

OSWALD TAPES BARED IN L.A.

LOS ANGELES EVENING AND SUNDAY

HERALD  **EXAMINER**

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1967

NEW

A top secret tape recording in Lee Harvey Oswald's own words and revealing his Communist ties with Cuba two months before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was disclosed to the public here today.

The unedited tape, played only previously for the Warren Commission, also sheds new light on events in New Orleans prior to the death of Kennedy.

The tape was disclosed today by Edward Scannell Butler, executive vice president of the Information Council of the Americas (INCA).

Butler, whose organization is based in New Orleans, debated with Oswald in August, 1963, on Oswald's link with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

In the tape recording, Oswald was questioned concerning how long the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had been organized in New Orleans. He answered:

"We have had members in this area for several months now. Up until about two months ago, however, we have not organized our members into any sort of active group until, as you say, we had decided to feel out the public; what they think of our organization, our aims, and for that purpose we have been distributing literature

on the streets trying to attract new members."

Oswald went on to say that as secretary of the committee he was responsible for keeping records and "protection of the members' names so that undue publicity or attention" would not be drawn to them.

Oswald pointed out emphatically he did not then belong to any other organization, that he was devoting his

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New Oswald Tape Revealed Here

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time exclusively to the FPCC. He indicated that he was not yet convinced that Castro was a Communist.

"He has not had a chance to become a Communist," said Oswald. "He is an experimenter, a person who is trying to find the best way for his country. If he chooses a Socialist or a Marxist or a Communist way of life that is something on which only the Cuban people can pass."

In reply to whether he felt capitalism in any form would again have a place in Cuba, Oswald replied:

"... Cuba is irrevocably lost as far as capitalism goes and there will never be a capitalist regime again in Cuba. It may go the way of China, in other words, a dogmatic Communist system; that depends on how we handle the matter here in the United States."

GIVEN TO DA

The tape recording, which Butler said was turned over this morning to New Orleans, Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, also included Oswald's belief that a world trend was developing toward "imperialistic dominated countries adopting socialist solutions — Marxism even, on occasion."

Oswald was asked if he thought the United States ever wanted to help Castro. He replied:

"True to our democratic principles, certain policies were adopted, very late, but adopted, that the government help Fidel Castro while he was still in the mountains. We cut off aid to Batista just before the revolution, but just before it. That was too late. We had already done more harm than we could have done before. We were just rats leaving a sinking ship, you see."

FAIR PLAY

Oswald explained what led him to decide that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had the correct answers



—Herald-Examiner Photo

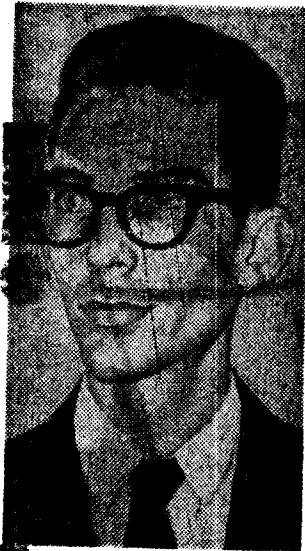
EDWARD S. BUTLER

about Cuban-U.S. relations in these words:

"Well, of course I have only begun to notice Cuba since the Cuban revolution. That is true of everyone, I think . . . I always felt that the Cubans were being pushed into the Soviet bloc by American policy. I still feel that way. Our policy, if it had been handled differently and many others (had been) much more informed . . . we would not have the big problems of Castro's Cuba now."

Oswald made a reference to the Counter-Intelligence Agency as being "defunct." When he was asked to explain, he replied:

"Well, its leadership is now defunct. Allen Dulles is now defunct. I believe that without all that meddling and with a little bit different humanitarian handling of the situation Cuba would not be the problem it is today."



—Associated Press Wirephoto
DAVID LEWIS
Fears for his life

JFK Probe Missing Tipster Is Back

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23 (UPI) — A former investigator who claimed to know four conspirators in a 1963 plot to assassinate President Kennedy dropped out of sight early today, but later showed up at Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's office.

David Lewis, 26, met newsman briefly, to say David W. Ferrie, 49, an eerie-looking former Eastern Airlines pilot found dead in his apartment Wednesday, was not one of the "possible members of the plot."

Lewis said previously he had given Garrison four or five names of persons involved in the conspiracy, and as a result feared for his life.

He dropped out of sight with his wife and four children last night, but reappeared at the district attorney's office late this morning.

He refused to say anything other than that Ferrie was not one of the group he knew.

Lewis, was a private investigator who came in contact with Le Harvey Oswald several times during Oswald's six-month 1963 stay in New Orleans.

Lewis, when Garrison's controversial investigation erupted last week, was employed as a shipping agent at a bus line.

Lewis said Monday he feared for his life. He was the one who told the press that he had given Garrison names of four or five persons he knew to be linked in what he felt was a conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy.

Lewis would not clarify why, or under what circumstances, he knew Oswald in the weeks before the Dallas assassination. He would only say he was a private investigator then.

'ASSASSINATION-CONNECTED' DEATHS NOW 15

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 23 (AP) — At least 15 persons whose names could be linked in some way with the assassination of John F. Kennedy or events which followed have died since the President was shot on Nov. 22, 1963.

Their names, and the reported causes of their deaths:

DALLAS POLICE PATROLMAN J. D. TIPPIT, shot by Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of Kennedy.

OSWALD, shot by night club owner Jack Ruby.

JIM KOETHE, Dallas Times-Herald reporter and Ruby acquaintance, whose body was found wrapped in a blanket in his apartment on Sept. 21, 1964. Police said he had been killed by a karate chop to the neck.

BILL HUNTER, a Long Beach, Calif., police reporter said by unofficial investigators to have known Ruby, shot accidentally by a detective in the Long Beach police station on April 23, 1964.

NANCY JANE MOONEY, former stripper in Ruby's club, committed suicide by hanging with her own torso.

Ferrie Latest Linked to Nov. 22, 1963, Tragedy

dor pants while in a Dallas jail cell awaiting trial on a charge of disturbing the peace.

TOM HOWARD, a lawyer friend of Ruby, who was taken to a Dallas hospital on March 27, 1965, and died of a heart attack.

EARLENE ROBERTS, Oswald's Dallas landlady, who died in a hospital Jan. 9, 1966, of a heart attack.

HANK VILLAM, a housepainter, found tangled in a broken plate glass window and bleeding to death on March 17, 1964, in Pensacola, Fla. His wife, Wanda, worked for Ruby for 15 years. The coroner originally called the death accidental. Police said it looked like suicide. Killam's body will be exhumed for further examination. It was announced yesterday.

WILLIAM WHALEY, a cab driver who had Oswald as a passenger on the day of the assassination, fatally injured in an automobile crash.

EDWARD BENAVIDES, shot to death in a Dallas bar. His brother, Domingo, whom he closely resembled, witnessed the killing of patrolman Tippit.

LEE BOWERS, a Dallas construction man who told the Warren Commission the assassination shots might have come from street level instead of a window of the building Oswald worked, fatally injured on Aug. 9, 1966, in a car accident.

JAMES WORRELL, a Warren Commission witness who was in the crowd at the assassination scene, shot to death in Dallas.

DELIASH WALLE, former stripper in Ruby's club, shot to death in Omaha, Neb., on Aug. 23, 1966.

RUBY died of cancer on Jan. 3, 1967, while awaiting retrial for the killing of Oswald.

DAVID W. FERRIE, a pilot questioned by the authorities about a trip to Dallas on the day of the assassination, died in New Orleans yesterday of an apparent rupture of a blood vessel in the brain. Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said he thought it was "apparently" suicide, but he would not rule out murder.

FBI Looks Deeper Into JFK 'Plot'

By LESLIE H. WHITTEN
Herald-Examiner Washington Correspondent
With Hearst Headline Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 — The FBI is quietly looking into the current allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald plotted with others in New Orleans to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

FBI agents, working through long-established channels, have kept carefully abreast of the investigation of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison into the alleged plot.

Although the FBI declined to comment on the charges, it was learned that the investigation has been developed

either by the Federal sleuths or by Garrison's probes.

The death of David W. Ferrie, who had called the Garrison probe a "big joke," the comments of a one-time private investigator named David F. Lewis, 26, who has spoken of a "conspiracy," and the activities of a Cuban exile, Bernardo Torres, 36, who contends he has information on the plot all have come under Federal scrutiny.

Garrison has refused a suggestion by Rep. Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., a member of the Warren Commission, to give his information directly to the Justice Department. He said Monday that he was "convinced" that the "conspiracy" was being developed

behind the assassination and that his probe will result in arrests and convictions.

Much of the conspiracy talk is old ground, already covered by both the FBI and the lawyers for the Warren Commission in 1963 and 1964 at the time of the formal investigation.

For example, Ferrie confirmed in a newspaper interview Saturday that he had been questioned by the FBI at the time of the assassination. Evidence that the Warren group had considerable information on Ferrie is clearly shown by pages of testimony touching on him in

squadron near one that Oswald joined were studied at the time of the assassination by New Orleans Police Detective Frederic S. O'Sullivan.

Warren Commission Attorney Wesley J. Liebeler asked O'Sullivan, who had known both Oswald and Ferrie, whether "you know of any connection between Oswald and David Ferrie?"

"No, I have no personal knowledge of anything," said the detective.

There has been speculation in New Orleans that Ferrie was to have provided a getaway plane for Oswald in Dallas, but this, too, was studied three years ago by the FBI and the Warren Commission.

Pilot's Death Deepens Mystery in JFK Probe

WAS IT NATURAL, SUICIDE

OR MURDER?

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25— Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison hinted today that freelance pilot David W. Ferrie carried to his grave some secrets about President Kennedy's assassination.

Ferrie, 48, who described himself as a psychologist and private detective as well as a flyer, was found dead in his bed yesterday.

Garrison, the 6-foot-6 gun-toting prosecutor, called the death "apparent suicide."

But Garrison said he had not ruled out murder.

The coroner, Dr. Nicholas Chetta, said tests were not complete but death seemed due to a massive brain hemorrhage, with no sign of suicide except a curious, unsigned, undated note saying death was a "sweet prospect."

Garrison trained his sights on an apparent major inconsistency in Ferrie's death hour.

Chetta said rigor mortis had set in and death must have come sometime Tuesday evening.

But George Lardner, a reporter for Washington Post, said he went to Ferrie's apartment about midnight and stayed until 4 a.m. Wednesday interviewing him.

Lardner said in a copy-righted story that Ferrie told him he was convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald killed the President and acted alone.

Chetta said Ferrie's death had to occur before 4 a.m. But Lardner insisted he had visited with Ferrie until that hour.

Garrison said the time of death estimated by the coroner, and the time that Lardner said, was a major inconsistency in the case and was "one of the mysteries we don't understand."

Garrison said his investigators, who had Ferrie's apartment staked out secretly "for some time," saw the lights go out at 11 p.m., an hour before Lardner said he arrived for his midnight interview.

The investigators left when they saw the lights go off.

Ferrie was on the brink of producing information that could have been important, said Garrison, whose assassination probe — started long after the Warren Commission finished its work — has created an international sensation.

"We felt he was really now ready to talk candidly, to contribute to this important investigation," said Garrison.

Two days ago, Garrison was insisting that his effort to prove a conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy will result in arrests and convictions.

The President was shot in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 22, 1963. Garrison insists that a conspiracy to murder him was conceived in New Orleans. No "credible evidence" of a

conspiracy was found by the Warren Commission, which said Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald — a former New Orleans resident — acting alone.

Garrison said his office had planned to take Ferrie into custody early next week. Because Ferrie had expressed fears for his life, Garrison said he provided him a temporary hideout at a motor hotel here.

"Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy," Garrison said.

The nude body of Ferrie, who operated a flying service

here, was found in the calm posture of sleep, covered to the chest by a bedsheet.

His second-floor apartment was in disarray. The American flag was in the living room. Although 15 bottles of various pills were on a table, the coroner said no drugs were found other than those used for vascular disease.

He said Ferrie was born with a weak blood vessel at

the base of his brain. It ruptured, producing a massive cerebral hemorrhage, Dr. Chetta said. Ferrie also suffered from high blood pressure and recently told a friend he had encephalitis (sleeping sickness).

UNSIGNED NOTE

An unsigned, undated note was found on the dining room table. The first paragraph said:

"To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable, and on the other hand everything that is loathsome."

Ferrie was brought into the scope of the assassination probe within 72 hours after Kennedy was slain. Garrison said he pulled Ferrie in for questioning at that time and

subsequently turned him over to the FBI, which took a statement and released him. A New Orleans florist, Edward Voebel, had seen Lee

Harvey Oswald's picture on television and reported that he and Oswald had served in a civil air patrol squadron under Ferrie. When authorities sought to question Ferrie, they found he had gone to Texas.