

Received 9/23/66

Sylvia: I'm sending the result of my Castorr call to Walker's office under separate cover, because I made a number of copies to send to some of those who might be interested in following up on this thing.

Your idea on checking the police names is excellent. This is my target for tonight. (Once I get the house cleaned, the stew going and the children and dogs settled!)

Let me make a few probably worthless comments here from memory. (Sometimes I run out of time on the books, which can be dangerous as it leads to believing the wrong information.)

1. The Connell story (Com. Ex. No. 3108) that Lee made "captivating" speeches to Cubans, etc.; this story denied by Odio in testimony. However, it struck my ear as being worth thinking about as Mrs. Murret said Lee told her "I make little speeches, talks, etc., all the time." Yet how can we challenge Odio on this? Even assuming, as Odio says, that Connell misread her, why did Lee tell Mrs. Murret (before the Alabama trip) that he (Lee) did not have to prepare, take notes, etc., for a speech because speech-making was old hat to him? Bravado? Still not typical of Lee.

2. Mrs. Odio (testimony, I think) mentions how "drawn" the man looked who she thought to be Leon Oswald when he came to her door. I am disturbed by Mrs. Odio's testimony in regard to her having or not having heard the last name "Oswald." She does some fancy stepping in regard to this situation and in my opinion doesn't quite bring it off. I think she is SO CONVINCED that the man she saw at the door was Lee that she has brainwashed herself into believing she heard more of his name than just "Leon." However, the "drawn" description is interesting as it fits precisely with Mrs. Paine's description of how Lee looked the day or two before in New Orleans when she and Marina said goodbye to him. Both Mrs. Paine and Mrs. Odio, then, without being aware of one another's description have pinpointed Lee as looking "drawn" and worried looking at this time.

Odio's description of the "hairy man." Is this a description that fits with the look of the man who accompanied Lee to the bar where he drank lemonade and was sick? Weisberg may mention this. I haven't quite finished his book, but I have a memory of seeing this bar incident mentioned. At any rate, as you have no doubt noted there is a dark Mexican-Cuban-hairy man mixed up in a number of strange places in the Commission report. We can even place him at the TSBDB if we try hard enough (11/22/63).

My opinion only: I think Lee had been instructed in Sept. '63 to infiltrate Cuba no matter how. The arrangement was made that he would go to Mexico and attempt to enter this way, but a suggestion was first tried in Dallas that Odio, who had vast connections (or so it was believed) with the underground could perhaps smuggle Lee into Cuba without his having to bother with the Mexican attempt which stood a good chance of failing--and did. The Odio information was faulty and this attempt also fell through.

Lee's Mexican-Cuba assignment failed. On return to Dallas, he was reassigned. This reassignment, however, had NOTHING to do with his former Dallas activities of watching the Ruby-Walker-Castorr-Cherry arms stealing and smuggling bit. However, once Lee was captured and labeled the assassin of Kennedy, the Walker-Ruby-Cherry-Castorr forces panicked and ordered his murder. In my opinion, the assassination of Kennedy and the murder of Oswald were not DIRECTLY related.

I will probably change my mind on all this next week! At any rate, I stumble along from theory to theory. The third car of the Paines (you asked me about this): yes, most of this is from personal conversation with Ruth. (The only Commission reference I can think of is the testimony of Krystinik--sp.?) I am surprised to hear that Vince has talked about this, because when I used to nag him with it, ~~it~~ he brushed me aside. In fact he told me once I was wasting my time with the Paines. I am a little angry with Vince at the moment, but this is another story.

I am not through with the car investigation yet and hope to work on it some more this month. Probably nothing will come of it, but I think we ought to look at everything. After many many hours with Ruth Paine I am satisfied neither she nor Michael are exactly what they say they are. Ruth was called in on this mess when Marina threatened suicide in '63. I doubt very much that Ruth knows the story behind the story so to speak; she does know who and what Lee Oswald was, of course. The interesting thing I have learned about Ruth is that she is not as smart as everyone has been led to think she is--particularly is she not as smart as she thinks she is. Ruth has been imbued somewhere with the idea that everything can be stage managed. Once this is all done (and if someone can help me) I would dearly love to write a story on Ruth Paine to rebut the disgusting "cover" done for her by Jessymym West. "Michael and I dine by candle ~~light~~ light." HA! Incidentally Michael is a highly nervous man; medically I would be inclined to feel he has an incipient goiter. This can be determined from watching him eat -- and by shaking his hand. Poor man. He is pathetic. Of no earthly use to any government with a shred of intuition.

I still want to know why the police fingerprinted Lee before ~~giving the~~ administering the paraffin test. Did I tell you I went to the Tulsa police about this? They said it was absolutely contrary to proper police procedure, due to the possibility of nitrates in the ink or the ~~xxxx~~ chemical soap used after to clean the ink, or even due to impurities on the towel used after. I asked if nitrates were present in fingerprint ink but they didn't know. They gave me a sample but I haven't had a chance to do anything with it in this cow town.

I must close. I'm out of laundry soap and one of the dogs threw up all over Vickie's bed. Thank goodness I had a plastic cover on the mattress. Another dog got chewed up by a German shepherd up the street and I've got to get her to the vets. Our neighbors must be Nazis.

What about the paper announced on the news this morning signed by the scientists (one of whom I understand was Paul Dudley White) calling for no more chemicals to be used by US in Vietnam? People are really getting scared, aren't they? We are bombing hell out of the so-called demilitarized zone! We admit we bombed China. Really this thing is so bad I can't see how it can be halted. My sympathies are entirely with Maggie. Please, if you get a chance, tell her how happy I am to hear about her, how pleased I was with her letter in TMO, and how I agonize with her over her son's problems regarding Vietnam. I heard her name for the first time (from a man at RAMPARTS) three weeks ago. Please give her my regards.

Sylvia, I still want you to go to Dallas with us one of these days. Let us plan for it in the future somewhere. Penn called Sunday night; he is off to LA for a number of appearances, says he will look up Maggie, of course. I understand Lillian's husband is quite ill.

Let me hear from you when you have time. Much love, S.

Commission Exhibit Number 3108 (Vol. XXVI, p. 738)

Connell voiced the opinion that General Edwin A. Walker and Colonel (FNU) Caster, a close acquaintance of Walker, have been trying to arouse the feelings of the Cuban refugees, in Dallas, against the Kennedy Administration. She based this statement upon information furnished her by various Cubans to the effect that Walker and Caster made speeches before Cuban groups in recent months in the Dallas area in opposition to the Kennedy Administration policies.

11/29/63....FBI

Commission Exhibit Number 2943 (Vol. XXVI, p. 402)

Father McChann...acknowledges knowing Colonel and Mrs. Castor. He said Colonel Castor is a retired army colonel. Mrs. Castor seemed generally interested in the plight of the Cuban refugees, but that he always felt that Colonel Castor was playing the role of an "intelligence officer" in his contacts with the Cubans; that he seems to be more interested in their political beliefs than their economic plight or their social problems in the new country.

5/5/64....Secret Service

Testimony: Mrs. Nancy Perrin Rich, Hearings, Vol. XIV

Mr. Hubert:...I think you have mentioned that you saw Ruby at a certain meeting...and there was a general discussion of guns or Cuban refugees...

Mrs. Rich:...There was a Colonel or light Colonel, I forget which (at the meeting). I also forget whether he was Air Force or Army. It seems to me he was Army. And it seems to me he was regular Army...and a fellow named Dave (Cherry, friend of Jack Ruby)...Dave...was a bartender for the University Club on Commerce Street in Dallas...They wanted someone to pilot a boat-- someone that knew Cuba...So they were going to bring Cuban refugees out into Miami...

Mr. Hubert: Your husband was to receive \$10,000?

Mrs. Rich: Yes.

Mr. Hubert: Who told him so?

Mrs. Rich: The colonel.

Mr. Hubert:...What was the general discussion (at the meeting)?

Mrs. Rich: The general gist of it was we were going to obtain a boat, the colonel could obtain various things...we were going to...pick up Cuban refugees, and bring them over to the main coast...there was the Colonel and another middle-aged woman, kind of a real old granite face I would describe her, steel-gray hair. Looked rather mannish...Then it came out-- boom--quite blank. We were going to bring Cuban refugees out--but we were going to run military supplies and Enfield rifles in... (Then) the

colonel clarified it. The colonel seemed to be the head of it and seemed to do all the talking.

Mr. Hubert:...Could you describe what the Colonel looked like?

Mrs. Rich: Vaguely. I would say approximately 45 or 50, perhaps a little younger. He was kind of bald, and that may have made him look older. As I recall, a rather slightly buildt man--and I would not swear to it.

Mr. Hubert: Did he have any other characteristics?

Mrs. Rich: Not that I can recall, sir.

Mr. Hubert:...Did he tell you whom he was representing in this matter?

Mrs. Rich: Not exactly; that fact never did come clear to me. A group of people.

Mr. Hubert: Well, did he indicate in any way that he was acting officially, in his official capacity?

Mrs. Rich: No; he was not acting officially.

Mr. Hubert:How do you know that?

Mrs. Rich: Because of certain statements that were made---statements such as... "We have been taking stuff off the base for the last three months getting prepared for this"--meaning military equipment, I suppose small arms, or explosives, et cetera, as I understood it...During the meeting I had the shock of my life. Apparently they were having some hitch in money arriving. No one actually said that that was what it was...A knock comes on the door and who walks in but my little friend Jack Ruby...

Mr. Hubert: Now, what facts occurred to give you the impression that there was a hitch with respect to money?

Mrs. Rich:...just evasive statements that led me to believe that perhaps they were lacking in funds. And then Ruby comes in, and everybody looks like this, you know, a big smile--like here comes the Saviour, or something. And he took one look at me, I took one look at him, and we glared, we never spoke a word. I don't know if you have ever met the man. But he has this nervous air about him. And he seemed overly nervous that night. He bustled on in. The colonel rushed out into the kitchen, or bedroom, I am not sure which. Ruby had--and he always did carry a gun--and I noticed a rather extensive bulge in his--about where his breast pocket would be. But at that time I thought it was a shoulder holster, which he was in the habit of carrying.

Mr. Hubert: He was in the habit of carrying?

Mrs. Rich: Yes. Either a shoulder holster or a gun stuck in his pocket. I always had a gun behind the bar (when Mrs. Rich worked for Ruby). That is normal...

Mr. Hubert: Did he show any signs of recognition of you?

Mrs. Rich: Yes; he glared at me and I glared back, as much to say to each other what the heck are you doing here...Well, they (Ruby and the colonel) came out and the bulge was gone, and everybody was really happy, and all of a sudden they seemed to be happy. So it was my impression that Ruby brought money in... They decided...they were going to have another meeting--there were some other people involved higher up than they were. They would have to talk it over with them...

Mr. Hubert: And they told you they would discuss that and let you know.

Mrs. Rich: With some other people that were higher up.

Mr. Hubert: They told you they were higher up?

Mrs. Rich: Yes. The colonel said that they were higher up...I think his exact words were something like "I will discuss it with my bosses."

Mr. Hubert:...In other words, Dave (Cherry) was the man who was in between as it were.

Mrs. Rich: Well, Dave was in it. It was only because he was our friend...

Mr. Hubert: He was the one who had brought you into the picture to begin with.

Mrs. Rich: Yes. It seemed to me like a front man for them, or something, or a recruiter almost.\*

The Dallas phone book for 1963 lists no Colonel Caster or Castor, but does list a "Colonel Robert L. Castorr."

Colonel Castorr is no longer in Dallas; but information acquired through conversation with a party at General Edwin A. Walker's home in Dallas (call made 9/19/66) revealed that Colonel Castorr is now at 4511 33rd, North Arlington, Virginia (Telephone: AC: 703--5367850). Colonel Robert L. Castorr is a close friend of General Edwin A. Walker. Colonel Castorr is now employed by the "National Federation of Independent Businesses, Washington, DC." This information given me by employee at General Walker's office.

It is my opinion Colonel Robert L. Castorr is the same Colonel Caster mentioned as a "close acquaintance of General Walker" who spoke regularly to Cuban refugees against the Kennedy Administration.

It is my opinion Colonel Robert L. Castorr is the same Colonel Caster mentioned by Father McChann as involving himself in the political interests of the anti-Castro Cubans.

It is my opinion that Colonel Robert L. Castorr is the Colonel mentioned by Nancy Perrin Rich as stealing military equipment off US bases for resale to Cubans, and who was acquainted with and did business with Dave Cherry and Jack Ruby.

It is my opinion that Jack Ruby and General Edwin A. Walker were acquainted, and that Jack Ruby visited the General's office in Turtlecreek in the fall of '62 and in the spring of '63. (Com. Ex. No. 2981)

\*In a conversation with Mrs. Eva Grant (March, 1966), Mrs. Grant informed this party that she and Jack Ruby were acquainted with Dave Cherry. The Warren Commission did not call Dave Cherry. Nor did the FBI or Secret Service ever ask Cherry or Ruby if they were acquainted with one another.