

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

VIEW STIRRED SUSPICION

Ferrie Blamed JFK For Cuban Fiasco

The States-Item National Service reports that records on deposit in the National Archives explain how David William Ferrie became entangled in the investigation of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

A statement by the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that Ferrie admitted to agents that he had been critical of the lack of air cover for Cuban exiles in the Bay of Pigs, and had blamed President Kennedy "publicly and privately."

ACCORDING TO the statement, Ferrie told FBI agents he had used expressions like "he (the president) ought to be shot," but emphasized that he didn't mean it literally.

Ferrie, according to documents available in Washington, was originally linked to the investigation by Jack S. Martin, who began trying to reach assistant district attorney Herman Kohlman on the night of Nov. 22.

Kohlman and subsequently the FBI had been told that Ferrie had been in the Moisant squadron of the Civil Air Patrol with Lee Harvey Oswald, that Ferrie had taught Oswald how to shoot with a telescopic sight and that the two had plotted the Kennedy assassination.

FERRIE'S alleged role was to fly the getaway plane for Oswald. A licensed pilot, Ferrie formerly was employed by Eastern Airlines and owned his own blue and white Binson monoplane.

When Ferrie could not be found in New Orleans the night of Nov. 22, 1963, Kohlman and the FBI became interested in him and the district attorney's office began searching the city for him.

A few hours after the Kennedy assassination, Ferrie and two young male companions, apparently unaware that Ferrie was being sought, decided to

drive to Houston and Galveston in Ferrie's 1961 blue station wagon.

THE TRIO registered at the Ala Motel in Houston at 4:30 a. m. Nov. 23. At 11 p. m. they reached Galveston and registered at the Driftwood Motel. At Houston, they apparently had some discussion over the possibility of purchasing an ice skating rink, and they combined that business with a goose-hunting expedition.

According to the statement, Ferrie made four long distance calls from Houston to New Orleans—including calls to radio stations WSHO and WDSU.

The purpose of the calls was not explained.

Ferrie and his companions returned to New Orleans at 9:30 p. m. Nov. 24. Ferrie, apparently aware that he was wanted after a call to G. Wray Gill for whom he had worked as an investigator, left for Hammond about midnight and stayed at the Holloway Smith Hall at Southeastern Louisiana College.

THE NEXT DAY, however, he returned to New Orleans and, accompanied by Gill, appeared at the district attorney's office, where he was questioned

and booked in separate oral and written statements to the FBI. Ferrie denied he had ever known Oswald.

He also said that he had not been in Dallas in "eight or 10 years."

Ferrie denied any involvement in firearms instructions and said that his plane had not been airworthy since 1962.

FERRIE, likewise, denied that he had ever met performer Bill De Mar, who was doing a mind-reading act at Jack Ruby's Dallas night club the week of the assassination and he denied knowing Ruby as well. He said he had never flown Oswald to Cuba, Dallas or anywhere else.

In following up the Ferrie lead, the FBI interviewed more than a dozen persons whose names had come up, including Martin.

On questioning by the FBI,

Martin disavowed entirely his story and told agents he had made up the story after seeing newspaper and television reports.

On the basis of this information, the FBI report stated, "the investigation involving David William Ferrie will be closed."

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Contradictions Mar Probe by Garrison

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threw such a bombshell into the case.

THE DEAD MAN IS DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE, the self-styled psychologist, pilot, hypnotist and private investigator who Garrison calls "one of the most important individuals in history."

This assessment of Ferrie is curious in the light of a previous statement by Garrison that "none of the people so far named" are very important in the investigation. Ferrie's name was the first to be mentioned, largely because he came forward of his own accord to tell his story after it was revealed that the investigation was under way.

Ferrie was arrested shortly after the assassination in 1963. His alleged role in the "plot" was to fly the getaway plane for Oswald. He made a motor trip to Texas on the day Kennedy died. He did not go to Dallas, however.

FBI files in Washington reveal that Jack S. Martin, a New Orleans private detective, told Garrison's office of an alleged connection between Oswald and Ferrie, and the "getaway plane" story.

THERE WAS A MORE FANCIFUL THEORY that Ferrie, who practiced hypnosis, was supposed to have put Oswald in a trance with a post-hypnotic suggestion to kill Kennedy.

Ferrie was questioned about all this by the FBI shortly after the assassination. His information was known to the Warren Commission, which mentioned him obscurely in its report.

With all of this information before them, none of the bodies — the Warren Commission, the FBI, the Secret Service — probing the killing took any action about Ferrie. This is the man who, Garrison said, was "one of the most important individuals in history."

The day before Ferrie died, Garrison said no arrests were planned in the case "for months." After Ferrie died, Garrison said he had planned to arrest Ferrie within a week.

WHEN FERRIE DIED, GARRISON said his office had reason to believe the death was a suicide. As of yesterday afternoon, Garrison was still maintaining his contention that Ferrie took his own life.

But Coroner Nicholas Chetta says Ferrie died from natural causes. The autopsy revealed he was killed by a brain hemorrhage. The coroner says there is no way for a suicide-bent person to induce such a hemorrhage at will.

Even Garrison admits that Ferrie was nowhere near Dallas on the day of the assassination.

Garrison has refused to give any findings he may have made thus far to federal authorities, on the grounds that they would slow his progress and that any crimes committed are punishable under Louisiana law, not federal law.

He was criticized on this score yesterday by a member of the Warren Commission, Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich. He said, "I am amazed that public officials would refuse to cooperate with federal authorities."

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ANOTHER PERSON CONNECTED WITH THE commission, Prof. Wesley J. Liebeler of the University of California at Los Angeles, who headed the phase of the investigation connected with New Orleans, echoed Ford's call to cooperate with other agencies.

Gov. John Connally of Texas, who was shot while riding in the parade with Kennedy, said yesterday he doubts that Garrison's investigation will produce "anything new or revealing."

"I am confident in my own mind that the FBI and investigative agencies went into the state and concerned themselves with these individuals," he said.

What further ground Garrison may be breaking is a matter of conjecture at present. A number of books have been written finding fault with the Warren Report and there is a widespread feeling, particularly in Europe, that the truth about the assassination has been covered up.

Connally, however, has produced solid evidence.