

CHAPTER 18

Garrison Like the FBI Avoided Learning who the Associates Oswald Had in New Orleans Were

Why so many simple things that so obviously needed doing never got done or were incompetently or incompletely done remains a mystery after all these years because there is no basis for believing that Garrison's assistant district attorneys or his detectives detailed to his office by the police department were not competent. To a degree some were out of their depth. This is not surprising when Garrison lived and believed in fantasies. In the few instances where the detectives were given the usual kinds of assignments their work of which I knew was good. But they did only what they were told to do and what they were told to do is what Garrison wanted them to do. That was in addition to their regular work as the investigative staff for the district attorney of a major American city.

One of the simplest of inquiries I was surprised to learn had not been made. This really means Garrison expressed no interest in it. It was also basic in many ways.

If Garrison had told his loyal and able chief investigator, then Sergeant Louis Ivon, "Louis, send the boys out to learn all they can about Oswald," Ivon would have done that and his detectives would have returned with information that Garrison did not have.

Because Oswald had lived in New Orleans and because Garrison had charged him with being one of the conspiracy to kill the President, even though in innumerable speeches and statements to the press and others he had said the exact opposite, it was obvious that Garrison should not have limited himself to what he gleaned or imagined he saw in the Report and its 26 appended volumes. He did pore over them with care, he annotated them heavily, and with xeroxes of those pages with his notes on them investigations were made. But it was also obvious that the Commission had said and published

what it selected to use and that there was much the Commission did not use — did not want to use because it was not consistent with the preconception with which the Commission began its work, the preconception of Oswald as the lone assassin and a nut at that.

But those 26 volumes were Garrison's bible, so to speak.

Despite the Commission's and the FBI's largely successful efforts to disclose about Oswald only what was prejudicial, the bits and pieces of information included in what was disclosed indicated that there was more to Oswald than the Commission, following the FBI, reported.

Thus in my first book, Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report, completed the middle of February, 1965, I wrote of Oswald's career in New Orleans, that it was “consistent with what in intelligence is called ‘establishing a cover.’” This is obvious in what was disclosed officially, whatever Oswald was or was not up to.

Why Oswald would do those things that are consistent with establishing a cover, or for whom, if for anyone other than himself, are questions that could not be addressed from what the Commission published.

Oswald's most obvious effort to draw attention to himself was in his demonstrations and the literature he then gave out.

The official line on Oswald is that he was all alone, in the assassination and in his other actions. But in the official records there was reason to believe Oswald was not all that alone. One that is obvious is that Oswald arranged for TV coverage in which one other person is seen helping him. Then the official line was to hold it down to that one person, the then also youthful Charles Hall Steele, Jr.

Once it was possible to examine the Commission's unpublished information there was confirmation of the fact that Oswald had associates other than on that one occasion, and on that

occasion, other than only Steele. On the basis of what was in available in the Commission's records it was also apparent that neither the FBI nor the Commission had any interest in following those obvious leads. There were even motion pictures of Oswald in his marching and literature distribution the FBI made no effort to get until years later, when I forced the issue and it then had to make the pretense of making the investigations it still did not make.

Perhaps the most provocative of the early information relating to Oswald and what he was up to was the FBI's reaction to a just-begun Secret Service investigation.

The simple handbill Oswald distributed in New Orleans had been printed by the Jones Printing Company. The Secret Service started looking into that handbill. As soon as the New Orleans FBI heard of this it reported this Secret Service interest to FBI headquarters. FBIHQ immediately put pressure on Secret Service headquarters to end its New Orleans investigation. Secret Service headquarters then notified its New Orleans office to suspend its investigation because the FBI was in charge. For all practical purposes, that was pretty much the end of any Secret Service work in the assassination investigations other than were asked of it.

As a result the Commission was able to report a very big lie it had ample reason to know was a lie. As the most perfunctory investigation would have established. I did that and proved it is a lie. With all those experienced Commission counsels whose claim was that their only client was truth and among whom there were former prosecutors, that these existing and obvious leads were not followed cannot be regarded as from ignorance or from incompetence. Their client was not truth or they would have followed the leads and at the same time not suppressed them from the Report they wrote for the Commission.

The Report devotes part of a single paragraph to Oswald's handbill without reporting where he

had it printed and reporting incorrectly when it was printed. This incorrect statement could lead the reader to believe Oswald had more than one printing of that handbill. The Report, saying that Oswald was back in New Orleans, where he was born, then says,

"There, in late May and early June, 1963, under the name of Lee Osborne, he had printed a handbill headed in large letters, 'Hands Off Cuba,' an application form for and a membership card in the New Orleans branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee." (page 407)

What the Report should have said next and does not say is that there was no New Orleans branch of the FPCC, that Oswald phoned one up. It did not exist except in what Oswald had printed.

There was only one handbill printing and he did not give all of them away. His other printing, at a different print shop, was of the application form and phony membership card.

That handbill, as all of those officially involved knew, was printed by the Jones Printing Company. Douglas Jones' small print shop was a short walk of about a city block as I now recall from where Oswald then worked, the Reily Coffee Co.

(That entire area of old buildings was demolished and a new federal area replaced them. Jones was killed in Hurricane Camille, but not until after I had interviewed him two times.)

That the New Orleans FBI office and then headquarters almost flipped out when they learned of the Secret Service's coming Jones Printing Company investigation became even more interesting when I was able to read the designedly deceptive FBI reports on its perfunctory visit there.

This is not a story of federal Keystone Kopperry, although to a degree that can be said of Garrison. The FBI knew exactly what it was doing and why it was doing it- their lone nut, whether or not a nut, was not all that alone.

When I was in New Orleans the summer of 1967 and learned that Garrison had made no investigation of that handbill and had not spoken to Jones, I decided to do that. When Garrison learned

I was going to do tat, Ivon told me that "Bill Boxley" would like to go with me.

Why William Wood took the name Boxley I never learned. Everyone knew his right name, that he had been fired by the CIA for alcoholism, then under control, and that Garrison had hired him over staff objections and was paying him from private funds. He was not a city employee.

Ivon asked me to make a clandestine tape recording of my interview with Jones, something I had never done and was not equipped to do. He also told me he would provide a car, a driver and the equipment.

I had planned to tape the interview openly, there being no apparent reason for Jones not to want that. I never knew why it was wanted done clandestinely when there was no need for it.

The equipment I was provided was rather poor, even for an amateur.

It consisted of an empty Samsonite attache case with a small hole drilled in one corner and a Norelco inexpensive cassette recorder fixed firmly inside that attache case. There was a small microphone taped to the inside near that hole. But to turn the recorder on required opening the attache case. So, I had to turn it on before we left the unmarked car. Fortunately, Jones had nobody else with him at the time and I was able to interview him immediately.

I told him he probably could not make a positive identification with the time that had passed and no reason to pay any special attention to the man who picked that Oswald handbill job up but I'd like to hand him a fat stack of pictures and ask him to pick out any who most closely resembled that man.

There were about a hundred pictures, many mug shots, of men from coast to coast, most having no connection of any kind with the assassination or its investigations.

Without any reluctance Jones looked at all those pictures. From them he selected four, all of them the same man who looked a little different in some and radically different in one. In it he had a full

and luxurious beard!

Jones was firm in his identification, in picking that one man, and in rejecting all the others, including several of Oswald, one of which was the New Orleans mug shot of his August, 1963 arrest there.

I thanked Jones. I did not tell him whose pictures he had selected and insisted were the pictures of the man who picked that Oswald handbill print job up.

He had selected pictures of a man who had served briefly in the Marines with Oswald, Kerry Thomley.

Him alone.

When Boxley and I returned to the car I removed the cassette and when we got back to Garrison's office I returned the attache case to Ivon.

When I told Ivon what Jones had said and the identification he had made, I was aghast when Boxley denied it. So, I got my own cassette recorder and played the tape for Ivon and a few other detectives, including Boxley, who immediately apologized for being wrong.

Wrong was hardly the word! Boxley knew better, knew the truth. I had been uneasy about him before. Thereafter I had no trust in him at all. That was not because he had worked for the CIA. I had worked for its predecessor. It was because there was no possibility that Boxley had not heard what Jones said or had misunderstood it. He lied! I did not know why, but that he lied was enough.

Later when I asked for the tape so my wife would transcribe it, nobody could find it!

When that tape suffered that mysterious disappearance I told Andrew "Moo" Sciambra that on another trip I wanted to interview Jones and his secretary, Myra Silver, who had not been at the print shop when Boxley and I were.

In late April or early May, 1968, I returned to New Orleans, first stopping off at the upper Mississippi twin cities to speak at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis and do some radio talk shows there and in St. Paul. The speech was in an afternoon, in a large hall, with the public invited, no admission fee. Among the things I talked about was this Oswald establishing a sort of cover with his leafletting and picketing. Before I finished speaking, several students told my psychologist friend Gary Schoener, who had invited me, that some nice old ladies literally in tennis shoes, saw two men, Ivy League types, with a poorly-hidden recorder. Gary told me and I then needled them by spelling all names and asking to be stopped if I spoke too rapidly.

During the speech a student who identified himself as John Martin, reported taking amateur movies of Oswald when he was arrested as the result of the fracas started by the ultra-right wing Cuban anti-Castro activist Carlos Bringuier. He undoubtedly had been provoked on purpose by Oswald. I asked Martin if I might make a copy of his film, he agreed, and after the speech and questions Gary drove us to his home. He got the reel and then drove to where the University had a projection booth. While Martin had captured only a little of that incident, there were many faces in it and I wanted to examine the footage with care. He loaned Gary his film immediately, before we left the small projection room. I had my large attache case with me. I was the only one of our small party with one.

That evening Gary drove me to the airport. I checked my luggage in. He and I watched it go down the Braniff chute. Shortly thereafter I enplaned for Kansas City, Kansas. That night I was to speak to and be asked questions by a small group of professional people including doctors, lawyers and at least one local judge in support of my friend the late Dr. John Nichols' effort to file an FOIA lawsuit for JFK assassination information. John, a University of Kansas forensic pathologist, was waiting for me at the airport and an hour later we were both still waiting. My luggage, a full Val-a-Pak four-suiter

and a brand new portable typewriter, were not on that plane despite Gary and me seeing it go down the correct chute. When we could wait no longer and the luggage still had not been located- the plane had been held for a search of it- I met with those people and after that John drove me to an all-night convenience store so I could get toilet articles. He also took me to the airport a little early for that early-morning plane. There still was no word about my luggage.

The airline had an official named, of all things, Ayde, meet me at the airport at New Orleans. He said he could not give me any satisfactory explanation and that all the seeming possibilities had been searched without locating anything. He told me to buy whatever I might need, keep the receipts and I would be repaid. He asked where I would be staying because he was certain the luggage would be located. I gave him the address of my friends the Matt Herrons on Pine Street and then went about my work.

Two days later Ayde phoned and said he'd like to bring my luggage. He was there in less than an hour. I asked him what had happened. His response was that what he was told had no credibility and he did not believe it.

The story he was given is that the luggage was found in the possession of a different airline in a city to which his Braniff airline did not fly.

When I hung the bag up to get my clothing and place it in a closet is when I was really stunned!

That large bag was equipped with four hangers and had large pouches on each side when the bag was folded for carrying. Those hangers locked onto a rod on which the suits could continue to hang as the bag itself was hung. All the hangers had been unlocked and they and the suits were a wild jumble in the bottom of the bag. The shirts, underclothing, and other things in the pouches likewise were a mess of creases like the suits. Everything was a mess. All the papers, like bills and receipts, that I

always kept in a pouch were missing. Even the papers of matches that I carried were gone.

An even greater shock is what had been done to my new Royal portable. It was practically demolished, yet there was not a scratch on the case.

Home I took it to my friend Bob James, from whom I had just bought it new. Bob said it was practically a professional extermination job and that while it could be repaired, the repair would cost more than the price of the machine new. He recommended that I get a replacement that has no plastic parts to cope with such dirty tricks. I did. But I cannot remember ever traveling with a typewriter again. Once was much too much! Why should I depend on being able to use it after this experience?

Millions of words have gone through the replacement portable, a Hermes 3000, what Bob had described as "the Cadillac of portables." I still use it daily, as I have since replacement parts were no longer available for the old Underwood upright I'd used since my reporting youth.

I had also switched tape recorders, from the three-inch, reel-to-reel machines to one of the then new cassette models. I had just bought that machine from another friend. It appeared undamaged when Ayde gave it to me. I thought it had not been molested. Until I used it for the first time and played back what I had recorded. Or should have recorded with the machine in the record mode. It had recorded nothing!

I asked Louis Ivon to have it repaired where he had the office machines repaired. He loaned me one to use until it was returned. It was returned with the message it could not be made to record.

That was the same message I got when the friend from whom I'd bought it sought to have it repaired.

As with the Ivon effort the message was that why it could not be made to record was not discovered and was a mystery.

The probability is that what Ayde was told was correct. Otherwise the bag, typewriter and tape recorder would not have taken so long to discover. That almost certainly means that they were intercepted at the Kansas City airport. If that had not happened they would have been on the plane at its first stop, Kansas City. It was searched. It was not on that plane or it would have been located at the Kansas City airport on the search there. Schoener and I saw them go down the Braniff chute to the carts that carried the luggage to Braniff planes only. With mine the only missing luggage at the Kansas City first stop, this means that my bag and typewriter alone did not get onto that plane. And had to have been intercepted before that or those carts got to that plane.

That was the first but not the only interception of my luggage.

Another that I remember clearly was again when I was en route to New Orleans. That time it was from Dallas, on Eastern Airlines. That time New Orleans was again the first stop. On that trip I had my new tape recorder with me on the plane, as I did my attache case, so all I had to do was get toilet goods and a few small items like shirts and underclothing until my bag was again delivered to me.

It is not everybody who can intercept airline luggage. I suspected the FBI. It certainly was not likely some private citizen who was merely curious and vindictive.

And who has the capability at different airports?

My Dallas to New Orleans luggage wound up in Miami, I was told.

After that I replaced the four-suiter that could hold and carry more with a carry-on two-suiter. What I carried onto the plane and was in the cabin was never bothered.

But it did seem that someone, most likely the FBI, was quite interested in what I had gotten in Minneapolis. The one thing that was public knowledge was the film Martin had described as showing Oswald being arrested in New Orleans. Martin had spoken of it when I was speaking and had said

he'd let me see it.

Nothing was missing from my luggage other than the papers, the bills, receipts and matches. But someone was obviously looking for something. The only possible explanation is that someone wanted the Martin movies. That was not likely for the pictures he had taken while on a vacation that began in Dallas and ended in New Orleans, where most of the footage was of the Audubon Zoo and of bees on flowers.

It was not in my luggage. Nor was it in my pockets or in my attache case that I always carried.

Gary Schoener had it. Someone who had called in on a St. Paul talk show, one of a series I did almost around the clock, had offered to help. He was a photographer.

Gary had duplicates of the reel made and this photographer made stills from some of the footage showing Oswald being arrested. Martin's film has different angles on Oswald's face. It had that additional interest and value.

He also told us that some of it had been removed- of that Oswald sequence. Someone certainly did not want copies of that Martin film to exist. Even if it could only be surmised what the film could show. And all that it was known to hold was pictures of Oswald being arrested in the Bringuier fracas.

Of the possible reasons for any official interest in this John Martin film the most obvious is that it could show and Oswald associate, what the government said he never had.

That is why I had a special interest in the Jones printing job for Oswald. My special interest was generated by two FBI interview reports the FBI gave the Commission, of its interviews of Jones and his secretary/assistant, Myra Silver. The reason the FBI froze the Secret Service out of that investigation was apparent in these reports.

As several former FBI agents told me, "The first law of the FBI is cover the Bureau's ass. The second law is cover your own ass."

This maxim stemmed from Hoover and is reflected in innumerable FBI records I have, like those that order improprieties. These include wiretapping and getting access to records that are supposed to be accessible only under subpoena, like bank and phone records. Authorization for those operations were always with the injunction, but "do not embarrass the Bureau."

The FBI's ass-covering language is often circumlocutious. Those two reports were in awkward language. They covered ass by merely having a slight indication that the identifications of Oswald by Jones and Silver were less than absolutely certain.

I had interpreted that correctly as reflecting the fact that there had not been any identification of Oswald as the man who picked that print job up. Until I interviewed Douglas Jones.

The old section of New Orleans where Oswald had worked at Reily's and Jones had his small print shop was being demolished gradually in preparation for the new federal enclave that was to be constructed there.

By the time Sciambra could arrange for the four of us to get together Jones' plant was closed for demolition. He was working for another printer, as a salesman. We did meet at Silver's Metarie home, in her large living room. They examined the same large collection of pictures, but separately. Neither could see or identify the pictures the other examined. I taped it all, the pictures were identified on their backs, I showed Jones, who made the first identification, what was written on each one, mixed them all up again, then showed them to Silver.

Each, independently, selected as most closely resembling the man who picked those printed leaflets up the very same pictures Jones had selected months earlier! Those alone of a hundred or so.

Each made as firm and positive an identification as could be expected. More firm than I had expected, given the lapse of time and the awareness all had of what Oswald looked like. Both were certain Oswald had not picked those handbills up.

Despite the firmness of these identifications it should be remembered that I had not asked for an unequivocal identification, which is what I got, because of the lapse in time and the fact that there seemed to be nothing of significance that could have led either to have any special reason for remembering what the man looked like and to be so positive in their identifications of him.

The one man each identified, Kerry Thornley, who knew Oswald well and was living in New Orleans that year having moved there from Los Angeles. But in the available official records there is no indication that he and Oswald ever met while both were in New Orleans in 1963. Nor was there any investigation to learn who Oswald did know or associate with.

Garrison disliked Thornley strongly and had him under a perjury indictment. With this reason for having an interest in Thornley I did some investigating. I was able to locate a man who knew him in New Orleans and had moved to Omaha. From Phil Boatright, a fine man and a poet, I got some of Thornley's letters to him. They are boastful, insolent and self-important. They include Thornley's own accounts of his personal violence, confirmed from those by Boatright's recollections of him. Thornley was not a nice person in any way.

In one of his letters Thornley gave Boatright his own account of how he almost put out the eyes of a man when that man sought to protect a woman from physical abuse.

As soon as Oswald was dead Thornley, then working as a waiter in New Orleans, went to the New Orleans FBI office, according to its records I have, and tried to become an informer for it. It had no interest in him. So, wanting to be in on the action, Thornley went to Washington, to be near the

Commission. To keep himself there he got a menial job in a nearby Virginia apartment house.

Checking on him there disclosed nothing good in the recollection of the building manager. But Thornley was liked at the Commission, at least by Albert Jenner, one of its counsel. Jenner took Thornley to lunch.

Andrew Sciambra had come up for a week for this checking of Thornley in the Washington area and for other checking. He knew what that checking disclosed.

I gave Garrison copies of the handwritten letters from Thornley to Boatright and of my notes of my interviews. He had no interest, not even when Sciambra was present and to a degree had participated in my questioning of Jones and Silver and knew that they had identified Thornley as the man who picked those handbills up after Jones printed them.

Mind you, this was when he also had Thornley indicted for perjury.

Garrison having no interest in Thornley as associated with Oswald, who he knew from the Marines, was strange. Even for Garrison, who did strange things. Like being excited by a vacation Thornley took in Mexico. He was very suspicious of that. That and not evidence of his association with Oswald in New Orleans!

Garrison's record is also strange because he conducted no investigation of that Oswald handbill that was printed not far from his office. Then, when I began that investigation, he wanted Boxley with me. Boxley then for some inexplicable reason lied and said that Jones had not identified Thornley as the man who picked that print job up when he knew without question, sitting there next to me and seeing it, that Jones had in fact identified Thornley in four different pictures, one taken when he had that full beard.

It is beyond belief but it is true that even when his own assistant, Sciambra, knew the truth, and told him, that the only two people at the place where the handbill was printed who had seen the man

who picked them up both said that man was Oswald's associate in the Marines, Thornley. Garrison refused to get interested.

In a sense, the FBI's record is even worse. It did not even try to learn who that person may have been. It began with the presumption Oswald was alone and when told with pointedness, it was not Oswald, as I was, by the same people, the FBI had no further interest. Its Founding Director, Hoover, had had his instant vision, that Oswald was a lone nut assassin, and there was nobody in or out of the FBI about to tell Emperor Hoover that he was not wearing beautiful clothing.

Nobody survived that in the FBI or in political life.

Here we have its own records speak for it. That is something it never dreamed could happen.

At the time of the assassination there was no Freedom of Information law. And nobody ever got into the FBI's records. Besides, they are all serialized and any skipping in disclosing any file is very obvious.

So, the FBI never expected to have to let anyone see its records. It also never expected what one of the very few judges ever to rule against it in my cases described as a "persistent" man demanding access to those records under the law.

The FBI does have countless records outside its central files and those are usually not accessible despite the law that requires all that are not exempt to be accessible to all the people of the country. There were such records in both New Orleans and Dallas and because the FBI was uninhibited in its lying to the judge in that case, and because that judge was, as he once boasted in open court, virtually an adjunct of the FBI, it got away with quite a bit of noncompliance, of withholding what it had no right under that law to keep secret.

The FBI also invested a stock perjury with which it initially attempted to prevent anyone like me

from getting copies of any records from field office files. That lie is that all FBI information is in headquarters files and therefore the field office files need not be searched.

In the lawsuit in which I did get some of the field office records, C.A. 78/0322 and 78/0420 combined, quite a few in number but far from all that should have been disclosed, when I was finally able to force a check of this FBI lie to deny the people what the people have the right to know, at one point the FBI disgorged an additional 3,500 pages, pages of the information it denied having in those field office files. Even after allegedly disclosing what it said was all of them.

With this background for the record and for reader understanding I quote a few of those New Orleans records the FBI sought to hide by lying and saying they had been given to me when I received headquarters records from that companion file.

One of these records was intended not to get to headquarters. It was New Orleans FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert Maynor's "memo to files" to cover his own ass.

While I have no way of knowing how widespread this practice of making and keeping cover-the-ass memos was in the FBI, it was commonplace in Dallas and New Orleans with the JFK assassination, which was before FOIA was enacted, and it was still the practice in the Memphis office at the later time of the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination, after FOIA was enacted.

I have examined countless records from many FBI field offices. That examination leads to the belief that they all have what they want to hide, what headquarters wants them to hide, and they all do hide information that, if necessary, they can retrieve while nobody else can do that.

Of the very obvious conclusions to be drawn from this small sampling of the FBI's New Orleans records is that the FBI was absolutely determined not to make any real investigation, particularly not with respect to whether Oswald had any associates in the strange things he did in New Orleans before

the assassination. Or later.

Never expecting this that its masked but still visible intent not to conduct a real investigation would be seen by anyone outside the FBI, here is how it "investigated" those handbills it says were Oswald's. A few illustrations should suffice.

On December 3, 1963, Special Agent Donald C. Steinmeyer went to see Jones. His brief report of only 13 lines was dictated that day. Steinmeyer reports showing a picture of Oswald only to Jones. Steinmeyer's first sentence includes Jones as saying after examining that Oswald picture, "that although he could not be positively sure, he said he did not believe the person ordering the printing on the handbills relating to Cuba last May 29 was OSWALD." Steinmeyer's last sentence begins, "He [Jones] again stated that he could not positively say the person ordering the handbills was not OSWALD but he did not think it was."

Steinmeyer was careful to emphasize what he knew the FBI wanted, Jones' alleged uncertain in the unwanted negative identification.

That same day Special Agent John N. McCarthy interviewed Silver, also at the Jones plant. In all probability he and Steinmeyer were there together. The agents usually go in pairs. McCarthy did not dictate his report until the next day. That was not unusual. They did use different stenographers.

Of the page and two half-pages of McCarthy's report all but four lines of typing are devoted to the details of the job and its order and payment for it. The only are content, those four typed lines, read, in full, "Mrs. Silver was shown a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, at which time she stated she could not recognize the person represented in the picture as the person who placed the order for the handbills."

McCarthy, too, was interested only in getting an identification of Oswald. Neither agent even

suggests he asked for any examination of any other picture or even mentions taking any others to be examined, then or later.

At headquarters these records were filed in the main Oswald file, 105-P2555, in its Section (or volume) 15, next to each other.

That same day New Orleans teletyped a six-page summary of some of that day's investigations. It was directed to the attention of "Inspector Don Moore, Division Five." That was then the Domestic Intelligence Division.

Donald E. Moore was then what is known as "the number 2 man" in the Domestic Intelligence Division where he also was in charge of its espionage branch.

That was for a normal investigation of a murder? Or in one assuming it was part of an international job, a conspiracy, the way FBIHQ slugged its internal records?

On its last page it reports that all the data on the Jones print job, ordered by a man who gave his name as Osborne (which happens to be the name of one of Oswald's fellow Marines) had been obtained. It then understates, saying that "neither Myra Silver nor Douglas Jones, proprietor, Jone (sic) Printing Co. could identify photo of Oswald as person ordering handbills."

No other agent went to Jones. No picture of anyone other than Oswald was shown. No question was asked about the identification of the man who picked that print job up. And the two firm statements that it was not Oswald are diminished into an alleged inability to recognize him from a picture.

That teletype holds other interesting information. It reflects that the FBI had reason to believe that Oswald was not alone, it reports another supposed Oswald print job and it reports as unquestioned fact what Bringuier told it that was false and the FBI knew was false. How else protect the credibility of

a liar whose lies were so useful in that "investigation?"

On the first page New Orleans reported that "CHARLES HALL STEELE, JR, had been identified as one person hired by Oswald to distribute FPCC literature in front of International Trade Mart on Aug. 16 last. Inquiries are being made to identify another individual who was assisting Oswald but no identification made to date."

Aside from its deliberately prejudicial misstatement to make FBIHQ and any others seeing this record believe that it was a distribution by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which the FBI knew it was not, this twice says in that single paragraph that the FBI knew that Steele was not the only young man Oswald got to help him. There were other sources the FBI could have quoted, by name, but it did not. Like the man who complained to the FBI about what Oswald was doing that was, he thought, hurtful to the International Trade Mart, whose public relations he handled. (Clay Shaw was its manager.)

I did interview that fine, friendly and dependable gentleman of the old-South kind, Jesse Core. Jesse told me that he phoned Milton Kaack, the agent who covered the ITM, which was both proper and necessary for the FBI to do. And as it happens, Kaack, was an "Oswald" agent, having handled part of the pre-assassination Oswald investigation. Jesse and Steele both told me of at least one other man Oswald had handing those handbills out. And with the FBI knowing that, there is no record I have seen of its ever asking any TV station for any out takes, anything it had filmed but had not aired.

Next New Orleans gets to its lying in reporting as fact what Bringuier lied about:

"Carlos Bringuier, Cuban Student Director (sic), New Orleans, states in early August had Phillip Geraci, age 15, working as volunteer selling directorate bonds for purpose of raising money to help Cuban refugees. States Geraci came into store where Bringuier works (in fact it was Bringuier's store) just before visit from Oswald on August five, sixty-three at which time Geraci said he had been told by an officer he could not sell bonds without a permit."

While it may have been on August 5 that Geraci told Bringuier he had been told not to sell those fifty-cent bonds without a license, it most certainly was not on that day that Oswald was in Bringuier's Casa Roca when Geraci and his schoolmate were. As we have seen, in May, Bringuier knew it was in May, and the FBI knew at least that it was not in August. I also add that the Secret Service did, too. Its report, as I say above, was my lead on that.

There here is no need to go into the possible purposes of these lies or the reasons for the official treatment of what was known to be false as true, save to note that the lies could be interpreted as explaining away Bringuier's assault on Oswald. But that there were official lies and were known to be lies and that this was at least supposed to be the investigation of the assassination of a President and they are in the area of that investigation that bore on the possibility that there had been a conspiracy if Oswald had any associate in it, needs noting.

Next the city attorney only is quoted as saying he "did not recall Oswald having contacted his office for any purpose." This is intended to convey the opposite of what there was reason to believe, that it was, in fact, Oswald who had made the complaint that led to the end of Bringuier's sale of those fifty-cent bonds. The trick here is not to give any reason for speaking to the city attorney about Oswald when it was reported that Oswald made the lone complaint about Bringuier's unlicensed sale of those fifty-cent bonds.

But this also involved Oswald's having been at Bringuier's much earlier than the date all knew was false that Bringuier testified to, August 5.

Of the other information relevant to what we here address it is interesting to recall that on August 22, 1963, Oswald "entered a plea of guilty to the charge of disturbing the peace by creating a

scene" when in fact Oswald was innocent. Bringuier and his two Cuban refugee friends, Celso Hernandez and Miguel Cruz, started it by their assault on Oswald.

What is next reported is some of the public attention Oswald got as a result of Bringuier's attack on him, attention he otherwise would not have gotten. It was radio and TV attention.

New Orleans then reported "photographs made by WDSU rew (sic) reporter show that only three persons engaged in passing out literature and not four as claimed by Oswald."

What here deserves emphasis is that the New Orleans FBI represents that the cameraman, not a reporter, Johann Rush, took no pictures other than were aired by WDSU. That is false. He took, as always happens, ever so many more pictures. His film was edited at the station and as its cooperative and helpful news director when I interviewed him in 1968, Ed Planer, told me, the out takes were then discarded. That was months earlier. There then was no reason to keep them.

(There was, in fact, reason to believe that more than Oswald and two young men were involved in that handbill distribution that day. J.B. Vella, president of the automobile dealership, Famous Imports, at 1019 Baronne Street, who had earlier loaned me a car when the one Ivon loaned me conked out on a Friday night, introduced me to his service manager, a refugee anti-Castro Cuban. He and others had seen that Oswald demonstration at the ITM. He told me they saw several people with Oswald and that others who were with him were nearby, near an old automobile that was parked across the street.)

The third person the FBI believed was helping Oswald it could easily have learned was not doing that. He was merely looking at the handbill. He was a Japanese importer named Junich Ehara. His office was in that ITM building. Standing with him is another building tenant and businessman, John Alice.

If the FBI had had any interest in learning more about Oswald's literature distribution and those helping him in it, this would have been hard for it not to have learned.

Oswald was into that gig for days in that area in an obvious effort to provoke Bringuier. Many refugees were offended and complained. The New Orleans head of the Catholic Cuban Relief, Mrs. Elise Cerniglia, would have told it contemporaneously what she told me five years later, that the refugees virtually poured into her office daily to complain about what they regarded as an affront.

The FBI mentions only the WDSU footage. Why not WWL-TV? Oswald had been able to get both stations to be there to photograph him. Some of its footage held what WDSU-TV's did not. WWL-TV also discarded its out takes. It told me that it followed the usual practice of doing that. But what remained was useful in a real investigation.

But would it not have been both nice and normal for the FBI to have asked? Especially when it had a (probably incorrect) Secret Service report of its interview of Rush in which it stated that he had given it 17 stills he made from his footage.

On page five the New Orleans FBI also reported that at a different printing plant, that of Mailers Service Company, Oswald had 500 copies of his solicitation for his phony FPCC's membership and 300 copies of what was to have been a membership card.

Perhaps Oswald could have hoped to give 500 copies of his solicitation out but he knew very well that he would never get 300 members. He got not even a single one. If in fact he really wanted any. The one person who spoke to him he avoided signing up.

What the FBI and Garrison did is to investigating like X-rated movies are to love!

There was quite a bit of information on Oswald and his handbill distribution readily available to the FBI that it avoided. Even what it had in hand it avoided!

Including even fingerprints!

It was available to Garrison, too.

Oswald's first known use of the handbill Douglas Jones printed was when the carrier "Wasp" docked at the Dumaine Street wharf. That is in the French Quarter just a few blocks upriver from the block of Decatur in which Bringuier and Pena had their places of business. Decatur at Dumaine is the street next to the river. Which really means next to the large levee along the river's shore.

When that literature was being handed out, aside from members of the crew a New Orleans Harbor Police officer named Austin took a copy from the man handing those handbills out. All he did with it was take it to the office and file it.

When Oswald was alleged to be the assassin the New Orleans police gave that handbill to the FBI. The FBI returned it with the explanation that the fingerprints on it were not Oswald's. It has ever since kept secret the identification made of those prints so relevant in any real investigation. They are of an unknown man working with Oswald.

Those New Orleans police records were, of course, available to the New Orleans District Attorney. Garrison did nothing and said nothing about what could have been proof that the man he charged with being an assassination conspirator had any connections or associates of any kind.

This fingerprint identification was within by FOIA request for all the New Orleans FBI office's JFK assassination records. My administrative appeal from the withholding of this information was ignored. The late Judge John Lewis Smith also ignored that improper withholding when that case was before him.

On that seemingly unseemly business of the FBI freezing the Secret Service out of the investigation when the Secret Service is in charge of Presidential protection is, I think, best presented in

this copy of the Special Agent in Charge's December 6, 1963 memo to files. That was three days after he sent his agents to the Jones Printing Company and to the other printer, Mailers Service Company. Maynor's memo is also a cover-the-ass memo, his and his office's. Because I got it from the New Orleans main Oswald file it was not sent to headquarters. In typing and in writing one copy of the two made is indicated for this file. No copy is indicated for headquarters. Where the second copy is to be filed is not included. In addition to the file number handwritten on the copy it has the names of five New Orleans special agents also written on it, with a space for initials after it and with the initials of Special Agents Sylvester, Gaskill, Reynolds, Callendar, and Alkers added.

The headquarters agent with whom Maynard handled freezing the Secret Service out of his investigation of Oswald's literature, its distribution and of the others involved, including the person not Oswald who using the name Osborne actually got those handbills, is Joseph A. Sizoo. He was then the Number One man in that same Domestic Intelligence Division. Some FBI records identify Sizoo with the additional rank of assistant to the assistant director, then the late William C. Sullivan.

That at FBIHQ this matter was handled by its Domestic Intelligence Division rather than its General Investigative Division may or may not have special significance. That it can, however, should not be ignored.

That the FBI was determined not to follow the many existing leads that Oswald was not alone in whatever he was up to in New Orleans in his activities that were in no way helpful to Castro or to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and in fact had the opposite effect, can be attributed to what was well-understood throughout the FBI, that once its director had his instant vision, of Oswald as the lone assassin, nothing that could in any way contradict that was wanted.

This does not justify the FBI's refusal to do its duty, the job assigned to it by the President, to

investigate the crime. It merely explains why nobody in the FBI did. Doing what was not wanted, developing any information contrary to what Hoover decided, could mean the end of FBI careers and the end of retirement with it.

Nor does it justify or even explain Garrison's refusal to look into these things. More than what he knew about Oswald not being the person who picked those handbills up from Jones and Jones' and Silver's belief that it was Thornley who did that.

Not only were such rumors common in New Orleans, some of them at least reported to him, he knew from me what Martin had told me and what his home movie shows. I told him as soon as I got to New Orleans that trip, before I had the copy of Martin's footage Gary Schoener had made for me.

There was another such amateur movie of Oswald engaged in one of his picketing. It was taken by a boy. I had learned of it from the Commission's files. I told at least Garrison and Sciambra about it and Sciambra had me make some phone calls in an effort to get a copy of it for them. He authorized me to charge those calls to the office phone. I made them with no follow-up by Garrison or anyone on his staff to get the print of that film I arranged for.

That Oswald had unidentified associates in New Orleans does not mean that they were in any way involved in the assassination. However, Garrison did have Oswald charged as an assassination conspirator. He thus had even more reason than the FBI or the Commission for learning all he could about all of Oswald's New Orleans associates and activities.

If he made any efforts he kept them secret from me. I do not remember anyone else indicating that he ever did a meaningful thing to try to learn more about these leads.

How much time he invested in seeking and finding codes in those 26 volumes where no codes were to be found!

What theories he had about such wild things as that a massive sado-masochist ring of prominent, wealthy and powerful American men were behind the assassination! And how much time he and others spent on such arrant nonsense.

All the time he wasted on another of his favorite theories, that the largest, the wealthiest and most powerful producers of war equipment that virtually encircled the country, as he loved to illustrate on his NOAC blackboard, were behind the assassination!

He often quoted Alice in Wonderland, particularly from In the Looking Glass, up is down and down is up; and from Orwell and his Big Brother's rewriting of history. The tragedy is that he was not content merely to quote those lines.

He lived them.