

(These comments are based on the text of this part of the report released on 3/28, as read to me over the phone.)

The Hunt letter; "The Committee is attempting to identify the handwriting": I think it would be fairly easy to put together a letter using copies of authentic samples of Oswald's writing, from the Archives or elsewhere. Since there doesn't seem to be an original of the Hunt letter around, I'm not sure how easy it would be to detect this kind of forgery. There have been at least two documentary bits of disinformation created in the past few years - the FBI-HUAC memo linking Ruby to Nixon, and a reported ONI-SS communication admitting that Oswald was an ONI agent while in Russia. (Don't quote me on the latter, but I think it was ONI and SS. There was an article in one of the tabloids, which I could dig up.) In any case, the handwriting is far from the only test of authenticity.

The witness who links Oswald and Ruby: Ted Rubinstein pointed out to me that this is Penn Jones' babushka woman. (See Forgive my Grief IV, p. 155<sup>x</sup>, and Cover-Up, pp. 51-6, 90. See also my letter of 4/3/77 to Rep. Dodd.) I don't know what to make of Preyer's alleged description of her as the most important living witness. (How about "appalling?") Maybe she is; maybe I'm the queen of England. I don't think there is any excuse for the Committee's report to mention only the least incredible part of her story, without any reference to these published reports.

"The Committee has received uncorroborated information" about Ruby's visit to Trafficante. If they are talking about the recently released CIA documents on John Wilson Hudson, they should say so!

"According to a witness, Ruby and Roselli had meetings in Miami several months prior to the assassination." Mark Allen thinks this is from Gerry Patrick Hemming. (That is, that Hemming has said this publicly.)

"During this period, Trafficante was quoted ... as saying that Kennedy was going to be hit." This is apparently Aleman, in the Crile article.

About the 1/27/64 Warren Commission executive session, and the "evidence" that Oswald was an FBI informant; the report says the "evidence came from two independent sources." As far as I know, the Committee had only the allegations of the Texas people, which I would hesitate to call "evidence." Maybe the Committee has tracked down the sources. The impression I was left with was that the number of sources suggested a ploy to create and/or disseminate this report, perhaps for the purpose of getting the FBI to ease off on someone. (I think the Commission suspected this.) The House Committee seems to have a tendency to place a lot of weight on "corroboration" and not enough on study of the information itself. I'm afraid that if I testified that the moon was made of cheese, they would simply describe that as "uncorroborated and unsubstantiated."

The allegation that Oswald and an FBI agent met frequently in New Orleans is of course the Pena-DeBrueys story, reported on CBS some time ago.

The FBI code clerk with the story of the pre-assassination teletype warning is Walters. I believe he was at best confused. (His story dates from the Garrison era.)

It strikes me as noteworthy that this report describes as "witnesses" the babushka woman, Hemming, Pena, and Walters. This does make you wonder what they have been spending their time on.

#### THE OLTMANS-DeMOHRENSCHILDT STORY

Basically, all I know is what I have seen in the papers. I can recommend two additional sources: Newman's book has quite a bit on DeMohrenschildt; as I recall, he seemed to be toying with the possibility that DeM had written the "L.H." letter to the Militant for Oswald, and that someone had helped Oswald in the attempt on Walker. Also, CIA document 18-522 (CD 1012, I think) gives the CIA's official version of their contacts with DeM: several after his trip to Yugoslavia through 1961, and then just a Christmas card from DeM in 1963! Perhaps deM's actions in sending this card, and in volunteering the information about J. Walton Moore (evidently the CIA's DCS man in Dallas) to the Commission (with the claim that he may have asked Moore about Oswald) were a self-serving attempt to prevent the exposure of something more sinister by exaggerating his CIA links. Offhand, I would guess that deM had some generalized but authentic guilt for not having done something to straighten Oswald out, and mental/emotional problems, and became a receptive to some of the public speculation and stories (Hunt, Logue) which someone (Oltmans?) was pushing.

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