

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/27/63

WILLIAM GEORGE GAUDET, Waveland, Mississippi, P.O. Box 365 advised that to the best of his recollection in the early afternoon of September 17, 1963 he picked up his travel permit from the Mexican Counsellor's Office at the Whitney Bank Building in New Orleans. He stated that at the time he entered the Mexican Counsellor's Office, there were six or seven persons waiting to pick up permits and to the best of his recollection, LEE HARVEY OSWALD was not one of them. GAUDET further stated that he left New Orleans, September 19, 1963 via Pan American Airlines at 12:00 noon. He stated that he could not recall the flight number, but is positive that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was not one of the flight passengers in the First Class Section. He further stated that he did not observe OSWALD in the Tourist Section, although he may have been there. He stated this Pan American flight landed in Merida, Mexico and then continued on to other Central and South American countries. GAUDET stated that he did not actually enter Mexico as he was continuing on to the South and Central American countries. GAUDET further stated that he could not recall the exact date he returned, but that it was approximately three or four weeks later. He stated OSWALD was not a passenger on the return flight to the United States.

GAUDET stated in his opinion that if OSWALD was a Marxist, that he would not have gone to Merida in Mexico as this is, in his opinion, a strictly anti-communist area. GAUDET also indicated that he has in the past been an employee of CIA.

On 11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # 89-69
 by SA JOHN WILLIAM MILLER :lav Date dictated 11/27/63

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NOTE

At the jail, Bringuier was shocked to hear Oswald announce he was born in Cuba. Until his confrontation with Oswald, he had no idea that Fair Play was active in New Orleans—or that Oswald was its only member. Bringuier noticed that in the interrogation room, Oswald was "really cold-blooded. . . [H]e was not nervous, he was not out of control, he was confident . . ."13 The three Cubans raised the \$25 bail money and were told to return to court for a hearing on Monday, but Oswald had to spend the night in jail.

The following morning, Saturday, Lt. Francis Martello, the former deputy commander of the New Orleans police intelligence division, saw one of Oswald's Fair Play leaflets and decided to interview him. Oswald lied throughout the interview, telling Martello that he had lived at Mercedes Street in Fort Worth since his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1959. He said that besides Reily, he had worked at the city's largest brewery, Jax. As for the New Orleans Fair Play for Cuba chapter, Oswald said it had thirty-five members, met monthly at locations he refused to disclose, and that the first name of one of the members was "John," a student at Tulane University.¹⁴ *went it?*

At the end of that interview, Oswald made the seemingly unusual request that Martello call the FBI. Oswald wanted to see HEHAD NONE AT ALL

Although the fight was not staged, it was certainly prompted by Oswald, and it was intended to enhance his legitimate pro-Communist credentials. In a ten-page biographical sketch written in late August, meant to impress the Cuban officials in Mexico City to whom Oswald intended to apply for a visa, he wrote, "I infiltrated the Cuban Student directorite and then harressed them with information I gained . . ." (CE 93, WC Vol. XVI, p. 341).

"A leftist professor at Tulane, Leonard Reissman, under surveillance by the New Orleans Police Department's intelligence division, was later found to have one of Oswald's handbills in his car. A Tulane graduate student, Harold Gordon Alderman, who had been involved in Fair Play activities elsewhere, had one of Oswald's leaflets taped to his front door. Reissman and Alderman denied ever meeting Oswald. Another Tulane student, Vereen Alexander, thought she had met Oswald at a party with other pro-Castro students in the summer of 1963, but no one else confirmed her story. Though Oswald told his aunt that he visited a language professor at Tulane, subsequent investigations by the New Orleans police and the FBI could not uncover any evidence that he visited Tulane.

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Poerner writes that the harbor police got one of the
handbills and that the fingerprint prints on it

"Hands off Cuba" • 133

tributed his Fair Play for Cuba propaganda. In the late after-
noon, the officer of the deck aboard the ship complained to harbor
patrolman Girod Ray, who found Oswald and asked if he had per-
mission to distribute the leaflets.⁵⁷ Oswald said he did not need it,
and would distribute his pamphlets wherever he desired. Ray
told him that he was on port authority property and without au-
thorization he had to leave, but Oswald argued with him. Finally,
when Ray threatened to arrest him, he left.⁵⁸ Oswald was ex-
hilarated by his demonstration, later boasting in a letter to Fair
Play president Vincent Lee, "We also managed to picket the fleet
when it came in and I was surprised at the number of officers who
were interested in our literature."⁵⁹

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Oswald's interest in Cuba now included Marina. He asked her
if she liked Cuba and "Uncle Fidel" and said that his demonstrat-
ing "will help make people be on the side of Cuba. Do you want
them attacking little Cuba?"⁶⁰ He pasted a photo of Castro,
clipped from the Soviet magazine *Ogonyok*, on their living room
wall.

On Monday, June 24, he visited the U.S. passport office and
applied for a new passport (one that he never used before his
death). His passport had expired exactly one year earlier. Oswald
said he intended to travel as a tourist, starting in October, for
three months to a year. Destinations included England, France,
Germany, Holland, Finland, Poland, Italy, and the USSR.⁶¹ He
listed the Lykes shipping line, the same he took during his 1959
defection, as his means of transportation. He also gave his date of
marriage to Marina as the nonexistent April 31, 1961, and said
his occupation was "photographer." The New Orleans office is-
sued his passport the following day.^{62**}

*Oswald used "we" when writing to the Fair Play national headquarters
since he often wanted to impress them that his local chapter had attracted
more volunteers than just him. Officer Ray said Oswald was alone on the
day he confronted him on the wharf.

**Since Oswald was a defector, was the overnight processing for his pass-
port unusual? Jim Marrs says that the ease with which Oswald obtained his
passport is key evidence "pointing to Oswald's involvement with spy work"
(*Crossfire*, pp. 189-90). But only a few months earlier, in order to speed up
passport applications, the New Orleans office had instituted a state-of-the-

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hour talk that evening. Those present later described him as "very tense and high-strung." He confirmed he was a Marxist, although he admitted that he was disillusioned with the USSR.⁸⁰ In fact, he said he was against most forms of organized government. "Capitalism doesn't work, communism doesn't work. In the middle is socialism, and that doesn't work either."⁸¹

Back in New Orleans, he tried to have another three thousand "Hands Off Cuba" flyers printed, but for reasons that are unclear, he was turned away from the print shop. On August 1, the New Orleans *Times Picayune* ran a front-page story saying that federal agents had seized a ton of dynamite and other materials on a raid of an anti-Castro paramilitary group planning operations against Cuba. That same day Oswald wrote to Vincent Lee, Fair Play's president.⁸² The letter is almost a complete fabrication. He claimed that he had attracted "great interest" in his local chapter, that anti-Castro agitators were attacking him and ruining his base of popular support, and that he had distributed "thousands of circulars." There was one sentence, however, that later caused considerable debate: "I rented an office as I planned and was promptly closed three days later for some obscure reasons by the renters." Oswald stamped addresses for his fictional chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee on the printed leaflets. Most were marked "L. H. Oswald, 4907 Magazine Street" or "A. J. Hiddell, P.O. Box 30016" (the dyslexic Oswald transposed the last two digits of his post-office box, as it should have been 30061). But some were stamped "544 Camp St."

If Oswald had an office, even briefly, at 544 Camp, it could be significant, for as Jim Marrs writes, "It was at 544 Camp Street in an old, three-story office building that the paths of Lee Harvey Oswald, the FBI, the CIA, anti-Castro Cubans, and organized crime figures all crossed."⁸³ That address was the office of Guy Banister, a highly decorated ex-FBI agent who maintained a relationship with Naval Intelligence as well as doing investigative work for G. Wray Gill, an attorney for New Orleans crime boss Carlos Marcello.⁸⁴ Another frequent Camp Street visitor was David Ferrie, a rabid anti-Communist who worked with Banister, for some of the most radical anti-Cuban groups, and also for the attorney for Marcello.⁸⁵

Ferrie and Banister were a strange and memorable pair of as-

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Convinced his work for Cuba was gaining the attention of national leftist leaders, Oswald was encouraged to embark on a new gambit. Having read only a week earlier about anti-Castro militants and their armed training camp, raided by federal agents across the river from New Orleans, Oswald was ready to infiltrate the "enemy." On Monday, August 5, he walked into a Cuban-owned general goods store, Casa Roca.* Behind the counter was the co-manager, Carlos Bringuier, a twenty-nine-year-old Cuban lawyer who also was the New Orleans delegate for the anti-Castro Cuban Student Directorate. Casa Roca served as the Student Directorate's unofficial headquarters, as well as a general clearinghouse for Cuban activities in New Orleans. Bringuier was explaining the Cuban fight against Castro to two fifteen-year-old Americans, Philip Geraci and Vance Blalock, when Oswald walked up to them. Geraci recalled that Oswald asked, "Is this the Cuban exiles' headquarters?"**

"He started to agree with my point of view and he showed real interest in the fight against Castro," recalled Bringuier. "He told me that he was against Castro and that he was against Communism."** Then Oswald requested some literature, which Bringuier

*Also on August 5, the Soviet embassy notified Marina that her request to enter the USSR had been forwarded to Moscow for processing. And unknown to the Oswalds, that same day, the FBI interviewed his landlady, Jesse Garner. She confirmed he was in the city. At that point, the New Orleans FBI office became chiefly responsible for Oswald. Special agent Milton Kaack was assigned to the matter.

**In his address book, Oswald had three addresses listed on the same page with Carlos Bringuier's name: 117 Camp, 107 Decatur, and 1032 Canal. Harold Weisberg claimed the first address was a formal-dress shop and the second did not exist. He then juggled the numbers and determined that if Oswald had meant 107 Camp and 117 Decatur, that would lead to two anti-Castro militants. It shows the extent to which some will speculate. In fact, Weisberg searched the addresses when he helped Jim Garrison in his 1967 investigation. Instead, a review of 1963 records reveals there is no mystery or mixup. 117 Camp was the Hispanic-American Discount House, owned by two prominent Cubans (it was only a dress shop when Weisberg saw it years later). 107 Decatur was Bringuier's Casa Roca. 1032 Canal was at the corner of Canal and Ramparts, the New Orleans Discount Center, owned by a Jewish Cuban. The addresses were part of Oswald's efforts to discover the headquarters of the Cuban exiles.

Philip Geraci is not the source of all of this & he knew and passed it on. That may be true but it was in Geraci's house & Geraci is not such a "clearing house" for anti-Castro activity. Bringuier is a nut & I address the and in - Weisberg not on separately

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an agent. Special Agent John Quigley arrived later that morning. Oswald had been worried about the FBI's interest in him since the first interview in Fort Worth, and was convinced it had cost him at least two jobs with its inquiries. He was certain he was under active surveillance. If the FBI did not know he was arrested, he thought, it would shortly, and Oswald probably figured it best to summon the Bureau to him as if he had nothing to hide about his Fair Play for Cuba activity.

That Oswald called for an FBI agent is strong evidence there was no association between him and the Bureau. A confidential informant could never jeopardize his covert role by publicly dealing with the FBI. But Summers charges that the evidence of a special relationship is evident because it happened on "a Saturday morning, not the most likely time for an agent to respond speedily to a request by an insignificant prisoner. Nevertheless, Oswald asked and the FBI obliged."¹⁵ Quigley was the Saturday duty agent at the New Orleans FBI office. According to another FBI agent who later worked on the Oswald file, Warren de Brueys, "Quigley would never have spoken to Oswald if it had not been a Saturday. One of the responsibilities of the duty agent is to check with the local police and see if there are any cases that might interest the Bureau. Once Oswald asked to talk to the FBI, Quigley had to go over there. If he hadn't, he would have been kicked in the butt for failing to do it—he would have been censured because that was part of his duty. Quigley may not have even been aware we had a file on Oswald in our office, because 99 out of 100 times when they say someone is down there, you just go. If you don't go right away the prisoner might be released, so you always go down and check it out."¹⁶

Quigley's meeting with Oswald was not a secret one as some have implied. In fact, Quigley typed a five-page, single-spaced report of his hour-and-a-half interview. Oswald repeated the lies he had told Lt. Martello, and then further embellished his story, especially regarding "Hidell." While Oswald said he had spoken to Hidell several times on the telephone, he had never met him, his number had been disconnected, and he did not remember what the number had been.¹⁷ It was a note from Hidell, said Oswald, that told him to pass out the leaflets at the corner where he was

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- 1 DENNIS JOEL BYRD APRIL 6, 1941
- 2 LAVNEIGHA CHAPMAN NOVEMBER 28, 1921
- 3 HARRJORIE PAULA DE VERGES JUNE 29, 1915
- 4 ANNE ROULEY FINSTAD SEPTEMBER 25, 1925
- 5 PAUL FRANKLIN FINSTAD JANUARY 16, 1925
- 6 ANNELIESE MARIE FORD JANUARY 3, 1939
- 7 KEVIN ALAN RODIN CALVIN YVONNE DOREEN EDWIN LAMAR FORREST APRIL 21, 1919
- 8 EVELYN LEWIS FORREST MARCH 2, 1918
- 9 HAZEL EDWARDS HAMPTON DECEMBER 22, 1898
- 10 JOHN WARD HAMPTON SEPTEMBER 11, 1891
- 11 DOROTHY MAY HARRISON NOVEMBER 2, 1925
- 12 MONARD MONROE HARRISON MAY 3, 1920
- 13 DONALD DA VAULT HOLT MARCH 5, 1938
- 14 SHERRI JAN JONES JUNE 9, 1946
- 15 HAN LOU MC CLURE NOVEMBER 15, 1919
- 16 TERRY ALLEN TIMOTHY FRANK ANN JAMESON HILLER MARCH 21, 1923
- 17 CHARLES BROUH MORRISON AUGUST 23, 1890
- 18 HELEN VORIS MAURICE GENE MORSHECK SEPTEMBER 18, 1923
- 19 ROBERT JOSEPH MULROY FEBRUARY 1, 1963
- 20 LEE HARVEY OSWALD OCTOBER 18, 1939
- 21 DARDARA BELL PACKER NOVEMBER 2, 1928
- 22 CAROLYN SUE PLUNK APRIL 9, 1938
- 23 JANEY BEN RUSAN ROBINSON NOVEMBER 22, 1947
- 24 KIRBY LEE ROY OCTOBER 16, 1916
- 25 IRIS PAINE WEBRE AUGUST 26, 1913

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT 952—Continued

State Department teletype message relating to Oswald's second passport. See page 131.



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