

CHAPTER 17

The Not So "Jolly Green Giant"

Whether it was Steve Bordelon or Lynn Loisel, two New Orleans city detectives assigned to Orleans Parish District Attorney Jim Garrison, I do not now remember. But one of them looked me up a spring day in 1968 and said, "Hal, the boss would like you to come out to his house."

He drove me to Garrison's spacious brick home in one of New Orleans' better sections. It was probably Bordelon because while he and Loisel also performed the usual duties of detectives, they were also Garrison's drivers. More often Bordelon did the driving. Loisel when Bordelon was busy on other duties.

They both loved the man. It was not just that he was the "boss," which the detectives called him. They were devoted to him and they worked long hours for him. They did not just drive him around.

Later that year they led the staff in getting a very special and expensive small revolver for him, silver where possible, with special engraving on the grip.

Garrison was in his den, the small room just to the right of the large hall at the attractive entrance. As usual he had before him a lined yellow pad of the kind lawyers favor. I never knew Garrison to dictate. He wrote everything out laboriously, even his many press releases. Then what he wrote was typed by an office typist or secretary.

After greeting me Garrison explained that he was writing his speech for the coming annual convention of the California Press Association or the Southern California Press Association. He was to be the main speaker.

It seems that he wanted to try some of the parts of the speech that he liked in particular out on me.

It was a speech in which he inferred that Lyndon Johnson had some connection with the assassination that made him president.

Before long he got to a passage he could neither read nor speak. He just broke up, laughing so much and so intensely he was only partly comprehensible. The word he could not handle without shaking with the laughter he could not control was "fagots." First I thought that reminded him of Clay Shaw, the successful New Orleans businessman and playwright Garrison had charged with conspiring to kill JFK. Shaw was well known as a homosexual. He was nonetheless respected. (The jury acquitted him in less than an hour.)

(It was not very long before I realized that others he had in mind for that kind of sexual preference were not limited to President Lyndon Johnson or his White House staff or, of White House staffs, to his alone, either!)

Finally I made out enough as he tried over and over again to deliver the line he liked so much and over which he could not control himself. Aside from not being able to speak it without breaking up, he had not phrased it well.

That was surprising because he was an intellectual, articulate, often eloquent, with a dry wit and the extensive speaking experience of a politician and a trial lawyer.

I interrupted to ask him, "Jim, do you have a copy of Photographic Whitewash?"

That is the third of my books on the JFK assassination. I'd published it the previous spring.

"Wouldn't be without it," he said, reaching to the bookshelves behind his chair. He handed it to me.

I turned to page 9 of the Introduction. There I discussed the widespread belief that Johnson was somehow involved in the assassination that made him President. In wrapping up those paragraphs I wrote,

"So, when people ask themselves why, 'cui bono,' and say it is Johnson who benefited from the murder, wherein it is illogical, whether or not it is correct? Does this record earn less? Does it justify better?"

Then what Jim cribbed:

"No matter how pure his motive, no matter how humble his gathering of Fagots (if it is humble he is), they stoke a witch's cauldron and he is thought MacBeth."

I looked up at him. He looked at me, expressionless.

"Knew I read it someplace," is all he said, without a trace of embarrassment.

"Look, Jim," I said. "I don't mind. Why don't you use the line as it is, without the changes that just don't work?"

He thanked me, we discussed whatever else it was that he wanted to discuss, more likely some of his imaginings that became real to him as soon as he made them up, and thereafter I forgot about it.

Until some time later, when I was making an afternoon speech at the University of California at Berkeley.

Soon after I started a number of students, including Paul Hoch, then working on his doctorate, rushed up to me and told me I had to leave immediately.

Surprised, I asked "Why?"

They told me that Garrison had phoned. He said that I absolutely had to be at his speech that very night in Los Angeles.

I told those students I had no interest in hearing the speech and that I had other plans. But they

insisted. They told me they had tickets for me, on a plane leaving from the Oakland airport, and on a return flight, a car waiting, and I just had to be there because Jim said so and that he had a table in my name.

A table? For one man?

They rushed me to the plane. There were students awaiting me at the gate in the Los Angeles airport. They drove me to one of the many rather nice hotels in downtown Los Angeles and I was taken to a table where some friends were already seated. Of them I now remember only Art Kevin, then of KHJ news.

We ate, chatted, then listened to Garrison's speech.

And he flubbed that very same line!

But his speech was very well received. The "underground" press reported it extensively.

That Garrison was a literary thief I knew. But that he was not in the slightest embarrassed being caught in his thievery was a surprise. It was another facet of the complicated character of that very able and very strange man.

Garrison's explanation of how he got interested in the JFK assassination was that when he and Louisiana Senator Russell Long were seated next to each other on an airplane flight in about November 1966, Senator Long told Jim that he had the gravest doubts about the Warren Report. That, in Garrison's account, is what got him interested.

At least two reporters did not believe him, both in early 1967, shortly after news of his "probe," as it was referred to in New Orleans, made international headlines.

The headline on the story Ian McDonald, who became my friend, wrote for the prestigious *Times of London*, one of whose Washington correspondents he then was, is, "Mystery of Kennedy

Inquiry Cleared Up."

The lead or opening paragraph reads:

"One mystery of the rather mystifying investigation of the Kennedy assassination now being conducted by Mr. Jim Garrison, Attorney General of New Orleans, has been cleared up. The source of much of this information is Mr. Harold Weisberg, the author of Whitewash: Report on the Warren Commission" (sic)

George Lardner's *Washington Post* story was less gentle:

"The scenario guiding New Orleans District Attorney in his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination can be glimpsed in any bookstore.

"The investigation is Garrison's but the script apparently started with Harold Weisberg, former Senate investigator and author of Whitewash, a paperback attack on the Warren Report." (The Dell reprint had just appeared.)

I was, of course, aware of what Garrison had done and I did not mind. He was far from the first and even farther from the last. The only time we ever got close to any discussion of it was over that line he cribbed from Photographic Whitewash.

Both of those quotations are on the back cover of that book Garrison "wouldn't do without," so he knew that I knew and had let it be known to others.

No sweat!

About a month after those stories appeared I was in New Orleans for the first time.

Garrison had wanted me there earlier, to appear before his grand jury, but when news of his "probe" broke I had more than half of my book, Oswald in New Orleans, written. I wanted my end to be completely independent so I did not go there until after the book was written.

The grand jury met on the second floor of the two storey Courts building at Tulane and Broad Avenues. Garrison's office and the courts were also on that floor. When I left the grand jury in the hallway was a group of reporters. I must have been the only one to refuse to discuss what I was asked

and what I said from their reaction when I refused to talk about what had transpired before the grand jury. The reporters walked with me the length of that wide corridor and when we got to the bottom of the many steps to the first floor, others waited there to join in the questioning.

I did accept the invitation of three of them, one each from a newspaper, a radio station and a TV station, to join them for lunch. We then talked about other matters. They cued me in on some of Garrison's witnesses and I discussed my books and answered their questions about them.

That Saturday early afternoon I went to the office of Dean Adams Andrews, the jive-talking, offbeat lawyer whose provocative Warren Commission testimony I had brought to light. I also debunked the official effort to deprecate it (Whitewash pp. 24-5, 150-1).

Surprisingly, Andrews' office was on about the seventh floor of a well-known department store, the Palais Royale. It is on Canal Street only a few blocks from the Mississippi in the original main section of the New Orleans business district. Before the spread to the suburbs that was its only location. Oddly, the secretary's office — no secretary there on Saturday — was a good sized room. But Andrews' was not much more than a cubbyhole. It has his unpretentious wooden desk, his chair and a chair for one visitor.

His office was not a reflection of his legal talents, however. He was an able lawyer. Witness the fact that when Garrison later had him dead to rights on false swearing, Andrews served no time.

We had not been talking very long when Andrews told me, "Hal, last November the Giant walked in, threw a copy of your book on my desk, and said, 'Dean, you oughta read this!'"

Andrews, when questioned by the press, had given Garrison the nickname "The Jolly Green Giant." Once the press adopted that nickname, Andrews abbreviated it to "the giant."

It had been Andrews who introduced the character Clay Bertrand, a man he described as a

homosexual of means who sought Andrews help in representing Oswald, as he earlier had for homosexuals afool of the law. Andrews testified that Bertrand had asked him to represent Oswald the day of the assassination, but being hospitalized, he could not.

Another colorful New Orleans lawyer, Sam Monk Zelden, confirmed to me twice, the second time in 1972, that Andrews had asked him to take the case Bertrand offered, but before he could there was no client, Oswald having been killed by Jack Ruby.

That long Saturday afternoon with Andrews characterized him in several other ways.

It only began by his telling me that before Garrison made up that chance meeting with Senator Long he gave Andrews to understand his "probe" began with my treatment of Andrews' Warren Commission testimony, with my first book, as the two reporters had observed.

While we were talking he had a visitor. The outer door to his two room office opened and I could hear a woman's heels clicking on the unrugged floor. Then this woman was standing in the doorway of Andrews' office.

"Hal," Andrews said, "This is my favorite niece, Pat Young. Pat, this is Hal Weisberg. You've read his book."

With that she came over to me, put her arms around me and kissed me full on the mouth. Was I surprised! Then she said, "You are the only one who treated Uncle Dean fairly."

Her visit was short. She told him, "I've come to tell you that I got that job in Washington and I leave on Monday."

"Where in Washington will you be working?" I asked her.

"Sorry, I can't tell you," she replied.

What that did say is that she went to work for an intelligence agency. The CIA, for example,

does not permit its employees to tell even their families where they work and what their jobs are and entail.

Skipping ahead to that summer, shortly after schools closed for the summer recess, I was again in New Orleans and had to leave before finishing the work on which I was then engaged because I had agreed to conduct a seminar at The East Coast Conference on American Civilization. The most gifted high school students of the east were gathered at Walter Johnson High School in the Washington suburb of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Those youngsters were bright, too. They had their choice of the seminars they wanted to attend.

Those of us who conducted the seminars were directed to the faculty room for our lunches. I had barely sat down at an empty table when I was aware of a man and a woman coming up to it.

There was Pat Young, with a man who was a stranger to me.

She introduced him by my name, Weisberg, and as a psychiatrist or a psychologist, I do not recall which.

"What are you doing here?" I asked her.

"Making evaluations," she said.

I joked, asking, "For recruiting?" She smiled and did not reply.

I learned no more while we lunched. We talked about other things.

Going back to the day I met Pat Young, not long after she left Andrews' office his phone rang. From Andrews' end of the conversation it was soon clear that a very excited homosexual client was terribly frightened.

Andrews, a legitimate Mr. Five by Five, he was that short and that extraordinarily round, tried

to calm the man whose voice I could sometimes hear but not enough to understand what he was saying. From Andrews' end the man was afraid because a well-known criminal wanted for murder, with the nickname The Bulldog, had phoned from Houston with the word he was coming to New Orleans to kill him. Impatient to end the conversation, Andrews interrupted his terrified client to tell him, with forcefulness, not to worry.

Holding the phone with his left hand, Andrews told him, "When he gets here he'll be on my turf." With that, Andrews pressed the middle finger on his right hand against the thumb, as though squeezing a bug. He smiled to me and ended the conversation.

Three days later the banner headlines across the top of the front page of the New Orleans *States-Item's* bulldog edition reported that The Bulldog, identified in the story as wanted for many crimes, including murder, had been captured in New Orleans!

Andrews was a good lawyer and a sick man. Fond as I am of traditional jazz, I've often regretted letting work interfere with the invitation for that night he extended before I left.

"There's a cat who blows a hot horn coming down from Cincinnati," he told me, inviting me to their New Orleans jazz jam session.

Although that is my favorite popular music, I felt I had to keep an appointment I had made. Thinking back after all those years, I think it was to dine with a step-brother I had never met, the late Dr. Jack Kety, who lived and practiced in Covington, Louisiana, about an hour away on the other side of Lake Pontchartrain. Covington is in St. Tammany's Parish, where I later did some investigating relating to Cuban anti-Castro training camps there.

By a remarkable coincidence, it was Jack who had been David Ferrie's doctor. Jack had several Eastern Airlines pilots as patients. When Ferrie started losing his hair, one of them referred him

to Jack. Jack told me he diagnosed alopecia and was treating Ferrie for it successfully when Ferrie decided he had a better knowledge of medicine and started treating himself.

"It became alopecia totalis," Jack told me. And thus we learned why Ferrie was totally hairless. That did not explain his bizarre, self-made eyebrows and outlandish wigs for which he got to be well and conspicuously known.

Jack had lived and practiced in the area after getting his medical education in New Orleans. He was well informed about Clay Shaw and had begun hearing about him when they were both young. He told me that it was well known that Shaw's lover had been a prominent and wealthy man who got him his start in business. He had also heard back when they were both young that Shaw was apparently a sado-masochist.

Andrews and I talked until late that afternoon.

He made clear to me that when Oswald had earlier been in his office it had been to get help with regard to his Russian wife Marina's status because she was not a citizen. Andrews added that the testimony elicited by the Warren Commission counsel Liebeler was misleading when read because Oswald was not with some homosexual men who were there at the same time. He said that Oswald was with a Latino, just the two of them.

I got other reports of Oswald being with a Latino. Several, like Pena and his employees, identified that man as a Mexican reporter.

I was never able to follow this lead up and it was not of any interest to either the FBI or the Commission. Both did ignore it. I doubt that Pena and his employees did not tell the FBI what they told me. But the FBI in particular wanted no leads to follow because all in it knew that its never-questioned director had ordained Oswald the lone assassin the day of the crime.

Liebeler and Garrison were both interested in establishing that Oswald was a homosexual. With Shaw and Ferrie as his alleged assassination co-conspirators, why Garrison talked that way is explained. I know of no explanation for Liebeler's effort. I brought it to light in Oswald in New Orleans, in Liebeler's questioning of one of Oswald's fellow Marines, Nelson Delgado. (page 95) Delgado made it clear that to his knowledge Oswald was heterosexual.

It is not only in their shared interest in making Oswald out to be a homosexual when he wasn't that Garrison, the Commission and the FBI tried to make him out what he was not, but they did not have the same reasons.

Most of the FBI's JFK assassination records are headed "Communist" and have Cuba in their captions. Garrison had Oswald conspiring with Shaw, who was a practicing capitalist, and Ferrie, who was of the outer fringes of the right extreme.

The truth about Oswald's politics came out in Liebeler's questioning of the undereducated and not well read Delgado. It was also in Oswald's writings that the Commission and the FBI both ignored. As I indicate above with regard to the reports that Oswald was associated with a man believed to be a Mexican reporter, that is not included in any of the many thousands and thousands of FBI records I read. Delgado is one of those who complained to the Commission about the FBI's interviews of them and about what the FBI's reports say. This is clear also in Liebeler's questioning of Delgado, who said he had been interviewed by the FBI four times. It is in my treatment of this in Oswald in New Orleans that Liebeler unintendedly made the record he and the Commission ignored about Oswald's actual political beliefs. Of all that has been taken and used from my books by others writing on the subject, I know of no single one who used what I wrote about Oswald's beliefs.

As I wrote about the Delgado testimony in Oswald in New Orleans, complaints about the FBI

and Oswald's actual political beliefs that the FBI resolutely misrepresented, merged.

"Delgado was far from alone in complaining about the 'inaccuracy' of the FBI reports. Most witnesses, when asked of conflicts between their testimony and the FBI statements, made this specific. Others volunteered their objections. These include a number of Secret Service agents. Mrs. Sylvia Odio, among others, went further and said the FBI did not ask the right questions, either, as we shall see. This treatment of Delgado is hardly the kind calculated to elicit cooperation, if that is what the FBI wanted.

"Liebeler did his own blundering. Although Oswald pretended to be a Marxist, few if any of his companions really believed he was, although he always had Marxist literature conspicuously at hand and quoted from it. Oswald was a heavy reader and considered both above average in intelligence and more serious than his companions. During a discussion of what Oswald read, this ensued:

"Mr. Delgado: Yes, and then he had this other book. I am still trying to find out what it was. It's about a farm, and about how all the animals take over and make the farmer work for them. It's really a weird book, the way he was explaining it to me, and that struck me kind of funny. But he told me that the farmer represented the imperialistic world, and the animals were the workers, symbolizing that they are the socialist people, you know, and that eventually it will come about that the socialists will have the imperialists working for them, and things like that, like these animals, these pigs took over and they were running the whole farm and the farmer was working for them.

"Mr. Liebeler: Is that what Oswald explained to you?

"Mr. Delgado: Yes.

"Mr. Liebeler: Did you tell the FBI about this?

"Mr. Delgado: Yes.

"Mr. Liebeler: Did they know the name of the book?

"Mr. Delgado: No.

"Mr. Liebeler: The FBI did not know the name of the book?

"Mr. Delgado: No.

"Mr. Liebeler: It is called the Animal Farm. It is by George Orwell.

"Mr. Delgado: He didn't tell me. I asked him for the thing, but he wouldn't tell me. I guess he didn't know. The Animal Farm. Did you read it?

"Mr. Liebeler: Yes.

"Mr. Delgado: Is it really like that?

"Mr. Liebeler: Yes; there is only one thing that Oswald did not mention apparently and that is that the pigs took over the farm, and then they got to be just like the capitalists were before, they got fighting among themselves, and there was one big pig who did just the same thing that the capitalist had done before. Didn't Oswald tell you about that?

"Mr. Delgado: No; just that the pigs and animals had revolted and made the farmer work for them. The Animal Farm. Is that a socialist book?

"Mr. Liebeler: No.

"Mr. Delgado: That is just the way you interpret it; right?

"Mr. Liebeler: Yes; I think so. It is actually supposed to be quite an anti-Communist

book.

"Mr. Delgado: Is it really?

"Mr. Liebeler: Yes." (pages 97-8)

Liebeler then abruptly changed the subject to Delgado's relations with Oswald.

There never was any question about Oswald's political beliefs but the government and those who support and commercialize its official mythology, like Gerald Posner and the Commission's former counsel David Belin, have ignored the well-established truth. The truth is clear in the Commission's own files of Oswald's secret writings. In them, as I reported in my first book, he was always anti-Communist. Orwell's The Animal Farm is an anti-Communist classic. The longest treatment of this in my 1965 book is on pages 121-3. One paragraph from this part of that book reflects how much Oswald actually hated both the American and the USSR Communist parties and its system:

"Oswald's hatred of the Communist Party and the Soviet Union exude from 150 consecutive pages of his notes in the same volume, as well as from other exhibits (16H283-434). For example, in Exhibit 97 (pp. 422-3) he rages, 'The Communist Party of the United States has betrayed itself! It has turned itself into the traditional lever of a foreign power to overthrow the government of the United States, not in the name of freedom or high ideals, but in servile conformity to the wishes of the Soviet Union ... (the leaders) have shown themselves to be willing, gullible messengers of the Kremlin's International propaganda ... The Soviets have committed crimes unsurpassed ... imprisonment of their own peoples ... mass extermination ... individual suppression and regimentation ... deportations ... the murder of history, the prostitution of art and culture. The communist movement in the U.S. personalized by the Communist Party, U.S.A., has turned itself into a 'valuable gold coin' of the Kremlin. It has failed to denounce any actions of the Soviet Government when similar actions of the U.S. Government bring pious protest.'" (Spelling improved; page 122)

I also quote his referring to the Soviet Communists as "fat, stinking politicians" and to American Communists as, among other things, "betrayers of the working class."

As I report elsewhere in connection with Gerald Posner's dishonesty and misuse of the defected KGB official Yuri Nosenko, Nosenko told the FBI that Oswald was openly anti-Soviet when he was in the Soviet Union, no minor display of courage and strong beliefs, and the KGB suspected that he might

be an American "sleeper agent" or "agent in place."

Oswald was known to our government agencies and to the Commission to be virulently anti-Communist but as George Orwell said so presciently, Big Brother controls history by rewriting it. Our Big Brother did that virtually while it was happening with Oswald and with its official assassination mythology. From "The Ministry of Truth."

With regard to the canard that Oswald was homosexual, I was able to learn that this was not true even when he was a boy in New Orleans when checking out some information I got on a radio talk show in Oakland, California, that follows. I reported that to Garrison later, in a memo of March 16, 1968, after I believed that one of those I wanted to interview, who had the local reputation of being "a tough old gal," might have an emotional reason for being willing to talk to me. I had delayed trying to interview her because Dean Andrews had told me she'd "toss me out" if I tried.

Andrews himself created the opportunity I had awaited. In the many strange things he did to protect himself from Garrison, Andrews had said on an NBC-TV anti-Garrison special that Gene Davis, who owned his own bar, was Clay Bertrand. It was well known that the "tough old gal" I wanted to interview was a friend of Davis'. Her eyes teared when she recalled this when I interviewed her. Her emotional reaction to his hurt to her friend who she was certain was not Clay Bertrand, made her quite willing to talk about that and other matters.

Exchange Alley was a narrow street before French Quarter rebuilding eliminated it. It ran parallel with Decatur and was next to it. The Oswalds and Mildred "Mom" Sawyer both lived at 126, on the same floor, the second floor. Mrs. Sawyer's son had the apartment between them. Mrs. Sawyer is my source on this. She operated the then nearby "Society Page" bar. She called it a "cocktail lounge." It was a gay bar when Oswald was a boy as it was when I interviewed her, after she

had had to move it further into the French Quarter, to 819 St. Louis Street.

The morning I interviewed her I also interviewed the bartender then on duty, Johnny Kormundi (phonetic). Both remember Oswald as a boy clearly. Both remember that as a kid he was frequently around that homosexual bar and both told me that he had nothing to do with the bar's homosexual patrons. It was well known as a homosexual bar.

Both also told me what tended to confirm the dependability of the man who spoke to me on that Oakland talk show. They both said that as a child Oswald loved to shoot pool and that he was a kid "pool shark." You will not find this in the Commission's "biography" of him in its Report's 68-page "Biography of Lee Harvey Oswald" (pages 669-737) or elsewhere in its Report.

When with visible anger, resentment and bitterness, Mrs. Sawyer told me she was certain that Gene Davis was not Clay Bertrand she added, in the words of my notes, she was "willing to believe" that Clay Shaw was.

I had not only shared with Garrison what I learned from that man, who requested anonymity. I included it in Oswald in New Orleans. Garrison was well familiar with it beginning with his reading of it before it was published so he could write the Foreword the publisher had asked of him.

His foreword is short and it is eloquent, as he could be and often was. It is replete with allegations that the government had not investigated the JFK assassination and that it had covered the assassination up a la Orwell, who he quotes in it. He refers to the government in Orwell's term as The Ministry of Truth. And he said that the CIA was involved in the JFK assassination, as he had over and over again.

He wrote,

"Above all it has been decided that you are not to know of Lee Harvey Oswald's

relationship with the Central Intelligence Agency. Nor or you to know that a number of the men actually involved in the assassinations had been employees of the Central Intelligence Agency. You are not to know of these matters because of something called 'national security.'" (pages 12-3)

Yet with all he attributed to the CIA and "national security" he had no interest in Oswald, who as a Marine of lowly rank, held both TOP SECRET and CRYPTO clearances!

This I had told him and have in Oswald in New Orleans (pages 85-94).

Or in the fact that Oswald's Marine records do not include his having these very high security clearances, at least as those records that were disclosed after he had been officially anointed the Presidential assassin.

Just before one o'clock in the morning of December 16, 1966, when I was in California promoting my second book and on the popular talk show of Joe Dolan, a Harvard lawyer who then broadcast on KNEW, in Oakland, a listener phoned to talk to me. He waited until the show signed off at one and then talked for an hour and a half.

This man was deeply troubled and there was no question about it. He had, as he said, served with Oswald. Otherwise he could not have known what was not known about Oswald and I later did check out and confirm. Such as his liking for classical music, that he was a "pool shark," the kind of person he was and even those clearances.

Some of the Oswald clearance information was known to and ignored by the Commission. The commissioned officer under whom Oswald worked and several of the Marines who were in his unit, a few engaged in the same work with him, testified that Oswald had had "at least" SECRET clearance. When in hopeful anticipation of getting evidence that Oswald had killed a fellow Marine the Commission looked into that, it got from the Navy what I later got from it. These records hold the official proofs of

Oswald high TOP SECRET and CRYPTO clearances. These are not Oswald's records. The navy responded to my FOIA request by telling me it had no Oswald records. We come to that soon. But as of this writing, although I told other besides Garrison of it, it has not been published other than by me.

Oswald in New Orleans was published in 1967, more than 25 years ago. That alone justifies my quoting some of what it reported about this man, his information, what the Commission did know about and did do nothing about, including that counsel whose only client was truth, Liebler:

"It was part confessional, part shame mixed with self-pity and self-derogation, part fear, and all worry. This man had been in the Marine Corps with Oswald. From his personal experience, he did not believe a single word about the Oswald of this period that became public with the Report. He had agonized in silence for three years between the issuance of the Report and our conversation because he knew things, he said, that had not been made public and were not in accord with what had been publicized- and he was certain what he knew was correct. [It had been only two years.]

"Following his military service, he had built a successful life, had a family, and was worried about the possible consequences of being associated with any account not in consonance with the official Oswald "line." He feared he or his business might be hurt or that his family might suffer. ...

"Briefly, it is his story that Oswald was bright, not a kook of any kind, not a blatant or proselytizing Marxist, and really a quiet, serious guy. They knew each other socially and engaged in certain recreational activities together. He never heard Oswald say anything about Communism, for or against, in all this time.

"More important is what he disclosed about Oswald's position in the Marine Corps. The unit in which both served, said my informant, was one of three similar ones of which one was always in Japan and the others in the United States. Their function was classified. Every man in the outfit carried security clearance. ...

"Of all the men in the outfit, five had special "top" security approvals. The entire complement carried a minimum of "confidential." ... Above this there were "secret," "top secret," and a special one, "crypto." Of all the man, only five were "crypto."

"One of these was Lee Harvey Oswald.

"Can you possibly be wrong?" I asked him.

"He insisted not.

"Could your memory be playing tricks?"

"No, he was positive. He went farther when I questioned him about "crypto," which he indicated was "black box" stuff. ...

"If correct, this is more than in disagreement with the entire official story of Oswald, his relations with the government and the assassination. It is an assault on the integrity of many of the members of the staff of the Commission and of the investigative agencies. It raises questions

about the transcripts of Oswald's official Marine Corps records. In every way he could, this man insisted he was not in error, that he knew.

"And he went into more detail. Correctly stating that Oswald got a "hardship" discharge so he could care for an allegedly destitute mother (it was common knowledge among his mates that Oswald had said he planned to go to Switzerland for study instead), the mysterious caller specified that Oswald spent his last two or three weeks in the service "with CID." It is, obviously, not a requirement of a "hardship" discharge that the enlisted man stay with military intelligence.

"Immediately my mind flashed back to my first book on *this* subject, Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report, where I had exposed certain unorthodox aspects of Oswald's discharge (pages 123-4) that are here appropriate. That section reads:

"With but 43 days of his Marine Corps enlistment remaining, or three months if the penalties of the courts martial had been imposed (19H725), Oswald received a "hardship discharge" (19H676). This was a clear fraud about which neither the Marine Corps nor any other government agency ever did anything. Why? ...

"Of Oswald's personal activity in the Marines, the Report states: 'He studied the Russian language, read a Russian-language newspaper and seemed interested in what was going on in the Soviet Union.' ... But his clearance to handle classified information was not revoked. It was granted May 3, 1957, 'after careful checks.' Upon discharge he signed a form acknowledging he had been informed about penalties for revelation of classified information. This included awareness 'that certain categories of Reserve and Retired personnel ... can be recalled to duty ... for trial by court-martial for unlawful disclosure of information ...' (19H680). When Oswald defected and appeared in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, he declared his intention to tell the Russians all he knew, and he knew about the radar installations in which he served and of codes (R262, 265, 393). The Report is barren on the subject, but there have been accounts published of the necessity for changing codes after his defection.

"Yet on his return to the United States, Oswald was not kept under regular surveillance (R439), was not charged with breach of security, and was not even confronted with the fraudulent nature of his hardship discharge. Explanations of lack of proof might be offered, no matter how unacceptably, for the failure to charge him with breach of security. But the failure to keep him under surveillance or to do anything about his fraudulent discharge are not susceptible to such facile pleadings. And the Report is incomplete on even this unsatisfactory explanation. It reads, 'No evidence has been found that they used him for any particular propaganda or other political or informational purposes' (R393). There is no reference here to military or security information. ["They" here refers to the Soviets.]

"The hardship discharge was to enable Oswald to care for his mother. He made not even a gesture in this direction and the Marine Corps would appear to have been aware that he had no such intention. The effective date of his discharge was September 11, 1959 (19H680; 22H79). On September 4, 1959, he applied for a passport from Santa Anna, California. It was issued September 10, 1959. Accompanying this application was a Marine Corps certification that had to be filed

with the passport application and submission of which is noted on the application. 'This is to certify,' it read, 'that PFC (E-2) Lee Harvey Oswald, 1653230, U.S. Marine Corps is scheduled to be released from Active Duty and transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve (Inactive) on 11 September 1959.' ...

"The Marine Corps certification of Oswald's imminent discharge that accompanied his passport application at the very time it was processing a hardship discharge was not lost in the mass of the Commission's documentation. Nor is it suppressed in the Report. Instead, the Report ignores both this and the fraudulent nature of the discharge in the text and, in a 13-line section of Appendix XV in which the nature of this discharge is not referred to, notes that a statement that 'he was about to be discharged' accompanied the passport application (R746). Why did not the Marine Corps revoke Oswald's security clearance; why did it keep him in a classified job and cooperate in getting him a passport while it was discharging him so he could support his mother?

"This is the background of Oswald's now famous trip to the Soviet Union, where he arrived in mid-October 1959. ..."

When I was home I started reading Commission testimony I recalled. Kerry Thornley, who was in Oswald's outfit when he returned from the Far East and was at the Santa Anna base in Southern California, was questioned by Commission counsel Albert Jenner. Among other things Thornley confirmed what that caller-in had told me about security clearances. What is important to bear in mind is that those who did not have proper security clearances were denied access to classified areas that required those clearances. While awaiting discharge, as that caller-in had also told me, Oswald worked in an intelligence section:

"Mr. Jenner: I was going to ask you what losing clearance meant. You have indicated that- or would you state it more specifically.

"Mr. Thornley: Well, that meant in a practical sense, that meant that he was not permitted to enter certain areas wherein the equipment, in this case equipment, was kept; that we would not want other unauthorized persons to have knowledge of. And on occasion information, I imagine, would also come to the man who was cleared, in the process of his work, that he would be expected to keep to himself.

"Mr. Jenner: I assume you had clearance?

"Mr. Thornley: Yes, sir; I was, I think, cleared for confidential at the time.

"Mr. Jenner: Cleared for confidential. I was about to ask you what level of clearance was involved.

"Mr. Thornley: I believe it was just confidential to work there at El Toro on that

particular equipment.

"Mr. Jenner: That is the clearance about which you speak when you talk about Oswald having lost it?

"Mr. Thornley: Oswald, I believe, had a higher clearance. This is also just based upon rumor. I believe he at one time worked in the security files, it is the S&C files, somewhere at LTA or at El Toro.

"Mr. Jenner: Did you ever work in the security files?

"Mr. Thornley: No, sir.

"Mr. Jenner: And that was a level of clearance--

"Mr. Thornley: Probably a secret clearance would be required.

"Mr. Jenner: It was at least higher than the clearance about which you first spoke?

"Mr. Thornley: Yes, sir.

"This story of Oswald's having a high security clearance is not consistent with most material in other volumes or with the Report. Note also Thornley's unprodded recollection of Oswald's 'having worked in the security files; it is the S&C files.' This is hardly a normal assignment for enlisted men who learn to speak Russian, ostensibly for themselves, openly subscribe to Communist publications and are ostentatiously pro-'Marxist.' ...

"... what might have been a major revelation remains instead one of the major mysteries, officially hidden by the Commission but now, I think, smoked out. It is particularly pertinent in the developing New Orleans story.

"There are many other things in the record that bear on this, some negatively. For example, no member of the staff ever pursued this strange inconsistency. Oswald the Marxist in a position of high security trust in the Marine Corps. It should have been a troubling legal hangnail to each and every one, and to the members of the Commission. Instead, the Commission used the least desirable method of gathering 'testimony' and that on a selective basis only. *Ex parte* and incompetent depositions were taken from Thornley, Nelson Delgado (8H228-65), another former Oswald Marine Corps chum, and his former superior officer, Lt. John E. Donovan (8H289-303). From all the few others included in the record, there are but brief and insufficient affidavits.

"With one exception, all reveal a Commission interest in whether Oswald was a homosexual. That exception is the man who arranged dates between Oswald and his sister.

"Lieutenant Donovan, 'the officer in command' of the crew in which Oswald served (8H290), when asked about whether the murdered accused assassin had been a homosexual:

"Mr. Ely: I believed you mentioned earlier that he did not seem to you particularly interested in girls. Was this just because he was interested in other things, or do you have any reason to believe that there was anything abnormal about his desires?

"Mr. Donovan: I have no reason to suspect that he was homosexual, and in that squadron at that time one fellow was discharged from the service for being homosexual. He was in no way tied in with it that I know of. ... (8H300)

"Perhaps Donovan's most significant testimony tends to cast Oswald in a different role than the Report and indicates the magnitude of the breach of security and military trust he threatened at the Moscow Embassy when going through the motions if not the actuality of defection:

"Mr. Donovan: ... shortly before I got out of the Marine Corps, which was mid-December 1959, we received word that he had showed up in Moscow. This necessitated a lot of change of aircraft call signs, codes, radio frequencies, radar frequencies. He had access to the location of all bases in the west coast area, all radio frequencies for all squadrons, all tactical call signs, and the relative strength of all squadrons, number and type of aircraft in a squadron, who was the commanding officer, the authentication code of entering and exiting the ADIZ, which stands for Air Defense Identification Zone. He knew the range of our radar. He knew the range of our radio. And he knew the range of the surrounding units' radio and radar. ...

"Mr. Ely: You recall that various codes were changed. Now, at what level were these changed: Was this an action of your specific unit, or a fairly widespread action?

"Mr. Donovan: Well, I did not witness the changing in any other squadrons, but it would have to be, because the code is obviously between two or more units. Therefore, the other units had to change it. These codes are a grid, and two lines correspond. ... There are some things which he knew on which he received instruction that there is no way of changing, such as the MPS 16 height-finder radar gear. That had recently been integrated in to the Marine Corps system. It had a height-finding range far in excess of our previous equipment, and it has certain limitations. He had been schooled on those limitations. It cannot operate above a certain altitude in setting- in other words, you cannot place the thing above a certain terrain height. He had also been schooled on a piece of machinery called a TPX-1, which is used to transfer radio-radar and radio signals over a great distance. Radar is very susceptible to homing missiles, and this piece of equipment is used to put your radar antenna several miles away, and relay the information back to your site which you hope is relatively safe. He had been schooled on this. And that kind of stuff you cannot change.

"Mr. Ely: Did Oswald have any kind of clearance?

"Mr. Donovan: He must have had secret clearance to work in the radar center, because that was a minimum requirement for all of us (8H297-8).

"Oswald's prerequisite for returning to the United States — a promise not to be prosecuted — is contrary to the regulations quoted from Whitewash above and with the seriousness of the promised offense. It is hardly enough to say, as does the government, that Oswald said he did not give secrets away. There was no official proceeding to discover the truth after he returned.

"One of the longest depositions is that of Nelson Delgado (8H228-65). It was taken April 18, 1964, by Wesley J. Liebeler. In its 37 pages much is destructive of the official case as set forth in the Report. Some of the most fascinating leads, whether or not lost upon Liebeler, are *not* in the Report, not even by indirection. Some are consistent with an Oswald-government, Oswald-intelligence relationship.

"Delgado concurred with the others in reporting Oswald's access to 'secret' data (8H232). He placed Oswald in 'the silent area. That is the war room' (8H259), not exactly where one expects the Marine Corps to assign 'Communists.'

"In distributing mail in his barracks, Delgado learned that Oswald was getting

Communist literature. Those superiors to whom he reported it, including a Lieutenant Delprado, 'just brushed it off. He didn't seem to care' (8H260).

The homosexual questions also brought negatives. When Liebler came to the end of his long interrogation, he asked Delgado, 'Can you think of anything else about him?'

"Delgado said he had never seen Oswald drunk, though he knew Oswald drank an 'occasional beer.'

"Liebler then asked, 'Do you think he had any homosexual tendencies?'

"Delgado replied, 'No; never once,' adding that 'in fact, we had two fellows in our outfit that were caught at it, and he thought it was kind of disgusting...'

"For all its pretended interest in ferreting out every detail of Oswald's history there is indication that a few secrets remain, at least in the official record. This is revealed in part of Delgado's testimony that will also interest us in another sense. Oswald had been in Tijuana, Mexico, before the weekend that he, Delgado and some other companions had a fling. Oswald knew his way around. As Delgado put it:

"We went down to Tijuana, hit the local spots, drinking and so on, and all of a sudden he says, 'Let's go to the Flamingo.' So it didn't register, and I didn't bother to ask him, 'Where is the Flamingo? How did you know about this place?' I assumed he had been there before, because when we got on the highway he told me which turns to take to get to this place, you know. (8H253)

"The bartender was a homosexual.' Liebler wanted to be doubly sure. He asked, 'Was that apparent to you?'

"Delgado was positive. 'Oh, yes; it was apparent to us ... ' (8H253)

"Oswald's interest was not in the homosexual. He 'shacked up' across the street from the bar:

"Mr. Delgado: Right across the street from the jai-alai games, there are some hotels, these houses, you know; and as far as I knew, Oswald had a girl. I wasn't paying too much attention, you know, but it seemed to me like he had one. (8H253)

From the testimony they took it seems to be apparent that the Commission counsel manifested one of their major obligations when they investigated the assassination of a President to be how Oswald got his kicks- was he homosexual? Despite always being told he was not they kept trying- and hoping.

With all this significant testimony relating to the high trust placed in the only person ever officially considered as the President's assassin, the high security clearances that without doubt did exist and equally without doubt are not on Oswald's Marines records, with his learning to speak Russian as a Marine, with his getting Russian and Communist literature openly in the Marines and without any official interest in that- with all those red flags snapping in their eyes, the Commissioners and their counsels had

no interest at all and did nothing at all to learn what could be learned.

This is true also of the FBI.

That is investigating?

Or is probing constantly to find someone who would say that Oswald was homosexual the real way to investigate such a crime?

Except for his Foreword in Oswald in New Orleans and odds and ends of interviews when Garrison made charges of intelligence involvement in the assassination without ever undertaking to prove it, Garrison was pretty much like the federals he criticized- talk and nothing else.

I believe it is of extraordinary significance if the accused Presidential assassin enjoyed such trust in the military and that a diligent investigation of what he did and for whom he did it with such exceptional clearances was one of the most important possible areas for investigating Oswald.

Particularly because he was the alleged assassin.

Not only was all I refer to above available to the Commission and all others in the government, as it was to Garrison, the federals had no limit on what they could seek and get and Garrison had, had he wanted it, had access to more than is here reported.

Some of the Marines, undereducated, unsophisticated, but on getting the cue from the counsels what they wanted made up a doozer. And counsel Albert Jenner and the Commission went for it big!

In that MACS unit in which Oswald served, as it happens a young man with whom he took his basic air control training plus the secret advanced training, for that classified work, as Kessler field near Mobile, Alabama (virtually all records of which wound up in the memory hole), one of those five men with that CRYPTO clearance about which my Oakland caller-in was completely accurate, was found shot to death when that unit was at Cubi Point, in the Philippines.

Anticipating correctly what Jenner et al longed for, a few of these former Marines suggested that it may have been Oswald who killed PFC Martin Schrand. What the Commission got from the Navy it had no use for because Oswald did not kill Schrand. Schrand killed himself.

The FBI had gotten such a bum steer from another of Oswald's former mates. On the charge that there might be something to that rumor FBIHQ teletyped its St. Louis office to go to the federal records center there and "immediately review Schrand's service records for circumstances surrounding his death and specifically whether it occurred while on sentry duty with Oswald." (FBIHQ File 62-109060-394. This is its main JFK assassination file.)

For \$9.65 the Navy let me have the records of the Schrand inquest.

Four months after this November 29, 1963 teletype J. Lee Rankin, the Commission's general counsel, in April 1964, asked the Navy for two copies of the records on that Schrand investigation.

There had never been any doubt about it, Schrand killed himself and only the nutty Marine rumor-mongers made up the attractive fiction that Oswald did it. I was not really interested in the official determination of death, which was from a self-inflicted gunshot wound of such a nature that first aid would not have made any difference. I was interested in the circumstances and the normal official information because Schrand, like Oswald and those other three, worked in the "crypto van" that my caller-in had told me about. But his word, no matter how true and accurate, could be questioned.

The report of the investigating officer to the Commanding Officer of Marine Air Control Squadron 1 (or MACS 1), dated March 1, 1958, says under "Finding of Fact," that Schrand was on duty at "the sentry post at the crypto van." That crypto van was near the carrier dock. Near where the carrier planes were parked.

The file of records, where guard duty is regarded as an important responsibility, which it

certainly is, those who guard classified areas with the need to enter them require the minimum security clearance necessary to enter that area. Normally, each outfit pulls its own guard duty. As we saw earlier, as in Thornley's testimony, security clearance appropriate to the classification of the place to be guarded is required.

Schrand was guarding the "crypto van" in which he, Oswald and three other enlisted men worked. That required CRYPTO clearance. In those days at least, a prerequisite for CRYPTO clearance was TOP SECRET clearance. So, all five of those Marines who had that special clearance- and my caller-in was correct on even the number in his outfit with that clearance- took turns guarding it.

Oswald, one of those five, had to have had CRYPTO clearance just to enter the van in which he pulled his specialized duty.

It is not because he could not afford \$9.65 for copies of the records that I got that Garrison did not have them when they fit so well with what he had been running off at the mouth about.

Of the possible reasons for his not even asking for them after I told him about them what seems to be most likely is that he did not really care for or about fact. He preferred his own concept of what the fact he imagined was. That, he then said- what he made up- was fact.

This is only some of what he could have put together to make a case of an Oswald intelligence connection. But instead of the simple and not difficult work to establish fact Garrison just stated it with no support at all.

In this he did less than what he criticized the Warren Commission for not doing.

For either, for both it was one hell of a way to investigate the assassination of a President.

What I say here about Garrison and the Commission and the federal agencies applies at least as

much to the literary whores of the JFK Assassination Industry like the so highly praised Gerald Posner. His shabby pretense that he knew none of the foregoing because he did not have Oswald in New Orleans, which he at the time proved was one of his many big lies.

Those of us who write what we say is nonfiction assume special responsibility in a society like ours. We undertake to tell people the truth so they can be prepared to exercise their responsibilities, as citizens and in their responsibilities in representative society, to make their own wishes known when they vote.

Not one assumed this responsibility, not those who are critical of the government and not those, particularly the Posners and the Belins of the sycophancy corps, has mentioned any of what I quote above from what was public before the end of 1967.

Belin, who watches criticism like a pathological hawk, also ran what was supposed to have been an investigation of the CIA when he ran the Rockefeller Commission of the Ford administration, of our only unelected President who got to be friendly with Belin on the Warren Commission where both of those self-styled conscientious citizens suppressed what the Commission had- at least the two copies Rankin got- and has since gloried in his sanctimonious lies so welcome to the major media. Which also supported his puerile self-justifications in his books supposedly on the assassination but actually his Judenrat-like effort to live with himself.

Is there- can there be- anything more thoroughly despicable than Posner's literary whoring with the assassination when he also knew what I quote above and not only lied to suppress it from his book, lied to say he did not know about it while at the same time proving himself to be the world-class liar that he is- and with the massive attention he knew his whoring would get, wrote the exact opposite?

Can there be condemnation too severe for those who betray every decent American principle

and all those of honest writers as these two in particular did and as the so many who sought fame and fortune in the JFK assassination industry also did?

Can there be any justification for Garrison, the district attorney of a major city with all the powers and responsibilities that entails, more when he had charged a conspiracy in the JFK assassination and had a case in court for it, for his personal suppression of it- as the district attorney and as the man who wrote several books about it and became the hero of one of the most widely-viewed and highly-praised movies by one of the most respected directors in that field, Oliver Stone, in his JFK?

Are not these questions self-answering?

I think they are.

And so, significant as this information is, nobody to the time of this writing has done a thing to bring it to the attention of more people or to develop more information about it.

Each of those I condemn and criticize had opportunities and responsibilities he did not meet and did not try to meet.

Garrison had a special and a unique responsibility as the prosecutor of a criminal case, an alleged conspiracy to assassinate the President case, in which he had charged Oswald with being part of that alleged conspiracy.

He had the power of subpoena.

He could have subpoenaed everyone who ever worked with Oswald in the Marines, those under whom he worked there, and all the records the government had relating to that work and the TOP SECRET and CRYPTO clearances it required.

But he neither did any such thing nor ever intended to.

In that he left this description of himself, as the prosecutor who had charged Lee Harvey

Oswald with conspiring to kill the President when as a Marine he had had the high clearances of which he knew, and did not give that information to his jury or to the people of the country.

The man he accused of conspiring to kill the President had these high clearances and Garrison did not give a damn about it- with his case in court!