

Telephone call from Ed Epstein at Cambridge, Saturday 5:45 p.m. 5/1/68

Ed was in touch with Dick Billings last week...He learned of the dinner at which Sciambra delivered an oral report on his interview with Russo but failed to mention Clay Bertrand or the party at Ferrie's...Also learned even more extremely damaging information. For example: Billings dined with Garrison, Sciambra and Russo right after Russo had been under sodium pentathol administered by the late Dr. Nicholas Chetta (who died on Saturday 5/25/68 of heart attack)...When Russo was told that he had incriminated Clay Bertrand while under sodium pentathol, he denied it, said he had never heard that name...This, with the other evidence already known, indicates a complete frame-up of Clay Shaw...

Ed thinks his article may be in the 6/15/68 New Yorker...he was considering deleting from it any mention of Jones Harris, but I felt that there was no reason to coverup his service to Garrison and Ed then seemed to decide to leave his name as is...Ed said that he had spoken to Lifton, who had said that he could get the material on Thornley from me...I said that I had not heard from Lifton to that effect and was it a definite authorization...Ed said that it was...

Ed Planer of the local N.Orleans TV station has agreed to do some legwork for Ed, so that he will not have to go down to N Orleans again...Billings does intend to go, which Ed feels is possibly dangerous...I again expressed concern about Tom B., pointing out the fate of former "co-operators" with Garrison--i.e., Andrews, Novel, Gurvich.

New information suggests that Garrison may have been responsible, indirectly at least, for the death of Ferrie. He was held^{ed} up with Ivon and others from the DA's office at the Fountainbleu Motel for 2 days just before he died--under intensive interrogation--Ed feels Schiambra may have killed him...Chetta may have injected sodium pentathol, then covered up contributing factors in his death, as coronor, deeming it natural death...all those at the motel would be implicated and thus safely silent...There is documentary evidence of this, one room in Ferrie's name one in Ivon's...Also heard that after George Lardner (Washington Post) left Ferrie, Garrison's men returned (but source is Novel and not to be given great weight)...Why did Lardner see Ferrie so late? (Midnight to shortly before 4 a.m.)? Did Sciambra and Russo go to school together? Kerry Thornley may be able to confirm this, apparently told him by Russo when he took a taxi and driver turned out to be Russo...Serious discrepancies: time of ~~man~~ death, first said by Chetta to be before 4 a.m. which conflicts with Lardner; Garrison statement his man left when Ferrie's light went out

about 11 p.m. vs. Rosemary James book page 40 which says 2 men 24 hours across street in basement with movie cameras...Garrison has secret witness ("Cedric von Rollenson"??) who will give damaging testimony linking Shaw and ~~Harold~~ Oswald, was questioned 7/17/67...but may be some difficulty with the dates to which he testified...Ed told Shaw's lawyers re the dinner at Broussard's, on their promise they would not contact Billings...Ed will use this in his story...may testify for the defense if Shaw trial ever held ...Also, possible significance of fact that Pershing Gervaise practically lives at Fountainbleu Motel, is linked to underworld, said to be dangerous and ruthless G. ally.