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Dear Sylvia,

Yeah, I'm as alive and well as I usually am, whatever that implies. My silence has been nothing more than negligence, I fear. Since obloquy loves company, permit me to report that Mary Ferrel owes me a letter since last November, she being my Dallas buddy. I told her to write you about the arraignment, cc. me. You'll like her; she'll probably offer you her house if you get to Dallas. Mary, by the way, is a legal secretary so she should be up on all this stuff.

Incidentally, don't worry about my considering requests from you onerous and just forgetting them. If I ever can't or won't do something, common decency would require me to tell you.

Anyway, I'll see about getting Mary off her Rightist duff.

Let's see . . . what's been happening? Well, I managed to flunk the bar exam. Obvious CIA persecution, no? Actually, I just didn't study enough. I'll try again in July. It's enough to make me want to turn in my Mensa card.

I've been showing the Z film a lot. Today I showed it and arm-waved to a high school class. Next week I'll be showing it and going over the ballistics and medical evidence with a guy who sometimes is an instructor at the Marine Corps Sniper School. His hobby is long-range shooting. The next day I'll be showing and arm-waving for a Kiwanis Club, and maybe for a Republican group, too. Oh, it's a strange life.

I used to be quite spooky about it, but Fred is showing it in the L.A. area with advance publicity and everything, so I guess the risk is minimal. "Life" is not the most observant of institutions.

This paragraph is real burn-before-reading, keep-under-your-hat stuff. I am getting a reputation in some odd circles, one of them being the Birch Society. Well, Alan Stang, the JBS civil rights polemicist, was in town and I ended up showing him the film. He thinks the Commies did it, natch. Anyway, I showed it and had a long chat and it seems Robert Welch is interested in the topic. So I'm getting a print for Stang, who is going to try to talk Welch into running off a print for every JBS coordinator in the country (about 100). It just might get "Life" and the JBS in quite a bind, to say nothing of some publicity about the underlying issues. I'll keep you posted.

I just read Brener's book. Aside from the ritual obeisance toward Holy Writ, it is a pretty good book. Do you agree?

Enclosed are Barry Haapanen's memos. He's good. Especially check the Seymour thing.

Arriba!



- 1958 ROBERT K. BROWN enters U.S. Army Reserve, following active duty as a Special Agent with the Army Counter-Intelligence Corps. (Patrick letter, 12/11/62, p. 4)
- 16 Oct 1958 GERRY PATRICK HEMMING, JR., is discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps while a student at the U.S. Naval Academy Prep School in Md. (Patrick letter, 12/11/62, p. 5)
- 1958-1960 ROBERT K. BROWN makes three trips to Cuba, one each year. (Brown interview, 7/17/68, p. 1)
- 1959 LORAN EUGENE ("SKIP") HALL is in Havana and meets five or six other Americans there, including LESLIE BRADLEY, (FNU) FERRINI, (FNU) THOMPSON, and AUSTIN YOUNG. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 2)
- Apr 1959 LORAN HALL is arrested by the CASTRO government in Cuba. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 3) HALL is placed in prison with SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 36)
- Sep 1959 LORAN HALL is released from prison and leaves Cuba. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 20)
- 1959 LORAN HALL supposedly assumes leadership of his own anti-CASTRO group, "Las Sombres." (Turner memo, 2/27/68, p. 2)
- Aug 1960 (late) GERRY PATRICK leaves CASTRO'S Revolutionary Forces, after which he returns to the U.S. via Central America and spends much time making out reports for the C.I.A. (Patrick letter, 12/11/62, p. 5)
- 1961 LAWRENCE JOHN HOWARD, JR., first meets GUY L. GABALDON, who runs an anti-CASTRO office in Los Angeles and heads the "Drive Against Communist Aggression." (Burton memo, 2/19/68, p. 3)
- 1961 LESLIE BRADLEY is in jail in Cuba. (Burton memo, 2/19/68, p. 3)
- Mar 1961 GERRY PATRICK goes to Miami to begin organization of "INTEREP" (International Penetration Force). (Patrick letter, 12/11/62, p. 5)
- 27 Jun 1961 The "Miami Herald" reports that a group of 50 volunteers, including 25 Americans, known as "International Penetration Force," is training in Miami under the leadership of GERRY PATRICK, who privately admits that his group is practicing for possible

raids on Cuba. The group is part of the "Anti-Communist Brigade," of the "Junta Revolucionaria de Liberacion Nacional" headed by AURELIANA SANCHEZ ARANGO.

- Nov 1961 CELIO SERGIO CASTRO ALBA arrives in Florida from Cuba. (CD 1553C, p. 2)
- Mar 1962 WILLIAM SEYMOUR goes to Florida (where he remains until Oct 1963). (CD1553D, pp. 1 and 4)
- Oct or Nov 1962 LAWRENCE HOWARD joins the anti-CASTRO group headed by GERRY PATRICK and HOWARD K. DAVIS. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 23)
- Dec 1962 GERRY PATRICK'S group is arrested by U.S. Customs Service. (Patrick letter, 2/3/63, p. 3)
- Dec 1962 JIM LEWIS, of San Francisco, is arrested for anti-CASTRO activities. (Burton memo, 1/25/68, p. 3)
- Jan 1963 GERRY PATRICK and LORAN HALL depart Los Angeles for Miami. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 37) They stop in Dallas for two days, and PATRICK sees EDWIN WALKER twice. (Patrick letter, 2/3/63, p. 1) HALL sees WALKER at least once. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, pp. 41-42) The day after their arrival in Dallas, PATRICK and HALL visit an attorney named ROBERT MORRIS, who arranges their appointment to see WALKER through WARREN REYNOLDS, a Used-car salesman. HALL and PATRICK go to WALKER'S house with "BOATS" WELCH and his wife in WELCH'S car, following REYNOLDS, and they talk to WALKER. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, pp. 16-17)
- Jan 1963 (probably) HALL and PATRICK stop in New Orleans, where they briefly visit FRANK BARTES and LARRY LABORDE. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 31)
- 25 Jan 1963 An article appears in the El Paso (Tex.) "Herald-Post" about fund raising activities by HALL and PATRICK and staging raids on Cuba. HALL is described as PATRICK'S assistant.
- Jan 1963 (late) HALL and PATRICK arrive in Miami, and see HOWARD DAVIS the first day they're there. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 49) Through PATRICK, HOWARD meets HALL in a bar "just for a few minutes." (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 13; CD 1553B, p. 7)
- Jan or Feb 1963 An ex-Marine named (FNU) STEELE joins HOWARD'S group. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 66)
- Feb 1963 While HALL is in Miami, having dinner with friends, he hears about a disturbance in Bay Front Park involving pro-CASTRO activity. (Turner memo, 2/27/68, p. 2)

Feb or Mar 1963 HALL sees GERRY PATRICK and ROY HARGRAVES for the last time. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 33)

1963 (early) GERRY PATRICK talks to EDWIN WALKER and BILLY JAMES HARGIS at a rally in Miami. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, pp. 77-78)

14 Mar-6 Jun 1963 WILLIAM SEYMOUR works at Beach Welding and Supplies, Miami. (CD 1553C, p. 2)

1963 (Spring) ROBERT K. BROWN talks to DR. STANLEY J. DRENNAN in DRENNAN'S home in Los Angeles. DRENNAN talks of "getting rid" of President KENNEDY, the Cabinet, all members of the A.D.A., and maybe 10,000 other people. BROWN later tells STEVE WILSON, free-lance journalist, about this conversation. (CD 1107, p. 375?)

Apr 1963 HALL flies from Miami to Dallas and back. Visiting Dallas alone, he contacts three professors at the University of Dallas and obtains from them a list of Cubans from whom he later elicits assistance. (CD 1553B, p. 13)

Apr 1963 PATRICK'S group having broken up, HOWARD returns to Los Angeles. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 47)

Apr-May 1963 The F.B.I. and Secret Service investigate claims of GEORGE HARDING, JR., that the Church of Jesus Christ-Christian (headed by WESLEY SWIFT, WILLIAM GALE, and JAMES SHOUP) intend to assassinate 300 public figures and that SHOUP tried to recruit HARDING for an eight-man assassination team. (CD 1107, pp. 473-474)

Apr or May 1963 RICHARD BUTLER takes HOWARD to a meeting held in Hollywood by WESLEY SWIFT. HOWARD, who is accompanied by STEVE WILSON, talks for about an hour with SWIFT and WILLIAM GALE. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 47)

Apr or May 1963 HOWARD meets DR. (FNU) MORRIS at a meeting in San Marino. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 38)

Apr or May 1963 HOWARD comes in contact with the Free Cuba Committee through ROBERT K. BROWN and STEVE WILSON. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 39)

1963 After attending several right-wing meetings in Los Angeles with HOWARD to raise funds, STEVE WILSON returns to Miami by way of Denver. (Burton memo, 2/19/68, p. 2)

~~Jun 1963 HALL visits Dallas. (CD 1553B, p. 13) He stops in Dallas on his way "back to California." (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 15) While in Dallas, he supposedly hears about someone named OSWALD involved in~~

Jun 1963 HALL visits Dallas. (CD 1553B, p. 13) His stop in Dallas is on his way "back to California." (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 15) While in Dallas, he hears of a man named OSWALD involved in handing out pro-CASTRO literature. (Turner memo, 2/27/68, p. 2)

4 Jun 1963 (approx) HOWARD drives through New Orleans. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 27)

1963 (Summer) ROBERT K. BROWN sees DR. DRENNAN again, and DRENNAN reveals that he has been interviewed by the Secret Service concerning his earlier remarks about President KENNEDY. (CD 1107, p. 375?)

Jul 1963 (approx) HOWARD hears rumors that all anti-CASTRO groups are going to unite under EDWIN WALKER. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 80)

Jul-end of Sep 1963 HALL makes fund-raising talks in Los Angeles during this period. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 24)

Jul or Aug 1963 HALL sews KERRY THORNLEY at a meeting in Whittier. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, pp. 4 and 7)

Jul or Aug 1963 Following a meeting of Minute Men-type individuals in El Monte, HALL is introduced by a woman to TROY HOUGHTON, who asks HALL to be an instructor for the Minute Men. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 24)

Aug 1963 (approx) HALL, in addressing groups in Los Angeles, passes himself off as a representative of HOWARD'S group in the Florida Keys. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 13)

Aug 1963 HOWARD becomes commander, replacing PATRICK, of the anti-CASTRO training camp on No Name Key, Fla. (Burton memo, 1/25/68, p. 1) HOWARD terminates operations there the same month. (Burton memo, 1/25/68, p. 3)

Aug 1963 HOWARD'S group moves from the Florida Keys to Miami, with plans to make an invasion of Haiti, but their weapons are confiscated and the Haiti plan falls through. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, pp. 65-71)

Aug 1963 (late) or Sep 1963 (early) HOWARD, accompanied by CELIOS ALBAS, returns to Los Angeles to be with his family. ALBAS stays at HOWARD'S home. (CD 1553B, p. 7) HOWARD and ALBAS are accompanied from Miami by a Cuban named FRANK (LNU), and travel in a 1962 Pontiac which HOWARD has arranged to deliver for a Miami firm to a party in San Francisco. FRANK (LNU) intends to stay in San Francisco. (CD 1553C, p. 3)

Sep 1963 (approx) HALL contacts HOWARD and says he wants to go on a "run." (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 13)

- Sep 1963 HALL attends a meeting at home of CLINTON WHEAT in Los Angeles, and sees WILLIAM GALE and EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY there. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 7; see also Turner memo, 2/27/68, p. 2, in which HALL states he "doesn't specifically recall" meeting BRADLEY)
- Sep 1963 ED COLLINS is in Dallas in contact with LESTER LOGUE. (Patrick interview, 5/4/68, p. 3)
- 18 Sep 1963 HALL visits DICK HATHCOCK at HATHCOCK'S private detective office in Los Angeles and redeems a 30-06 rifle that HALL and GERRY PATRICK had hocked with HATHCOCK in late 1962. PATRICK calls HATHCOCK some time after HALL'S visit, and asks if HATHCOCK still has the rifle. (CD 1179, pp. 296-297)
- Sep 1963 HALL, HOWARD, and ALBAS depart Los Angeles for Dallas with a trailer, obtained from CLINTON WHEAT, containing weapons from the ERQUIAGA Arms Co. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 19)
- Sep 1963 On their way from Los Angeles to Dallas, HALL and HOWARD spend time in Juarez, Mexico, while ALBAS remains in El Paso, Texas. (CD 1553C, p. 3)
- 28 Sep 1963 HALL, HOWARD, and ALBAS arrive in Dallas in a black 1956 Oldsmobile. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, pp. 6-7)
- NOTE: According to ALBAS, they left Los Angeles around 17 Sep 1963 and arrived in Dallas about 20 Sep 1963. (CD 1553B, pp. 8-9)
- Sep-Oct 1963 Within "a couple of days" of arriving in Dallas, HALL visits LESTER LOGUE at LOGUE'S office while HOWARD and ALBAS sit in the car in the parking lot. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, pp. 7 and 29) HALL and HOWARD visit WALLY YATES, at YATES' house, for about an hour. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 9) HALL attempts to locate NICO CRESPI and another Cuban in Dallas. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 30) HALL asks a woman for directions while looking for Cuban contacts at an apartment house in Dallas. (Howard Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 21) HALL contacts KIKI FERROR, who introduces him to Cuban woman in the apartment house where FERROR lives. (CD 1553B, p. 11) ALBAS spends all of his time in the motel, except: (a) to visit an American woman who is a friend of HALL; (b) to visit an American male who works in a bank; and (c) to go the apartment (no one is found home) of a Cuban woman about 3 or 4 P.M. one day. (CD 1553C, pp. 4-5)
- 10 Oct 1963 HALL, HOWARD, and ALBAS leave Dallas for Miami ("give or take a few days either way" on the date) and leave their trailer at LESTER LOGUE'S. (Howard

interview, 2/25/68, pp. 12, 14)

- Oct 1963 After arriving in Florida, ALBAS goes to work picking tomatoes in Princeton, Fla., and then is hired by South Florida Sugar Co. (CD 1553C, p. 5)
- Oct 1963 SEYMOUR quits his job so he can to Dallas with HALL. (CD 1553D, p. 1) HALL'S intention in going to Dallas is to pick up the trailer left at LESTER LOGUE'S by HALL and HOWARD. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 14)
- 16 Oct 1963 HALL and SEYMOUR arrive in Dallas, and stay the night in "a real cheap flunky-dunk hotel," possibly the Salvation Army. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 46; CD 1553D, pp. 1-2)
- 17 Oct 1963 While driving to LESTER LOGUE'S, HALL and SEYMOUR are stopped by the Dallas police, their car is searched, and they are arrested for possession of drugs. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 46; CD 1553D, pp. 1-2) Within an hour after his arrest, HALL is questioned by investigators from the CIA, FBI, and intelligence. (Article on Hall, National Inquirer, 1 Sep 1968, p. 5) HALL and SEYMOUR are then released, and HALL thinks that the charges have been dropped, not knowing that \$5000 bail has been paid. (Jaffe memo, 3/20/68, p. 2)
- 18 Oct 1963 HALL and SEYMOUR register at the Dallas YMCA, and SEYMOUR uses HOWARD'S name. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, pp. 12, 16) They register at the YMCA on the instructions of a young Dallas lawyer, who has told them that LESTER LOGUE had arranged a room for them. (Jaffe memo, 3/20/68, p. 2)

NOTE: HALL has stated that on 17 Oct 1963, he was present at a meeting in LESTER LOGUE'S office, and that an offer of \$50,000 was made to him if he was interested in killing President Kennedy. (National Inquirer, 1 Sep 1968, p. 5) Since HALL states that he was warned the day after he was in jail, which would have been 18 Oct 1963, to get out of town, and the meeting at LOGUE'S office occurred, in HALL'S words, "Before I left town on the DA's orders," it appears likely that the meeting with LOGUE took place on the 18th, rather than on the 17th.

- 20 Oct 1963 (approx) After spending two nights at the YMCA, HALL and SEYMOUR depart Dallas for MIAMI with the trailer. In addition to staying in a hotel, jail, and the YMCA, they have stayed in a private residence, time unspecified. (CD 1553B, p. 12) In addition to seeing LOGUE, they have visited a Cuban friend of HALL'S and an American girlfriend of HALL'S. (CD 1553D, pp. 1-2)

- Oct 1963 (early) WESLEY SWIFT, in his "tape ministry," says that President KENNEDY is entering a "critical period." (CD 1107, p. 1115)
- 5-6 Nov 1963 (approx) HOWARD K. DAVIS flies GERRY PATRICK and STEVE WILSON from Miami on trip to find ALEXANDER RORKE, JR., who, with GEOFFREY SULLIVAN, disappeared on 24 Sep 1963 on a flight between Cozumel and Tegucigalpa, Honduras. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 49; Alexander H. Rorke, Sr., circular) Around the same time, ENRIQUE MOLINA flies RICHARD LAUCHLE and (FNU) SULLIVAN "to British Honduras or Guatemala but they never got there." (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 58)
- 8 Nov 1963 (approx) HALL sews HOWARD and SEYMOUR for the last time. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 33)
- 11 Nov 1963 (approx) HOWARD goes back to Los Angeles from Miami. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 12)
- Nov 1963 HALL returns to Dallas "according to some witnesses." (Comment by Jim Garrison, Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 17)
- Nov 1963 (early) HALL stops by DICK HATHCOCK'S office in Los Angeles, "just to talk," about 2 weeks before 23 Nov 1963. (CD 1179, p. 298)
- 22 Nov 1963 HOWARD is working in Los Angeles. (Burton memo, 1/25/68, p. 1) GERRY PATRICK calls LESTER LOGUE and tells him to get HALL out of Dallas. (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 20)
- Dec 1963 ED COLLINS drowns in a boating accident at Key Biscayne, Florida. (Patrick letter, interview, 5/4/68, p. 3)



William H. Seymour - "Second Oswald"

1. Seymour resembled Lee Harvey Oswald in appearance. Loran Hall told the FBI in September 1964 that "it now occurs to him that WILLIAM SEYMOUR is a person who might be said to generally resemble OSWALD." (CE 1553B, p. 4)
2. Seymour apparently used Lawrence ("Larry") Howard's name as an alias. According to Howard, when Seymour registered at the YMCA on October 18, 1963 in Dallas, he registered under Howard's name. (Howard interview, 2/25/68, pp. 12-16)
3. According to the Warren Commission, several witnesses "believed that they observed Lee Harvey Oswald at the Sports Drome Rifle Range at various times from September through November of 1963." One of these witnesses, Malcolm Price, Jr., said that on several occasions when he saw the individual who resembled Oswald, "he was wearing a 'Bulldogger Texas style' hat and had bubble gum or chewing tobacco in his cheek." (WR 318-319)
4. From October 26 to November 3, 1963, a "sign-in register" was maintained at the Sports Drome Rifle Range by its owners. On Saturday, November 2, 1963, an individual signed the register using the name "Larry Howard." This entry is visible near the bottom of the sign-in register for that date (XVI H 397).
5. Sometime "before Kennedy died," Harry Dean was told by Guy Gabaldon that Gabaldon knew "a guy who looks exactly like" Dean. Dean inferred that Gabaldon meant a person who looked like "a chewing tobacco Texas-hat wearing gunman." Gabaldon told Dean this several times and gave him "the impression that he was trying to tell me something." Dean later figured that Gabaldon could have been talking about "another one of these Billy Seymour deals." (Dean interview, p. 10)
6. Malcolm Price, Jr., stated, according to the Warren Report, that the man with the "Bulldogger Texas style" hat who resembled Oswald was at the range on September 28, 1963, the first time he saw him. (WR 319). If this was true, it would rule out William Seymour as being the man in question since Seymour was employed as a welder in Florida from September 5 to October 10, 1963 (CD 1553C, p. 1). The fact is that although Price told the Warren Commission that he saw the man who resembled Oswald for the first time on September 28, "the afternoon that they opened the rifle range" (X H 370), four months earlier he told the FBI that his observation took place October 26, the day the range opened for business (CE 2910). The owner of the rifle range, Mrs. Virginia

Davis, told the FBI that October 26, 1963, was indeed the day the rifle range was opened for business, confirming it as the date of Price's observation - not September 28 (CE 2941). The Warren Commission should have been able to easily verify that October 26, and not September 28, was the correct date, and its failure to do so means it was guilty of either gross ignorance or deliberate deception.

7. Seymour quit his welding job in Florida in early October 1963 to go to Dallas with Loran Hall (CD 1553D, p. 1). After spending several days in Dallas in the middle of October, Seymour and Hall left Dallas around October 20 and drove "straight through to Florida," according to Seymour's account (CD 1553D, p. 3). Seymour's activities or whereabouts after arriving back in Florida are mentioned nowhere. He obviously did not return to his welding job, since no mention is made of his working there after October 10 even though his employer felt Seymour was dependable and would rehire him (CD 1553C, pp. 1-2). Hall has said that he did not see Seymour or Howard "since the, about the 8th of November 1963" (Hall interview, 5/6/68, p. 58), but this is approximately the time that Hall went back to Los Angeles from Miami (Howard interview, 2/25/68, p. 12), and Hall's statement does not tell us the precise date on which he last saw Seymour.

#### Conclusions:

The above evidence suggests that William Seymour was the "Second Oswald" who was seen target shooting at the Sports Drome Rifle Range in Dallas from October 26 until shortly before the assassination, and that Guy Gabaldon was aware of this activity by Seymour. There appears to be no information that rules out Seymour returning to Dallas from Miami the last week of October 1963, and no information that explains his whereabouts if this was not the case.

P.S. - November 2, 1963, was one of the dates on which "Oswald" was "identified as being at a rifle range." (Secret Service report, 12/9/63, CE 1790)

ALFRED D. HODGE

On the afternoon of November 22, 1963, a telephone operator in Fort Smith, Arkansas, received an anonymous phone call stating: "If you want to know who killed the President, check with the manager of the Buckhorn Bar." (1)

The proprietor of the Buckhorn Bar in Dallas, Tex., was Alfred D. Hodge. Hodge owned the Buckhorn Bar at 213 S. Ervay and the Buckhorn Trading Post (a gun shop) at 215 S. Ervay. (2) Hodge claimed to be a close acquaintance of Capt. John W. Fritz of the Dallas Police Dept. Homicide Bureau (3), and claimed to have been a good friend of numerous FBI agents in Dallas. He told the Warren Commission: "I used to know practically all those agents down there--the FBI agents--when Murphy was there and the agent in charge before him, and I used to keep their file in my place." (4) It isn't clear what file Hodge is talking about, although in another place he says that the FBI "fingerprinted me, they took my life history and everything and they turned their file over to me." (5)

Hodge also admitted to having known Jack Ruby for "over 20 years" (6) although he later said that about 10 or 15 years was right. (7)

Hodge told the Warren Commission that after he heard on radio about the assassination and the fact that a "7-millimeter rifle" was the murder weapon, he and his wife checked through their sales records, and then called the FBI and had an agent come to their gun shop to determine to whom rifles had been sold. (8) At a little after 11 Pm (9) or approximately 11:30 PM (10) that evening, Hodge was called by Capt. Fritz, who asked him to come down to the police station. (11) Hodge said that this was for him to examine Oswald's guns "and see if I could identify them, or if I had ever seen them before." (12) As soon as Hodge arrived at Fritz' office, he was told that his auto, which was parked in the basement, needed to be moved. Accompanied by two detectives, Hodge got on the elevator to the basement. Standing in the elevator when Hodge entered it was Jack Ruby. (13)

Precisely what happened on the elevator is a matter of conjecture. Hodge told the Warren Commission that although he had known Ruby for years, he had not seen Ruby in four or five years and did not remember Ruby's name although he did recognize Ruby as someone he knew. (14) The FBI interview report on Hodge says that Hodge "thought RUBY was merely there as he was,

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| 1. XV H 499            | 9. XV H 497      |
| 2. XV H 495            | 10. XV H 496     |
| 3. XV H 496            | 11. XV H 496     |
| 4. XV H 501            | 12. XV H 496     |
| 5. XV H 502            | 13. XV H 497-498 |
| 6. Hodge Exhibit No. 1 | 14. XV H 498     |
| 7. XV H 498            |                  |
| 8. XV H 496            |                  |

attempting to assist the Dallas Police Department," and that Ruby shook hands with Hodge, and asked, "Have they arrested you, HODGE?" (15)

Before the Warren Commission, Hodge took adamant exception to this last statement in the FBI interview report, and said: "Now he didn't ask me, 'Have they arrested you?' He didn't say that. He says, 'What are you doing up here?'" (16) Hodge said that he replied to Ruby, "They've got me arrested," and Ruby then asked the detectives with Hodge, "You're kidding. You haven't got him arrested, do you?" (17) Hodge told the Warren Commission that the detectives laughed in response to Ruby's question to them (18), while the FBI interview report states that Hodge said that it was he and Ruby who laughed. (19) Hodge told the Warren Commission that Ruby then asked him, "What do you know about it?" and he replied, "It's a long story," ending the conversation. (20)

Herbert L. Blessing, one of the two detectives with Hodge on the elevator, was finally located (Hodge couldn't remember the names of the detectives). Blessing said that Ruby "shook hands with HODGE and spoke to him and asked, 'HODGE, do they have you under arrest?' " Blessing said that Hodge replied, "No." Blessing remembered that there was no joking "between HODGE and this other person." (21)

Hodge moved his auto, went back upstairs, and looked at the guns but was unable to identify them. He then left, and went to his gunshop. When he arrived there at approximately 12:15 AM, November 23, FBI agents were waiting to question him about the phone call at Ft. Smith, Ark. Hodge told the agents that the caller could have been "one of my bartenders or it could be he probably threw some drunk out and he just wanted to be important and wanted to get back at the bartender." As lame as this explanation was, the FBI agents told Hodge not to worry about it, and that they had received crank calls. They then left the gunshop. (22)

Hodge told the Warren Commission that he didn't realize it was Jack Ruby he had talked to in the police station elevator until Sunday, November 24. Hodge said that he was "out at Red Jackson's" and that following the shooting of Oswald by Ruby, "this Congressman called and asked Mr. Jackson and said that Jack Ruby shot him. I said, 'My God, that's who rode the elevator down with me. I knew I knowed him but I didn't recognize him' and I said, 'I didn't recognize him until now.'" (23)

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15. Hodge Exhibit No. 1
  16. XV H 496
  17. XV H 498
  18. XV H 498
  19. Hodge Exhibit No. 1
  20. XV H 498
  21. CD 1348, p. 7
  22. XV H 498-499
  23. XV H 500

John Martino

Sylvia Odio stated, in her testimony to the Warren Commission, that the three men who called on her in late September 1963 possessed an amazing knowledge of her father. She said that ". . . one of them said, 'We are very good friends of your father.' This struck me, because I didn't think my father could have such kind of friends, unless he knew them from anti-Castro activities. He gave me so many details about where they saw my father and what activities he was in. I mean, they gave me almost incredible details about things that somebody who knows him really would or that somebody informed well knows." (11 H 370)

As the three men left her apartment, Mrs. Odio told them, "I am going to write to my father and tell him you have come to visit me." To this, one of the men answered, "Is he still in the Isle of Pines?" (11 H 372)

Mrs. Odio did write to her father, Amador Odio, who was a Castro prisoner in the Isle of Pines. On December 25, 1963, her father wrote back to her, saying, "Tell me who this is who says he is my friend--be careful, I do not have any friend who might be here, through Dallas, so reject his friendship until you give me his name." (Odio Exhibit No. 1)

We must assume that at least one of Mrs. Odio's visitors was a man who had known her father or who had been coached by someone who had.

Elsewhere in her testimony, Mrs. Odio mentioned an American, John Martino. She said that he "has written a book called 'I was a Prisoner in Castro Cuba,' and he was on the Isle of Pines for 3 years." She stated that Martino "came to Dallas and gave a talk to the Cubans about conditions in Cuba," and that "he mentioned the fact that he knew Mr. Odio, that Mr. Odio's daughters were in Dallas . . . ." (11 H 380-381)

After the assassination, Martino was quick to paint a decidedly pro-Castro picture of Lee Harvey Oswald. Alan Courtney, of Miami radio station WQAM, "advised that JOHN MARTINO, 2326 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Florida, claimed he received a report that LEE OSWALD was in Cuba between September and October, 1963, and went there by way of Mexico. MARTINO further claimed that during the past year OSWALD distributed pro-Castro literature in Miami, had the literature printed by a Miami printer, and paid for the printing by a check signed by the Fair Play For Cuba Committee." (CD 59, p. 4)

In asserting that Oswald distributed pro-Castro literature in Miami on behalf of the FPCC, Martino added his voice to those of Jim and Jerry Buchanan of the International Anti-Communist Brigade. Jerry Buchanan told the FBI in March 1964 that Oswald had conducted such activities in Miami, and said that his brother, Jim Buchanan, had specific information. (CE 2951) The motives of Martino and Buchanan in spreading this story are suspect, since there appears to be no basis in fact to believe that Oswald was ever in Miami.

It appears that John Martino is a prime suspect in the staging of the "Odio Incident."

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