



**H**arold Weisberg's *Oswald in New Orleans*, published in 1967 by Canyon Books, gathered together all of the evidence the Warren Commission had assembled—but eventually ignored—concerning Oswald's lost summer in New Orleans. Weisberg's book would be used as an initial agenda for the Garrison investigation. Then in January, 1968, *Ramparts* published former FBI agent William Turner's background story of the Garrison investigation in a book-length piece entitled *The Garrison Commission*. From Weisberg and Turner, the public first learned of the immense weirdness of David Ferrie, and of the political extremism of his associate, Guy Banister.

After being fired by Eastern, Ferrie contracted a rare skin disease called alopecia, which caused him to lose all the hair on his body. He tried to compensate by creating an ill-fitting mohair wig, and pasting on two shards of a red mohair rug for eyebrows. So adorned, Ferrie rose to second in command of the violent cadre of right wing, anti-Castro paramilitary men then gathering in and around New Orleans. Although now, here near as exotic a bird, Guy Banister was every-

bit as sinister as his colleague. Working for the FBI in Chicago, Banister had participated in the legendary shootout which killed America's "Public Enemy Number One," John Dillinger. Like Dallas D.A. Henry Wade, Banister had also worked with the Office of Naval Intelligence during World War II. It was rumored that Banister maintained contact with ONI throughout the ensuing years.

Guy Banister moved to New Orleans in 1955 to become Deputy Chief of Police. A penchant for violence, and a dependency on alcohol, ultimately ruined Banister's professional career, much as a penchant for young boys ruined David Ferrie. Fired from the New Orleans Police Department in 1957 for pistol-whipping a local waiter, Banister founded his own private detective agency and devoted himself to a variety of anti-Communist and racist causes. In short order, Banister joined the John Birch Society. He became an active member of the ultra-right Mintemmen paramilitary underground network. He also published the racist *Louisiana Intelligence Digest*.

In the late 50s, Banister became the New Orleans chapter head of

the Anti-Communism League of the Caribbean, another CIA front which had initially been created to overthrow the left-leaning Arbenz government in Guatemala. One of Banister's ACLC associates alleged that the League opened a pipeline with the OAS, a French criminal-influenced, anti-Communist group. The ACLC, it is alleged, fed \$200,000 to the OAS to help pay for the attempted assassination of French Prime Minister Charles DeGaulle.

Banister cooperated with Sergio Arcacha Smith in the training of exiles for the Bay of Pigs. Visitors to his offices, and those of the CRC across the hall, often commented on numerous boxes of small arms and explosives, stored under Banister's care at 544 Camp Street.

It was Jack Martin, one of Banister's associates, who called him Garrison two days after the JFK assassination to inform the District Attorney of the strange activities of Guy Banister, and his fellow radical extremist, David Ferrie. It was Martin's contention, as it would become Garrison's, that Lee Harvey Oswald had been under the influence of these two very dangerous men.