EVIDENCE RELATING TO STUCKEY'S CONTACT WITH THE FBI, AUGUST 21, 1963 — Paul L. Hoch, 16 Nov 77

From "Marina and Lee," by Priscilla Johnson McMillan, pp. 352-3:

Meanwhile, Stuckey had decided to do some checking on Oswald. That same Monday [August 19, 1963], he made the entire thirty-seven minute tape available to the local FBI office, where the stenographer pool made a transcript, then returned the tape to Stuckey along with a copy of the transcript. [Footnote: 11H165 and Stuckey letter of April 16, 1976 to McMillan] While he was talking to an FBI source over the telephone that day, Stuckey, as he remembers it, was put through to the chief or deputy chief of the New Orleans bureau, and this man read aloud to him over the phone portions of Oswald's FBI file, including the facts that he had been to Russia, tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship, stayed there nearly three years, and married a Russian woman. Stuckey went to the FBI office and was permitted to examine the file, as well as newspaper clippings from Moscow [sic!] at the time of Oswald's defection.

[Footnote, p. 494:] Letter from Stuckey to the author, January 24, 1976. The FBI's contact with Stuckey at this stage, while alluded to in Stuckey's testimony, does not appear in FBI reports on its surveillance of Oswald in New Orleans as published in the twenty-six Warren Commission volumes. Warren Commission Exhibit No. 826, a report filed by Special Agent Milton Kaack in October 1963, which summarizes most of Oswald's political activities in New Orleans, states erroneously that Stuckey's first contact with the FBI on the subject of Oswald did not occur until August 30, 1963. It is possible that Kaack's superior did not tell him of the contact with Stuckey, and thus it failed to appear in the file on Oswald in New Orleans.

From William Stuckey's testimony, 11H167-8:

During that day, Wednesday, August 21, one of my news sources called me up and said, "I hear you are going to have Oswald on Carte Blanche." I said, "Yes, that is right." He said, "We have some information about Mr. Oswald, the fact that he lived in Russia for 3 years." ...

... and this individual who called me and gave me this information [about Oswald living in Russia] gave me dates of Washington newspaper clippings that I could check, which were stories about his leaving for Russia, or rather his appearance in Moscow in 1959.

From FBI Item 54K, SAC memo for the file, 8/21/63 (by SAC Maynor):

"On 8/21/63 at approximately 10:00 a.m., Bill Stuckey ... telephonically advised ..." [As it Stuckey placed the call.]

"Stuckey stated his call was for the purpose of determining if the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had been cited as a subversive organization." [Sure!! Maynor said he "could not furnish" an answer, and referred him to the Justice Department.]

"Prior to terminating the conversation, Stuckey mentioned" that Oswald would be on the Carte Blanche program, and "thought that possibly I [Maynor] might like to hear this program." [Quite different from Stuckey's version, that his source had heard Oswald would be on. I am inclined to trust Stuckey's version.]

"Stuckey also volunteered" that he would make the 32-minute tape of his interview with Oswald on 8/20 available to the FBI. [Odd; Stuckey's version is that he had turned over the tape and gotten an FBI-produced transcript two days earlier.]

"The above information was telephonically furnished SA Kaack to whom captioned case is assigned." [So much for the explanation in McMillan's footnote!]

QUESTIONS RAISED BY THIS MATERIAL:

The FBI's relationship with Oswald. [I guess by now it is no surprise that the FBI would take action to expose someone they don't like, but if that had come out in 1963 some people might have been upset. Incidentally, this suggests that Maynor did not have any reason to believe Oswald was an FBI informant, doesn't it?]

The FBI's relationship with the press. [I wonder if Stuckey is embarrassed by this?]

Inaccurate internal FBI reporting. [This could be important. Why did Maynor write a memo like that?]