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receiving any assistance from the Committee. He could not recall the name of this Cuban but he believes the Cuban is still employed at Parkland Hospital. The other contacts Heitman had with him were "drop-in" visits by Heitman when Heitman was in the vicinity of the Lakewood Building in Dallas. Heitman would stop and ask whether he knew of the existence of a certain Cuban or a Cuban group. He had always cooperated to the best of his ability with the FBI agents.

When asked concerning his knowledge of the "Jure" group among the Cubans, he stated that he knew very little about the various Cuban groups such as the Jure, the Students Revolutionary Directive or the Segundo Frente del Escambray. He stated that he knew of their existence but never became interested in their political views or their differences of opinion. He stated that the Catholic Cuban Relief Committee "cut through all these groups" and the assistance of the Committee was given to anyone that needed it regardless of their political views. He did state, however, that he knew that the Jure group supported Manuel Rey of Puerto Rico as the successor to Castro. He stated that he considered Jure to be a rather militant group and that he had been informed by Sylvia Odio that they had frequently contacted her requesting her to give them her support and to lend her name to their cause. He stated that Sylvia Odio told him that she wished to stay clear of this organization because the position of her parents in Castro's prison was very precarious. He stated that he had no recollection of Manuel Rodriguez, George F. Parrel or any of the officers of the Segundo Frente del Escambray coming to his attention in connection with his work among the Cubans.

He denied knowing anything about Lee Harvey Oswald prior to November 22. He stated that sometime in December 1963 Sylvia Odio informed him that a group of Cubans had brought Oswald to her apartment. She told him she discussed this matter fully with FBI agents early in December. Subsequent to his living in New Orleans, Sylvia Odio had written a letter to him in

If Sylvia Odio "discussed this matter fully" with the FBI, the single paragraph Agents Hosty (the "Oswald" expert) and Odum gave it in their report of December 19, 1963 (above) is hardly a reflection of it. That report does show the early government intent to ignore or play down this visit of the three men, one The False Oswald, all three seemingly connected with the CIA. See also File 1553, which follows, and WHITEWASH, "The False Oswald" and WHITEWASH II, "The Hoover Diversion".

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*Out on 8.6 - she
said she didn't see the
man Oswald in her presence.
T.H. ... with the
copy told by Mr. Conell -*

which she again stated that she had discussed her meeting of Oswald with Government officials. Father McChann was not certain whether she meant that she had had another discussion with the FBI or whether she had talked to someone else about the subject. He felt that Sylvia Odio's aggravated mental condition since November 22 was caused by her concern that the Cuban community might become involved in some way with the assassination in view of their association with Oswald shortly before the assassination. (She fainted at her employment when she learned of the assassination of President Kennedy and the arrest of Oswald.) However, he stated that she is inclined to be highly dramatic and she may be building up her belief in an association with Oswald out of all proportion to what it was, if, in fact, there was any. He believed that any association with Oswald was extremely limited and confined to the one instance in which Oswald is alleged to have visited her home with a "group from the Jure". He denied ever having a discussion with Sylvia Odio as to the identity of this group and denied ever hearing the name Leopoldo mentioned other than in connection with this visit. He did state, however, that it is inconceivable that Oswald was brought to Sylvia Odio and introduced to her by anyone from the Jure other than someone well known to her. He said a man by the name of "Alentada", who is said to be the representative for the Jure group in Dallas, would know who was active in the group. Alentada is said to be a Certified Public Accountant in Dallas and frequently came to Mrs. Odio looking for help for Jure.

Sylvia Odio is described as about 26 years of age who now lives with her three small children and her sister, Sarita Odio, (single, 23 years of age) at 4223 West Lovers Lane, Dallas, Texas, telephone FL 7-6878. Another sister, Annie Laurie Odio, (single, 18 years of age) is now living in Miami.

Father McChann says he did not know Sylvia Odio prior to March 1963 when she came to Dallas from Puerto Rico, but that he knew her sister, Sarita, in connection with the Cuban

It is "inconceivable that Oswald was brought to Sylvia Odio...by anyone from Jure other than someone well known to her." From this it would seem that these men were not from JURE, not that they didn't visit her. The handwritten notes, discussed in the text, are not in the copy of this letter printed by the Commission (26H403). The same is true of some of the markings and the word "trip" on page 6. These men did leave on a trip (see File 1553).

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Relief Committee, and that he also knew her younger sister, Annie Laurie, who was attending school in Dallas prior to Mrs. Odio's arrival. He stated that when Mrs. Odio arrived in Dallas, although she was ill for the first few months, she made the acquaintance of persons like Mrs. Connell who introduced her to some very prominent people in Dallas. None of these people assisted Mrs. Odio financially and the family at that time was supported by funds furnished by the Catholic Cuban Committee and by selling some of the possessions they had brought with them from Puerto Rico, such as gold coins, jewelry, etc.; they were living a very meager existence and when the children arrived from Puerto Rico there was a real strain on their financial resources. Their situation was complicated by Mrs. Odio's mental condition which required psychotherapy periodically.

Father McChann was requested to call Mrs. Odio in an attempt to secure from her the name of the Jure representative who accompanied Oswald. He agreed to place the call, stating that if he could not induce her to tell him who the people were, he could induce her to tell it to the proper authorities. He said Sylvia Odio would be reluctant to give any information which might compromise her position among the Cubans or which would result in the Cubans being embarrassed or in any way connected with the assassination. This, of course, is not quite consistent with her informing others in December that Oswald was brought to her by members of the Jure.

Father McChann stated that it was the duty of every citizen to cooperate to the fullest extent in the President's Commissions's investigation and that he felt he was bound in conscience to give whatever assistance he could. He said he did not feel he was violating a confidence in giving any information previously given since he had been informed by Mrs. Odio that she had discussed this information with the proper authorities. He did not realize at the time that she had not made a full and frank disclosure of the names of the people who brought Oswald to her.

So sketchy is the FBI report of its interview with Sylvia Odio of four and a half months earlier, it doesn't even give the fictitious name of the second man with "Oswald". There is no reason to presume Mrs. Odio did not tell the FBI everything she knew that it wanted. The inference here is that she was holding back, which seems unwarranted. Note, however, the government did not show her any of the numerous pictures of possible suspects. Its files bulged with such pictures. Had federal intent been serious, no agent would have overlooked this.

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Father McChann said he did not feel he could call Mrs. Odio in the presence of Inspector Kelley and that he would prefer to talk to her privately. It was agreed that he would call Mrs. Odio shortly after 6:30 pm, Central Standard Time, April 30, and he was furnished the necessary funds to make the call. Upon his return to Inspector Kelley's room about 7:30 pm, he said he had made the call to Mrs. Odio in Dallas and she was very anxious to discuss the entire matter. She advised him the only information she could provide on the people who visited her was that one of them said he was using the code name of Leopoldo, that the second man she could identify as Eugenio Cisneros, and the third man was introduced to her as Leon. She said Leon did not use the name of Oswald in her presence but that she recognized him after November 22 as being the same man who was arrested for the assassination of President Kennedy. She further described the men as being "greasy looking Cubans -- more like Mexicans than Cubans although they did not have Mexican accents". She stated they said they were members of the Jure and they had a letter in Spanish which they wished her to translate into English, for the purpose of sending copies of this letter to United States companies to secure funds for their cause. She further stated that in the course of the conversation the man she now identifies as Oswald spoke "a couple of words in Spanish" and further, that the others informed her that they were going to make a trip. These men did not enter her apartment or sit down. She said she was a little afraid of them since she did not know them, although they used the underground code word names of her father and mother and seemed very familiar with her family and conditions in Cuba. Her sister, Annie Laurie, who was now in Miami, was baby sitting with Mrs. Odio's children that evening. Mrs. Odio was ready to go out and she never did ask the visitors to sit down. The entire conversation she had with them was in the doorway of her apartment at the Crestwood Apartments. She is not able to fix the date any better than sometime in September of 1963.

TRIP

It is not in these documents, but when Mrs. Odio distinguished between Cubans and Mexicans on the basis of appearance, the FBI agents doubted her and took her onto the street for a test. As Latins walked past, she ticked them off - accurately, according to people known to me and to her, not interviewed by federal agents, who knew they should, and not called by the Commission.

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Mrs. Odio said she refused to assist them in their project of translating the letter saying she had no time to get mixed up in the affairs of the Jure. They left saying that they would be in touch with her again. The man she says was Leopoldo called her the next day and in part of the conversation he told her that Leon was willing to do anything; that he had laughed at the Cubans saying they had no "guts" and that it would be easy to kill Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs invasion. Mrs. Odio said that when the group first came to the apartment they asked for her sister, Sarita, and when they were told that Sarita was not there but that she was Sylvia, they said "Well, you are the one we wanted to talk to anyway".

Sylvia further said that she did not tell everything to the FBI because they did not ask her these questions. She said she felt that the FBI interviewed her improperly in that they came to her place of employment and asked about her and interviewed her there, and it became a source of embarrassment to her and she later quit her job at the Chemical Company partly on this account.

Father/McChann insisted that in the latest conversation, and in most of the conversations he had with Sylvia about this matter, she insisted that the man she identified as Oswald had a mustache, or at least he had not shaved recently; that he was "disgusting looking" because of his dark beard and unkempt appearance.

In response to a question concerning a telephone call Mrs. Odio is alleged to have made to New Orleans in recent months, Father McChann said that she had never called him in New Orleans but Sylvia had an aunt and uncle in New Orleans. He identified the uncle as Dr. Augustine Guitart, a physics professor at Xavier University in New Orleans. He knows that Mrs. Odio frequently calls Dr. Guitart as he has been in Guitart's home on occasions when she called. He said Dr. Guitart has engaged in no political activities among the Cuban groups in New Orleans or Dallas insofar as he knows.

This is a toned-down version of what the men really said about killing the President. Mrs. Odio's testimony is quite explicit: "President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs...It is so easy to do it" (WHITE-WASH 153). But the Hosty-Odum FBI report (above) concludes: "According to Miss (sic) ODIO, LEOPOLDO told them that the Cuban people bore no malice toward President KENNEDY because of the Bay of Pigs episode". Thus was the murder of the President "investigated", reported and "solved", without mention or investigation of the Cuban-refugee involvement.

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