

LIEBELER - MAY 2, 1967, informal public coffee-klatch, UCLA Campus
(tape speed, 3-3/4)

- 25 Conspiracy part of investigation and his part in it (especially 35).
Went thru all FBI reports (47).
- 80 Mentions Ferrie - still has the card files he made while on Commission
staff summarizing content of FBI reports that are still suppressed in
the Archives. Specific reference to Doc. 75, Oswald in New Orleans
and Ferrie.
- 92 Did not take Ferrie's testimony. Decision "my own".
110
- 99 Reason: FBI made "thorough" investigation of Ferrie and where he had
110 been assassination day and "...he didn't have anything to do with it".
- 120 Liebeler said today he would make the same judgment, would not take
Ferie's testimony.
- (Note that the decision not to call Ferrie was of the staff alone (60)
Liebeler did it alone because he said Jenner was running for ABA presi-
dent. It is at 70 that Liebeler says he kept his Commission card file
on the FBI reports)
- 140 He took Andrews' testimony because "may have had contact with Oswald".
- 180 L. knew importance of the Mexican with Oswald - "tied up with other
rumors" from the French Quarter, but the FBI and the Commission did
not investigate or seek the Mexican; they restricted themselves to
homosexuals
- 202 On Marina's credibility, "not entitled to very much weight", yet the
entire Report rests upon her
- 240 Says of Andrews in the hospital that he was under "fairly heavy seda-
tion". False; phenobarbital only.
- 257 When the Garrison investigation "broke", L. reviewed his cards.
- 283 L. acknowledges Andrews confirmed by Zelden and he had the FBI report
so stating it
- 290 L. Admits it was a mistake not to call Zelden
- 320 L. says Andrews indictment was because as an assistant district attorney
he was posting bonds for homosexuals. This obviously is false as L.
knew from reading the papers, which specified the charges in the
indictment
- 340 L. Acknowledges that the FBI "kept pestering" Andrews which is exactly
what Andrews had protested during his deposition
- 375 L. makes big point of the difference of a couple of inches between
Andrews' estimate of Bertrand's height to the FBI and to him, yet remains
entirely unconcerned about the 30 to 45 pounds difference in the weight
of Oswald and the person described as seen in the sixth-floor window,
which is basic to the official conclusions.

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- 415- By far the largest footage is a biased discussion of Phelan.
600 (600)
- 610 On the evidence about "what occurred at the time of the assassination" it is "not conclusive by any means" on whether or not there was a conspiracy. It is, he acknowledges, "perfectly possible" that there were other conspirators. Despite frequent misrepresentations of it, the Report concludes otherwise.
- 655 About "Ferrie's activities at the time of the assassination", L says that on the "afternoon" of Nov. 22, Ferrie left on his trip. What he does not say, here or elsewhere, is where Ferrie was at the moment of the assassination - with FBI agents in attendance on court in connection with the case against Marcello, which L does mention.
- 700 The FBI got an affidavit from Ferrie, L said. It is not in the files.
- 730 L makes big point of fact that Ferrie went to Guatemala twice - this "would" interest L - and he loses sight of the fact that if either he or the FBI had investigated when they were supposed to there would remain no question about Ferrie's trip to Guatemala
- 850 Ferrie "was involved in anti-Castro groups in New Orleans"!
- 885 775 This "organization had been receiving finances from the Central Intelligence Agency"
- 885 805 And ~~in its~~ ^{its} office was ⁱⁿ the building whose address L specifically gives, "544 Camp Street", that Oswald used as a return address on literature. L is also specific in using Arcacha Smith's name.
- 885 First reference to Sylvia Odio and "Leon Oswald"
- 935 L makes disparaging remarks about Odio as a witness, regretting he can't get "bishops as witnesses". He makes references to her "background", implying mental illness (see also 980)
- 965 He said Sylvia was "working behind the jewelry counter at Nieman Marcus". This is not at all where she was working. What is fascinating is this apparent reference to another woman totally suppressed from the part of the story in of which Liebelier was in charge who did have such employment!
- 980- He refers to Sylvia having "certain psychological problems". This is untrue and unfair. She had nervous problems because of the great personal problems she faced.
- 1030 "You know, the Commission didn't do a perfect job" - it "wasn't a very lawyer-like piece of work"! When L uses the word "Commission" here, he should use his own name for he was in charge personally. However, in the way he expressed himself, he detached himself from his own work and attributed that to "the Commission".

Side 2

Altho "fascinated" by Oswald's alleged movements on leaving New Orleans and pointing out that those attributed to him are not really comprehensible, L studiously avoids any suggestion of a "false Oswald".

80 The FBI "checked every flphouse in New Orleans" and "never conducted an investigation like that before" in an effort to learn if Oswald stayed in any one before leaving New Orleans. He and the FBI both ignore other possibilities such as his staying with friends, acquaintances or associates

103 "When it became clear" that the Commission - meaning L - could not reconcile Sylvia Odio's testimony with what it wanted to believe, "we asked the FBI" to "find" the men who had been at Sylvia's apartemtnt. L is careful to avoid saying when: August 21, 1964, 8 months after they learned about it and one month before the Report was actually printed

(Note the FBI report says they were to check on Sylvia's reputation for veracity, not as L put it, to find the three men)

115 "Concluded ... on the basis of probability that Oswald was not in her apartment". This should have been a beginning point, not an end because if Oswald had not been there, why should anyone else have been misrepresenting himself as Oswald?

120 L "had the impression" that Sylvia Odio wanted "to involve Oswald with pro-Castros ... which, of course, would seem to her advantage". This is so utterly nonsensical, so entirely opposite to the truth, that it is insane. Her interests were anything but this. Her parents were both in prison on the Isle of Pines

135 "We drafted the section of the Report xxx dealing with Mrs. Odio ... and it was the night of the 20th or 21st of Sept. when we were going over the page proofs of the Report for the last time ... courier from the FBI came in with a letter from Mr. Hoover ... that the FBI had found the men. (Actually, the FBI phoned ahead of the courier) There I am. Marvelous." Here L explains that the Report was in page forms, all footnoted, and no changes could be made that would alter the entire Report.

"So I went down to Mr. Rankin ... 'What are we going to do, Mr. Rankin?' Mr. Rankin, a very proper ..., said, 'That's not the right question, Mr. Liebeler. The question is, what are you going to do?' ... had to be done by 12 o'clock that night ... so, I sat down and rewrote the whole section and used the same number of footnotes ... and it went over (to the Government Printing Office) in my handwriting, which is not very clear"

This is how the Report's basic conclusion on conspiracy, on Oswald's involvement with what kind of Cubans and on so many other things was reached: by a single lone and unassisted young lawyer in the depth of night and confusion, without a single member of the Commission - all seven of whose names were affixed to what he had written - ever seeing what he had written in their names.

So the question of conspiracy of whether or not Oswald was being counterfeited and by anti-Castro Cubans was decided by L entirely alone.

And at this point he goes on to misrepresent what the Reports from the FBI actually contain.

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180 L says, "The whole thing just collapsed", that Hall had changed his story, etc. This is false. The FBI misrepresented what Hall said to make it seem he changed his story in its summary but the report itself contains added detail reaffirming Hall's original story, detail of a kind he could not have invented. Hall, without doubt, visited Mrs. Odio.

L winds up saying that the Report is in error because the FBI delayed getting the results of its Miami investigation to the Commission. By this he means what also is not true, that the Miami investigation disputes Mrs. Odio's testimony. It does not.

220 He admits there is "an area here" in which the Commission and the FBI failed. This is true because the Commission and the FBI wanted to fail, wanted not to get the truth, and avoided even an incompetent pretense of a search for it until 3 months after the Report was planned to have been published and the Commission's work entirely completed.

290 Here he begins discussing classified documents in the Archives.

The content of this tape should be compared with the actual document 1553, the Commission staff papers saying that Mrs. Odio was a dependable witness whose great concern was to avoid involving her anti-Castro colleagues in the assassination, and above all with the Wall-Arcacha Smoith-Banister-544 Camp St report and Oswald's literature with that as his return address.