

NO 89-69

Source: HUGH AYNESWORTH
Date: April 26, 1967
To Whom: The Houston FBI Office
By Whom: HUGH AYNESWORTH, "Newsweek" correspondent.

A summary of the information contained in Aynesworth's written notes is set forth below. Everything appearing below in this memorandum is taken directly from material Aynesworth made available.

Garrison's investigation of the alleged "conspiracy" plot" from the very first was David W. Ferrie, a New Orleans pilot. Ferrie is reported to have been a brilliant misfit, who had worn several disguises, engaged in provocative talk, and in the role of an anti-Castro freedom fighter had often denounced President Kennedy because of the Bay of Pigs invasion disaster. He had been involved with Cuban exiles in several abortive plots, and had been discharged as an airline pilot on grounds of homosexuality. Although the FBI reportedly had checked on Ferrie carefully, no evidence was developed in 1963 or thereafter that Ferrie was actually involved.

Garrison concluded otherwise. During the early stages of his investigation, Garrison questioned Ferrie for hours, tested his statements with a polygraph, and interrogated his acquaintances. Ferrie steadfastly denied any involvement. Personal acquaintances of Ferrie insisted that Ferrie called Garrison's investigation a "farce" until his death in February, 1967.

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After Ferrie's death, Garrison declared the Warren Report had been a complete failure and remarked "You don't send boys to do a man's job." Shortly thereafter Clay L. Shaw was formally charged and a search of his apartment produced articles such as chains and whips which were widely publicized.

Perry Raymond Russo, a former friend of David Ferrie, testified he had been present in Ferrie's apartment in September, 1963, when Lee Harvey Oswald, Ferrie, and others discussed the assassination conspiracy. Russo, under cross examination, was unable to provide much information that he should have possessed if he had actually witnessed these activities. To buttress Russo's testimony, Garrison produced a twentyseven year old Negro, Vernon Bundy, a narcotics addict beginning at age thirteen, who was then in the Orleans Parish Prison. Bundy testified he observed Shaw give money to Oswald.

Perry Russo stated he had offered aid to Garrison only after Ferrie had died. Russo was initially interviewed by Assistant District Attorney Andrew J. Scianbra on February 25, 1967, which was two days after Garrison had announced he had "solved" the case.

[redacted] learned that Scianbra wrote up the interview of Russo in a 3,500 word memorandum to Garrison. [redacted] has stated that Garrison let him read this memorandum and nothing in it made any mention about a party, a plot, or a "Bertrand," a name Russo later stated was used by Clay Shaw. In this memorandum, Russo reportedly stated he had seen Clay Shaw only twice, once while attending a New Orleans speech delivered by President Kennedy and once in an automobile with Ferrie. When challenged by [redacted] Scianbra claimed he must have simply forgotten to include the crucial details of the conspiracy session in his report.

[redacted] stated information available to him indicated that it was only after "repeated prodding" while under hypnosis and the influence of a so-called "truth serum" that Russo had been able to recall the meeting in Ferrie's apartment.

Another dubious "fact" was the recollection by Russo of the presence of a "Clen Bertrand" at the session in Ferrie's apartment. This recalled information in the Warren Report that a New Orleans lawyer, Dean Andrews, had stated "Cley" Bertrand had telephoned him to represent Oswald. Andrews specializes in defending homosexuals and has often contradicted himself. Andrews has given at least two conflicting descriptions of Bertrand and has stated the alleged telephone call received from Bertrand occurred while Andrews was under sedation in a New Orleans hospital. After Garrison had Andrews indicted for perjury, Andrews insisted that "Bertrand" positively was not Cley Shaw.

The most persistent critic of Garrison is Gordon Novel, a night club owner and former electronics salesman, who claims he helped Garrison until he found out what a "ridiculous farce" the whole thing was. Novel was interviewed by Aynesworth several weeks ago and stated Garrison asked him to drug Ferrie with an atropine dart and was to use other "bizarre ways" to soften Ferrie up, in Garrison's words, "to tell us what we want to know."

Garrison has also received countless tips, bits and snatches of information from the kinds of characters who are always attracted to a sensational case. However, up to this date, Garrison's case rests primarily on the testimony of Perry Russo and Vernon Bundy.

In order to figure out this shaky brief, Garrison has been forced to resort to unorthodox tactics. Considerable proof has been developed that several peripheral characters involved in the investigation have had their lives threatened, have been intimidated and harassed and have even been offered bribes for favorable testimony.

In Dallas, Sergio Arcacha, a former Cuban exile leader in New Orleans is fighting extradition on a charge of munitions burglary which was also brought against Gordon Novel. Garrison has repeatedly admitted that Arcacha is not involved in his plot. Arcacha has informed Garrison he would gladly talk in the presence of someone from the Dallas Police Department, the FBI, or an attorney being present. Garrison recently stated "We don't want to talk in front of them."

Mrs. Sandra Koffett McMains, a former girlfriend of Russo residing in Omaha, Nebraska, contradicted Russo's testimony she was at the "party" at Ferrie's apartment in 1963, and stated she did not meet Ferrie until 1965. Garrison's men visited her at midnight one night, and promised her new clothes and "expenses" if she would return to New Orleans. She refused and fled to Iowa. Her attorneys claim she is afraid to return to New Orleans for fear of physical harm.

One John Cancler, a notorious burglar, has told attorneys of Clay Shaw that he was released from jail in a "deal" provided he would enter Shaw's apartment and "plant something."

Alvin R. Beaubouef, 6708 Villery, New Orleans, Louisiana, was perhaps the closest person to David Ferrie in 1963. Beaubouef was a teenager then and was single. He is now married and has a small child. The following account of the bribery attempt against Beaubouef can be documented with testimony of reputable attorneys and a tape recording.

Beaubouef was arrested in November, 1963, when he returned to New Orleans from a trip to Texas in the company of Dave Ferrie. Ferrie dropped Beaubouef off in front of Ferrie's apartment to run in and obtain hypodermic needles and some photographs from Ferrie's apartment. As Beaubouef was running from the front door of this apartment, he ran directly into an investigator from the District Attorney's Office and the photographs were taken from him. These photographs are now in Garrison's possession and are being held over Beaubouef's head.

A few days after Ferris died in February, 1967, Louis Iven, Garrison's Chief Investigator, and Lynn Loisel, City Police Officer assisting Garrison in his probe, went to the home of Beaubouef. They told him they had plenty of money and influence and they wanted him as a witness for the prosecution. Beaubouef insisted that his discussion with them be continued after consulting his attorney, Hugh Exnicies. Iven telephoned Exnicies and set up the appointment for March 10, 1967.

On March 10, 1967, Iven did not appear but Loisel did. Exnicies had set up equipment to make a tape recording of the entire conversation, which lasted more than thirty minutes. The following transpired:

Loisel stated he had talked with Beaubouef the previous evening and had offered him liberal expense money. He also told Beaubouef "the boss" is in a position to put him in a job. Loisel also stated they would make a hero out of Beaubouef, instead of a villain. Loisel stated everything would be to Beaubouef's satisfaction and that by changing the story around they could eliminate any possibility that Beaubouef could be charged in the conspiracy. Loisel said the story could be typed up in such a way that Beaubouef would be free and clear.

The attorney asked just what Loisel meant by "expense" money and Loisel replied "I would venture to say... Well I'm, you know... fairly certain we could put \$3,000 on him just like that, you know." "I'm sure we'd help him financially and I'm sure we, real quick, we would get him a job." Loisel went on to explain that Garrison was not interested in Ferris's "personal" life, obviously meaning that any reference to homosexuality would be forgotten.

Exnicies stated "Well now Lynn, you're speaking about the District Attorney, Jim Garrison, and his ability to place Al in a responsible pilot's position with an airline?"

Loisel replied "That's correct according to Al's own ability."

Exnicios asked Loisel whether Garrison was aware of this offer and he replied "That's right."

Exnicios then asked what Beaubouef could testify to and Loisel replied that Garrison had a witness (obviously Russo) who placed Ferrie, Clay Shaw, Oswald, and two Cubans in a room together, he believed in Ferrie's apartment. Loisel added "Al was as close to Dave as anyone could have been." Loisel then laid out the plot scene, with the three men talking about the assassination, discussing cross fire and escape routes, with Ferrie and Shaw arguing, and stated Beaubouef's testimony would be "along that line."

Exnicios then asked Loisel whether Beaubouef was actually at the meeting and Loisel acknowledged he was not.

Exnicios then asked how Beaubouef could testify and Loisel replied "Well, Al is in...Al, being as close to Ferrie...as to know the whole thing from beginning to end."

Exnicios pointed out if Beaubouef knew about this and did not tell it, he was committing a crime and Loisel replied since Dave Ferrie was gone, Beaubouef would pretend he was afraid of Ferrie and had only come forward with this information after Ferrie was dead. Loisel went on to point out that Beaubouef now has a family and that Ferrie could have threatened to harm Beaubouef's family if Beaubouef revealed this. Loisel pointed out Beaubouef's action in releasing his information could now be considered his patriotic duty and he would be placing his family at the mercy of the District Attorney's Office in order to clear his conscience.

At this point Exnicios sent Loisel out of the room and had Beaubouef come in. Beaubouef's statement was "No matter what he says I don't know anything about the assassination." Beaubouef apparently was not aware of what Garrison's men wanted. Beaubouef said he felt he should tell them something or they would not pay him. Finally Beaubouef told his attorney to determine if Loisel would still get him the airline job even if he was not of any value to them.

Loisel then returned to the room and he agreed to check with "the boss" to determine if they would get Beaubouef the job. Exnicios then had Loisel repeat the three offers, involving \$3,000, a job with an airline, and no involvement of Beaubouef in the case.

After the above meeting was over Exnicios rushed the tape recording over to the Jefferson County District Attorney Langdrige inasmuch as the bribe attempt had occurred in that jurisdiction. Langdrige played this tape for several people, including Attorney Monk Zeldon. He also played this tape for Shaw's attorneys, Bill Wegmann and Irvin Dymond. Exnicios then travelled to Washington, D. C., and tried to sell the tape to Walter Sheridan, an NBC newsman, for \$5,000. Exnicios claimed he was offered \$500 but refused and came back to New Orleans with the tape.

When Garrison's office learned that this tape existed, Loisel returned to Beaubouef's house and, in the presence of Beaubouef's wife, told him that if he did anything with the tape he would be hurt. Beaubouef was taken to the District Attorney's Office and kept for six or seven hours, during which time he was intimidated again with the pictures and made to sign a statement that he did not take the visit by Loisel and Ivon as a bribe offer.

Aynesworth personally visited Beaubouef on April 24, 1967, and talked with him for two hours. Beaubouef said he did not want to say or do anything because of the possible embarrassment of the photographs which Garrison had. When asked what he would do if this matter came up in court, Beaubouef stated he would tell the truth. Beaubouef stated he feared for his life if anything happened.

In addition to the above, Aynesworth heard rumors involving alleged threats to two other individuals:

Carlos Quiroga, a Cuban Refugee, was allegedly threatened twice by one Jack Martin. Garrison admitted this and had Martin apologize.

One Layton Martens, reportedly a homosexual, was allegedly threatened but details are unknown to Aynesworth.