

December 23, 1966

STATEMENT OF: Layton Patrick Martens, W/M
3622 Constance Street
Student at S/W College located in
Lafayette, Louisiana
Staying 604 Evangeline Drive, Phone # CE-5-7814
At times called "Pat" by family.

I met Dave Ferrie in 1958; at that time I was in the C.A.P., he was the Second Commander. This is how I met him. In 1960 he was attempting to form his own C.A. P. Squadron. In 1958 through 1960 I was friendly with him. I was in his company many times also I was in his apartment many times. I spent nights in his apartment. We would get a gang together and stay over night.

Shortly "after" the invasion of the Bay of Pigs,¹⁾ around 1961,

I was introduced by Ferrie to Acacha Smith who was third in command of the Cuban Revolutionary Front. He lives in the area of Mayor Schiro. The top man in this organization is Miro Cardona. The second man in command was with Cardona and Smith in Washington, I can't remember his name. Actually I would have been third in command locally because I was an aide to Acacha Smith. Then came Ferrie who was in the organization before me. Then came Carlos Lopez, W/M, 50's, big fellow, grey hair, crew cut, who may be residing 7900 Green Street. The thought of this organization was basically to have another invasion at a later date. The Justice Department knew what we stood for and what we were working for but did not officially recognize the organization. While working with this organization we would receive money from collections, donations, and also solicit funds from businesses, clubs and different organizations. This money was turned over to Acacha Smith who would disburse it. This organization was small locally but spread around to different cities.

Acacha Smith manned his headquarters in the Balter Building on a full time basis. He attended Columbia University for his education. Outside Cuban organizations, sometimes called Wildcat organizations, were not welcome in this organization. Help was always welcome but if these organizations would combine their effort and work together towards the same goal they would be welcome.

This fellow Lopez whom I mentioned earlier had no official title but I knew him to be a ^{high ranking officer} Colonel in the invasion force. He actually fought in it. There were two young fellows in their 20's who I believe were staying with Acacha, and who I think were aides to the Colonel, who somehow got out of Cuba where their parents were machine-gunned down right in front of them. These boys were actually part of the force that actually fought. Their first names were Julian and Enrico.

I knew that Guy Bannister was hired just in his capacity to gather information and find out who we could work with. He was just used in his professional field as a detective. Bannister's office was located around the corner from the old Post Office. Generally all business contacts with Bannister were made in Bannister's office. Usually Ferrie would make the contacts for the organization.

In 1961 Dave Ferrie was working as an airline pilot for Eastern Airlines. Right around this time he was picked up for homosexuality and lost his job. That's when he became associated with G. W. Gill as an investigator. Ferrie belonged to the Cuban Organization while working as an airline pilot.

SUNDAY

On November 24, 1963, about midnight, I was arrested from Dave Ferrie's apartment along with Al Beaubouef. I was booked

with vagrancy, suspicion and investigation. Ferrie had been in the apartment earlier and had left. The big rumor at that time was he went to Dallas. I doubt it. Dave left about an hour before the police arrived. While the police were there John Trion came and rang the bell to the apartment, where he was met by the policeman, questioned and advised to leave the premises. When I arrived at the apartment Beaubouef was there by himself. During this time in the apartment, Dave came in for a short time and stated he had to leave for awhile.

TURSDAY:

The day before I was arrested I saw Ferrie at his house. At this time I was staying in the apartment for two weeks. There was Al and several other people who came over, maybe John Trion. I remember watching TV about Kennedy. I was out of school because of my mother's illness. My mother was just released from the hospital and at that time I was staying in her apartment. When she was released I was in the process of looking for another apartment and that is why I was staying at Dave's apartment.

FRIDAY:

The day of the assassination of the president I was working for New Orleans Blueprint. I worked to 5:00 or 6:00 P.M. that night and went over to Ferrie's apartment. I saw Dave at the apartment and remember watching TV about Kennedy. Beaubouef was there.

Q. Concerning Friday I am going to mention to you the Marcello trial ending. Do you remember anything about this? This is the day of the assassination.

A. Vaguely I heard Dave mention something about it. He was happy on the outcome. But none of us were really happy because of Kennedy. We watched TV and I knew that Ferrie felt bad about the assassination and I would think we went to bed early.

1. Upon being released by the police on Magazine Street my uncle picked me up and I may have stopped at home and then went back to Dave's apartment.

I am going to ask you some questions Layton.

Q. Do you know Melvin Coffey?

A. Coffey was in the C.A.P. Coffey was in the C.A.P. before me in a different group but eventually all C.A.P. groups get to know one another.

Q. Did he know Ferrie?

A. Yes, probably through C.A.P.

Q. Have you made any trips with Dave either by auto or plane?

A. Couple of encampments with C.A.P. we would go across the lake.

Q. any out of state trip with him?

A. No. Years ago ^{on} Easter Airlines flight to Atlanta.

Q. What about Melvin Coffey?

A. I doubt it.

Q. What about Morris Brownlee?

A. I wouldn't know.

Q. What about Alvin Beaubouef?

A. I wouldn't know about that.

Q. Do you know Lee Oswald?

A. No.

Q. Were you living at 606 Nashville Avenue in 1963?

A. We lived there for a while, it is very possible. Yes.

Q. Did you ever fly to Mexico or Cuba?

A. No - I have never been there.

Q. Did you ever possess a passport of any kind?

A. No.

Q. Do you speak any other language?

A. Not fluently.

Q. Do you know if Ferrie knew Lee Oswald?

A. Not by me. I heard he did through C.A.P.

Q. Do you know of a Mrs. Sylvia Odio?

A. I doubt it. Not off-hand.

Q. Have you any connection with the Cuban Organization known as JURE?

A. No.

Q. Have you been to any South American countries?

A. No.

Q. Do you have any friends or associates in any of these countries or Cuba?

A. I don't know unless Acacha is back there. I consider him a friend. I have not seen him in years.

Q. Did you ever make any trips with Morris Brownlee?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever travel to Galveston, Houston or Dallas?

A. I been to Houston on the way to Dallas. Once or twice. Never to Galveston. Three times to Dallas. Dallas last year in the Spring of 1966. Twice in the Spring of 1965.

Q. What was the purpose of these trips to Dallas? First trip was for the Music Teacher Convection. The second and third for the Metropolitan Opera.

Q. Do you know of any trips Coffey or Beaubouef made to Texas?

A. No.

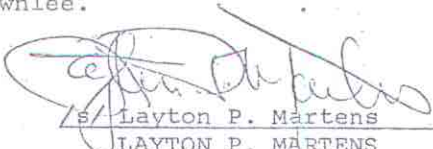
Q. Do you know if Ferrie made any trips to Dallas in 1963, Houston, Galveston?

A. I don't know.

(This statement given to Louis Ivon of the District Attorney's Office freely and voluntarily. All information given is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.)

Q. Has anybody else talked to you about what I talked to you about in this statement?

A. Yes, Ruth Keiler. I talked to her on the phone in your office and she mentioned about the police arresting and questioning Morris Brownlee.


/s/ Layton P. Martens
LAYTON P. MARTENS