

Phone conversation with Milton Kaeck, Sunday a/m. 11/20/71, lasting about 10 minutes and these notes typed immediately.

I told him of the CD425 report that had him visiting the Garners, esp. Mrs. Garner, five times before the Oswald first arrest. He confirmed, did not deny. But he would make no comment. He said it was all a matter of public record. I said that the fact is the Warren Commission had elected not to go into this, not to print that report, leaving open the question why. To this he said "So?", and I responded that it did seem strange that there was this inference the Bureau had a considerable interest in Oswald before any public attention was attracted to him. He said I could draw my own inferences. I repeatedly told him that I did not expect and did not ask him to violate any confidential relationship with the Bureau of the past (he was, according to -vonm fired) to the point where his refusal to comment meant this did involve, ~~was~~ confidentiality, that it was not merely because of Oswald's previous history. I even arranged it for him to say that this previous history did result in his visits, and he did not. I pointed out that a writer seeking understanding and truth has to consider this in connection with the absence of any affidavit from him, and he said only "I wasn't one of the agents asked to go up there". I corrected him to tell him this was not a question of his going to Washington, but it was merely a question of his not having been asked to execute an affidavit. He laughed. I then pointed out how strange it is that Oswald asked for an FBI agent when arrested, and suggested that Oswald did not expect Quigley to show. He again laughed (note that Bringuier says two agents were there, and the records identify and refer to but one).

There is little doubt that he confirms his visits to the Garner home. He denied nothing, didn't suggest there was any error or misinterpretation or misrepresentation.

His listed phone is 866-9094, 7321 Sycamore, but when I phoned the woman who answered said he was upstairs and asked me to call 866-5853, and he answered on the first ring.

The only possible interpretation of his refusing to say the very innocent, that the Bureau's and his interest in Oswald is because of the Russian defection, something I suggested pointedly, something public and published, something he could say, as I pointed out, without breach of any confidence, is confirmation that the interest was of a different character and was not because of the customary official interest in people of such histories. I then carried this further and pointed out that while all records show Oswald was innocent of the offense and that Bringuier was the offender, Oswald pled guilty and Bringuier innocent, that Oswald elected to spend the night in jail, and that he was fined while Bringuier got off, the record is a strange one and is subject to special interpretation. He said I'd have to draw my own inferences.

He was not unpleasant, not unwilling to converse, and it is I who brought the conversation to an end, wishing him well. It would have been a simple matter for him to have said he just wouldn't converse, that everything he did was confidential, and to have hung up, but he didn't, and when the inferences were obvious and strongly suggestive of a bureau-Oswald connection, he merely laughed and told me to draw my own inferences. In the context of his admitted visits to the Garner's before any public attention to Oswald, before his first arrest, phrases I used, his refusal to say that his was no more than the ordinary interest in such cases even when I solicited it comes as close as anything can to confirming an Oswald-Bureau relationship, not simply a check because of Oswald's past or because of the Wasp distribution. That would not have led to five visits, a number he did not challenge or say was exaggerated, or say he couldn't confirm or in any way do other than confirm. And he did indicate he had filed reports on these visits by saying they were all on file in Washington, at the Bureau. I pointed out that they are not in the Commission's file and he said the obvious and wit out doubt the true, that he had no knowledge or no way of having knowledge of that.