

Oswald Was a Marxist-Communist

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(Collingswood, New Jersey, December 28, 1967). In the October, 1967, issue of *Playboy* Magazine (admittedly not an edifying magazine with which to deal, and which we do not recommend to our readers), District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans, in a 12-hour, 28-page interview, set forth some strange statements relative to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

GARRISON'S DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINS

Here are some of the ways Garrison described the type of people who might have co-operated in the assassination of the President on that sad and somber day in 1963:

1. "A group of fanatic *anti-Communists* and Cuban exiles" (p. 59).
2. "Former employees of the CIA involved in its anti-Castro underground activities in and around New Orleans" (p. 68).
3. "The CIA, anti-Castro, Cuban exiles and the paramilitary right" (p. 70).
4. In the category of "political extremist, *religious fanatic* and kook" (p. 74).
5. "The CIA, elements of the paramilitary right and militant anti-Castro exile groups" (p. 74).
6. "A group of fanatic *anti-Communists* with a fusion of interests in preventing Kennedy from achieving peaceful relations with the Communist world" (p. 74).
7. "Anti-Castro exiles" (p. 74).
8. "A number of people of ultra-right-wing persuasion — not simply conservatives, mind you, but people who could be described as neo-Nazi, including a small clique that had defected from the Minutemen because it considered the group 'too liberal'" (p. 74).
9. "The para-military rightists" and the "anti-Castro exiles" (p. 156).
10. "The CIA was training a mixed bag of Minutemen, Cuban exiles and other anti-Castro adventurers . . ." (p. 156).
11. "The ultra-rightists" (p. 156).
12. "Cuban exiles and Minutemen" (p. 156).
13. "The Cuban exiles" (p. 157).
14. "A conspiracy from the paramilitary

right" (p. 158).

15. "A dedicated neo-Nazi in close contact with neo-fascist movements . . ." (p. 159).

16. "A group of political adventurers united only in their detestation of Kennedy" (p. 159).

17. "The right-wing extremists" (p. 159).

18. "A fanatic paramilitary group" (p. 159).

19. "A band of anti-Castro adventurers" (p. 159).

20. "The group of anti-Castro exiles and Minutemen" (p. 160).

21. "A fanatic anti-Castro Cuban exile" (p. 160).

22. "One of the most militant right-wing anti-Communists . . ." (p. 161).

23. Those engaged in "paramilitary right-wing activities" (p. 161).

24. Those engaged in "anti-Castro exile activities" (p. 161).

25. "Minutemen" (p. 161).

26. "Anti-Castro and right-wing extremists" (p. 161).

27. "Anti-Castro friends from Miami and New Orleans" (p. 162).

28. "Neo-Nazis" (p. 162).

29. Those of an "anti-Castro and ultra-right-wing orientation" (p. 162).

30. "The President was assassinated by a precision guerrilla team of at least seven men, including anti-Castro adventurers and members of the paramilitary right" (p. 165).

31. Those engaged in "anti-Castro exile activities" (p. 171).

32. The "right-wing Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front" (p. 172).

33. "Anti-Castro groups" (p. 172).

34. "Anti-Castro Cuban exiles" (p. 172).

35. An "anti-Castro exile leader" (p. 172).

36. Those engaged in "anti-Castro exile activities" (p. 174).

37. Those engaged in "anti-Castro exile activity" (p. 174).
38. "Pro-Nazis . . ." (p. 176).
39. "The master-racist authors of the assassination . . ." (p. 176).
40. "Ultra-right wing" (p. 176).
41. "The CIA and anti-Castro adventurers" (p. 176).
42. "The thumbscrew-and-rack conservatism of the paramilitary right" (p. 178).
43. Those in some way related to a "trend to fascism . . ." (p. 178).

From the accompanying 43 descriptions used to explain Garrison's theory of the mentality types and the political orientation of the kind of people whom he thought conspired to assassinate President Kennedy, it is easy to see how vehement he was in his opinion as he expressed it in the 28-page interview. Mere reiteration and repetition does not necessarily mean something is true, however.

GARRISON CLEARED THE COMMUNISTS IN GENERAL

In a news conference in New Orleans, December 26, 1967, as reported from the KYW news wire, Garrison said, "COMMUNISTS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION." And he added, "It just didn't happen that way." The Camden, N. J. *Courier-Post*, for December 27, 1967, p. 1, reported in a UPI story from New Orleans, also quoted Garrison as stating concerning the assassination, "COMMUNISTS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE PLOT." In naming the assassins as "fascists," "anti-Communists," and "ultra-right-wing" people, while at the same time clearing the "Communists" of any blame whatsoever in the President's assassination, Garrison is setting forth exactly the same line which the friends of the Communists, the Communists, and the Communist presses all over the world have been declaring from November 22, 1963, to the present.

GARRISON CLEARED MARXIST-COMMUNIST OSWALD IN PARTICULAR

Garrison was not content to clear the Communists in general of any part whatsoever in the Kennedy assassination, but he went one step further. He took most of the 28 pages of the 12-hour interview (p. 62) to explain away the fact that Oswald was a "self-proclaimed Marxist" (p. 160). Garrison's own words were:

"Oswald's professed Marxist sympathies were just a cover for his real activities. I don't believe there are any serious students of the assassination who don't recognize that OS-

WALD'S ACTUAL POLITICAL ORIENTATION WAS EXTREME RIGHT WING. His associates in Dallas and New Orleans — apart from his CIA contacts—were EXCLUSIVELY RIGHT WING, some covert, others overt; in fact, our office has positively identified a number of his associates as neo-Nazis. Oswald would have been more at home with *Mein Kampf* than *Das Kapital*" (p. 160).

Now we have heard everything! Though Garrison uses every possible twist and turn of explanation to explain away Oswald's Marxist-Communist record of allegiance, in our opinion, he did not succeed.

NAZIS, FASCISTS, SOCIALISTS, AND COMMUNISTS ARE ALL LEFTISTS

But even if you were inclined to accept Garrison's rationalizations for Oswald's Communist activities, and thought of him as a Nazi (that is, the German National *Socialist* Labor Party), or as a Fascist (the Italian *socialism* of Benito Mussolini, who at first chose the "orthodox Marxian position"), you would still have to place Oswald on the *leftist* side of things, with the other advocates of powerful governmental force like the socialists, and the Communists. You cannot read the booklet by Dr. Ludwig von Mises, the world's most outstanding living representative of the conservative, free enterprise "Austrian School" of economics, entitled *Planned Chaos* (printed in paperback by The Foundation for Economic Education, Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, 1947, 65 cents)

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without realizing that the Nazis, the Fascists, the Socialists, and the Communists are all historically branches on the same corrupt and un-Biblical tree. Especially if you read carefully his chapters on "Socialism and Communism" (pp. 35-46); "Fascism" (pp. 70-74); and "Nazism" (pp. 75-79) will you see clearly the similarity of these left-wing extremist philosophies.

WE REPUDIATE NAZISM, FASCISM, SOCIALISM, AND COMMUNISM AS LEFTIST GROUPS

We who are associated with the 20th Century Reformation Hour Broadcast and with the American Council of Christian Churches repudiate the false left-wing doctrines of Nazism, Fascism, Socialism, and Communism. The dogmas of these groups are clearly in violation of the Scriptures, which tell us we are to put our trust and dependence in an Almighty God, and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, rather than in an all-powerful State which takes God's place and "bestows" to individuals certain rights and privileges and denies others that God

Almighty has given to all of us by virtue of His being our Creator and the Saviour of those who trust in His Son personally (John 1:10-13). Furthermore, where these four systems are practiced to the fullest extent of their ideology, and without any admixture of individualism, private ownership, or capitalism, clearly taught in the Bible, the Scripturally sanctioned attributes of civil government, delineated in Romans 13:1-7, are not entirely present, if at all.

WE REPUDIATE "PARAMILITARY CIVILIAN GROUPS"

While we heartily concur with the 2nd Amendment of our U. S. Constitution which guarantees that "... the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," we do not concur with the "paramilitary civilian groups" either claiming to be pro-Communist or anti-Communist who feel they should take the law into their own hands and assassinate whomever they please, whether it be a conservative or anti-Communist, or a liberal or a pro-Communist, or someone who prefers to be a middle-of-the-roader (as Garrison claims he is; cf. p. 178). Punishment of "evil" doers (as judged by the standard of the Bible) and the rewarding of those who do "good" (as judged by the standard

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of the Bible) is a valid, Biblical function of Scripturally sanctioned civil government which follows the principles taught in Romans 13:1-7, and such usurpation of these powers by individuals without proper governmental function and authority is most unscriptural. 1 Corinthians 14:40 states: "Let all things be done decently, and in order."

OSWALD WAS A MARXIST-COMMUNIST

Since Garrison has raised the question of Oswald's political orientation, and his view of our U. S. Constitutional form of government, let us look into the evidence which show clearly that Oswald was a Marxist-Communist, and *not* either a "neo-Nazi," or a "Nazi" (which are related closely to Marxism and Communism in all significant ideological premises), or certainly *not* "extreme right wing" (p. 160). The "extreme right wing" designation has been often used in the modern press media to smear various groups and individuals such as those who believe in a fairly literal application of the U. S. Constitution to our present problems, to "Constitutional Conservatives," to "Goldwater Conservatives," to the ideas of Senator Strom Thurmond, to the ideas of the Rev. Dr. Carl McIntire, to the ideas of the 20th Century Reformation Hour Broadcast, to the ideas of the American Council of Christian Churches, and to many other Constitutionally oriented groups as well.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's Testimony: J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for over 43 years, said of Oswald:

"My speculation . . . is that this man was no doubt a dedicated Communist. He prefers to call himself a Marxist, but there you get into the field of semantics. He was a Communist, he sympathized thoroughly with the Communist cause. . . . I haven't the slightest doubt that he was a dedicated Communist" (Testimony, Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, HBP CAPK, Volume V, p. 104).

Oswald's Own Public Admission. Oswald appeared on Radio Station WDSU in New Orleans, on August 21, 1963, debating a Cuban refugee and Mr. Edward Butler, Executive Vice-President of the Information Council of

the Americas (INCA). During the course of this broadcast, when asked about it, Lee Harvey Oswald stated, "I am a Marxist." The debate is available on a record entitled, "Oswald — Self-Portrait in Red."

Warren Commission's Conclusion on This Point. There is an excellent article on the Garrison probe in *The Dan Smoot Report* (DSR) for December 4, 1967, which gives a very complete summary of this matter (Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214, 25 cents per copy). The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy concluded that Oswald had an "avowed commitment to Marxism and Communism" (p. 23; from DSR*, p. 194).

Oswald's Admission in 1956. In 1956, Oswald wrote to *The Socialist Call*, requesting data on the Socialist Party, and related, "I am a Marxist, and have been studying socialist principles well over fifteen months . . ." (HBPCAPK, ** Vol. 20, pp. 25-26; from DSR, p. 194).

Oswald's Admission to Another Marine. Oswald told Marine Kerry Thornley "the best religion is Communism," and Thornley felt certain from this and other statements from Oswald that Oswald thought "Communism was the best system in the world" (HBPCAPK, Vol. 11, pp. 87-92; in DSR, p. 194).

Oswald's Admission in Moscow, October, 1959. Oswald applied in Moscow for Soviet citizenship on October 17, 1959, and in his diary noting this occasion, Oswald wrote, "I explained I am a Communist" (HBPCAPK, Vol. 16; CE 24, p. 94; in DSR, p. 194). On October 31, 1959, when Oswald was in the American Embassy in Moscow for the purpose of renouncing his American citizenship, he told Embassy officials that he was a Marxist (HBPCAPK, Vol. 5, pp. 264-267; Vol. 18, CE 908, p. 97; in DSR, p. 194).

Oswald's Admission in Moscow, November, 1959. While in Moscow, in two of the letters he wrote his brother, Robert Oswald, he said such things as, "Ask me and I will tell you I fight for communism" (HBPCAPK, Vol. 16, CE, 294, p. 814; CE 295, pp. 815-822; in DSR, p. 195).

*DSR — Dan Smoot Report.

** HBPCAPK — Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

Testimony of Conservative White Russian. Mr. Ilya A. Mamantov, a conservative anti-Communist "White Russian" in Dallas, who knew of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Oswald [Mrs. Marina Oswald, whom he married in Russia, was a member of the Communist Youth Party, and the niece of a Soviet Communist Party official (HBPCA PK, Vol. 1, p. 89; in DSR, p. 195)] refused to have anything to do with them. Mamantov, however, did interpret for Marina Oswald after the assassination at the request of the Dallas police. He testified flatly that "Oswald was a Communist . . ." (HBPCAPK, Vol. 9, p. 125; in DSR, p. 19).

The Dan Smoot Report, in the same article, did a masterful job of contradicting Garrison's charge that Oswald's "associates in Dallas and New Orleans — apart from his CIA contacts — were EXCLUSIVELY RIGHT WING." The DeMohrenschildts and the Paines were mentioned specifically, with their respective left-wing connections taken from the Hearings Before the President's Commission and in DSR, p. 195.

In view of the foregoing evidence, we cannot subscribe in any way to the Garrison position that Oswald was using his "Marxist" profession merely as a "cover." Oswald's record as both a Marxist and a Communist is without dispute, and to hold that such a record was merely a "cover" is to give way to all forms of idle speculation which cannot be verified, as Garrison knows full well, since Oswald was murdered and cannot reply for himself. If we were in the speculating business on Oswald's beliefs, other equally ridiculous assumptions might be raised. Maybe Oswald was really a Hollywood movie actor like Maxwell Smart, trying out a part in a picture, and was using his record as a Marxist-Communist merely as a "cover." Maybe Oswald was really employed by "Candid Camera" and was using his record as a Marxist-Communist merely as a "cover" to get spontaneous reactions from people whom to met. Maybe Oswald was a man from outer space and was using his record as a Marxist-Communist merely as a "cover." Need we go on? We prefer to stand on the written, spoken, and documented record which Oswald himself made from 1956 right up until his arrest and murder in November of 1963, at which time he continued to profess dedication to Marxism (HBPCAPK, Vol. 4, p. 228, Warren Report, pp. 610, 635; Vol. 7, p. 298; in DSR, p. 196); that *he was a Marxist-Communist!*