to be willing to co-operate by passing on some of the information he has gathered.

On November 25, 1963, at about 5 p.m., David Ferrie was arrested as a fugitive from the state of Texas and held on suspicion of involvement in the assassination of the President. Arrested at the same time with him were Alvin Beaubouef and Layten Martens, both considerably younger than Ferrie, who is now 48 or 49. Numerous fire-arms were found at Ferrie's apartment, including three rifles. However he denied any connection with the assassination, claiming that he had left New Orleans at 9 p.m. on November 22nd, arrived in Houston on the 23rd, where he went to a skating rink. On Nov. 24th he said he was in Galveston, and he returned to New Orleans on the 25th. Although Ferrie is a pilot, it has been determined that he travelled by car on this trip. His story was then checked out by the Detective Division of the Houston police Dept. and found to be true. After this information was turned over to the FBI, Ferrie was released. The FBI subsequently interviewed Ferrie, but he was not called by the Warren Commission, although Liebler asked several New Orleans witnesses if they knew Ferrie. Two said they did, Edward Voebel (VII p. 14), a high school friend of Oswald, and Frederick O'Sullivan, now a detective on the vice squad in New Orleans. O'Sullivan even said he had heard Ferrie had been arrested in this connection, but Liebler took no further interest. (One might say, parenthetically, that even if no other flaws had been found in the Warren Report, this alone would constitute a very grave criticism of it.)

The D.A.'s office had undisclosed reasons for arresting Ferrie. O'Sullivan had said that Ferrie knew one another in the Civilian Air Patrol in the 1950's, but he was not asked if they had met more recently. Garrison did tell me, without going into details, that they knew that Oswald and Ferrie had been together in the summer of 1963.

Ferrie is now being tailed by the police, and his friends are being watched. These include one Morris Brownlee, who claims that Ferrie is his Godfather. Both Brownlee and Alvin Beaubouef were recently picked up and questioned about the case. Dean Andrews, who also knew Oswald in the summer of 1963, and who claims he knows Oswald did not shoot the President, has recently been receiving telephone calls from Ferrie, although at the present time it is not known what the purpose of these calls is, and the connection here may turn out to be coincidental. The D.A.'s office is now making strenuous efforts to locate Clay Bertrand, the "lawyer" who called Andrews and suggested he take Oswald's defense. They have two men "on the street" looking for him.

Testimony was recently taken from David L. Lewis, who between January 1961 and May 1962 worked as an investigator for Guy Bannister, a private detective agency in New Orleans, whose offices were located in the Newman Building on Camp Street. The same offices of a local Cuban refugee organization, and around December 1961

David Lewis was introduced by one of these Cubans, Carlos Corega, to a person named Lee Harvey. Lewis positively identifies this person as Lee Harvey Oswald. When shown pictures of David Ferrie, Lewis also immediately recognized him and said he had seen Oswald and Ferrie together at Mancuso's restaurant. (Sobry corroborated by Lewis's wife, who was with him at the time.) Lewis describes Lee Harvey as being of a restless and fidgety disposition, (which does not seem to match Lee Harvey Oswald). Lewis met Ferrie on several occasions, as Ferrie was apparently doing some business with his boss, Guy Bannister. He also made one visit to Ferrie's apartment, apparently with Carlos and 2 other people, whose names I cannot remember (one was Martin, not Martens). When I pointed out to Lewis that Oswald was in Russia at the time he thought he saw him, he seemed amazed, and said "Well, if it wasn't him it was his double." I should add that it was our impression that Lewis was being quite honest with us, and he has not read any of the assassination literature. He has not spoken to anyone about this before, not even the FBI!

Lewis advised us that if we wanted to know more about this whole episode we should contact Mrs. Louise Decker, who was Bannister's secretary. Another person who knew more about it was Hugh Ward, another investigator for Bannister. As Lewis pointed out, it is unfortunate that both Ward and Bannister are now dead, as they might have been able to tell us a great deal. Bannister, a man in his 60's, died "in bed," and Ward was killed in a private plane crash, in which the then Mayor of New Orleans Chet Morrison also died. Both of these deaths were about two years ago.

Garrison told me that they are working on the hypothesis that Kennedy was killed by a Cuban refugee group of anti-Castro-ites. A large meeting of various insurrectionary groups opposed to Castro met at City Hall yesterday, Dec. 18th, a meeting attended by and warmly congratulated by no less a personage than the present mayor, Vic Schiro. Among those who addressed the meeting was Carlos Bringuier, in very inflammatory terms. Others who presided and participated were obviously not Cuban, and they have recently put together a film entitled "Hitler in Havana." One of the most prominent amongst these was a professional anti-Communist type, named Ed Butler, associated with an organization known as INCA (Information Council of the Americas).

I strongly suspect this to be a CIA operation, and that the CIA is heavily involved with these anti-Castro-ites. In fact this is the only explanation which would make Garrison's version of the conspiracy plausible, as, if the ~~assassination~~ assassination was done merely by a local bunch of Cuban refugees, there would have been no need to cover it up.

On December 17th I contacted a girl, Judy Anderson, who started working as a dancer at the Mardi Gras club on Bourbon Street in Feb. 1963. Some time in the spring of that year, she says, she met Jack Ruby on two separate occasions, who was having some business dealings with her boss, Sid Davilla. It is to be noted that this is not the club where the stripper Jada was working, and this therefore represents a different visit from Ruby's admitted trip to get Jada as stripper for his club in June 1963. Sid Davilla is going to be questioned about this. The girl is ~~100%~~ positive that the man she met was Jack Ruby. His visits were about two weeks apart.

I recently interviewed Leon Hubert, one of the Warren Commission lawyers, currently teaching at Tulane University. He also gave a seminar on the subject of the Warren Commission last week. He had little to say of any interest, and appeared to be on the defensive throughout. He does not seem to be too strongly opposed to a reopening of the investigation if new evidence warrants it. An important question here, of course, is: does material dug out of the 26 volumes and not apparently considered in the Report itself constitute new evidence? He seemed to think it might, but was typically cagey and indefinite about the whole subject.
