

Reid Freed-Jeff Cohen Frame-Up ripoff

JL: August Craddaddy has the typical sick assassination stuff. It includes an article by Jeff Cohen the idea and content of which come directly from my work and to the best of my knowledge no other. O in NO. It is the comparison of the actual transcript of the Stickey program (LEO vs Bringtier) with the official, altered one. I've just skimmed. Too sick, even for today's treatments and stories. My point in ~~making~~ noting this is the Cohen/Freed collaboration in an apparant ripoff of my work when I would not sign a nothing contract with Freed and he then wroes and said he'd send me a meaningful one, agreeing with my complaint. HW 7/25/75

Either Lee Harvey Oswald was a bona fide pro-Castroite or he was an agent of U.S. intelligence. There is no other alternative. It was Warren Commissioner Gerald Ford who insisted that Oswald's "commitment to communism" be listed as motivation for murder.

But the sum total of Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba activities consisted of three leaflet-distributions and two radio interviews. Scrutiny of these events, which were all staged in New Orleans, sheds light on the leftist-agent issue.

The Warren Commission found that Oswald, who issued a membership card to himself, had acted as secretary of a nonexistent "New Orleans chapter."

His "organization" was a product of his imagination. The chapter had never been chartered by the national FPCC organization. It appears to have been a solitary operation on Oswald's part.

Some of Oswald's "Hands Off Cuba" leaflets were stamped with the address "FPCC, 544 Camp St. NEW ORLEANS, LA." Had the Commission seriously pursued this lead, it would have found no Fair Play for Cuba office, but instead, the detective agency of Guy Bannister, the right-wing, ex-head of the Chicago FBI office.

We now know that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was targeted by the FBI for penetration of the party boss, Harry Dean Thayer. Thayer, who became an officer of the Chicago FPCC, declared, "I got the impression that Oswald was doing the same thing I was."

While leafletting near Canal Street on Aug. 9, 1963, Oswald was confronted by three Cuban exiles and was assaulted by one—Carlos Bringuier. Oswald, who had killed U.S. GIs in a non-violent gesture, was arrested for disturbing the peace. Instead of a lawyer, Oswald requested an interview with an FBI agent.

One week later, accompanied by two day-laborers, he had hired, Oswald distributed leaflets outside the International Trade Mart. Because WDSU-TV cameras happened to film the event, Oswald gained instant notoriety in the pro-exile, anti-Castro milieu of New Orleans. Bill Stuckey, of WDSU radio, invited the party boss to an interview on the day after the event.

On August 21, 1963, Oswald was interviewed by Stuckey and Butler on the radio. The transcript of this debate is published in this issue.

THE OSWALD TAPES

BY JEFF COHEN

several months now.

When asked about his personal background, he skipped over his two and a half years in Russia. This omission became the main issue of the radio debate on August 21—three days later.

The Great Debate put Lee Harvey Oswald up against Carlos Bringuier, the Cuban exile who had staged the public confrontation with Oswald ten days earlier; Ed Butler, anti-communist propagandist with the Information Council of the Americas (ICA); and the two moderators from WDSU-News, Bill Stuckey and Bill Slatter.

Stuckey and Butler opened the debate by producing newspaper clippings that exposed Oswald's 1959 attempt to renounce his American citizenship and become a Soviet citizen. Lee Oswald prevaricated when he denied those attempts.

OSWALD: *I was not under the protection of the American government.*

OSWALD: *When I was living in Russia, I was, of course with the knowledge of the American Embassy, getting this permission [to reside]*

at no time was I out of contact with the American Embassy.

But the most revealing response was evoked when the smooth-talking Oswald was momentarily stumped. He stammered badly, and made a dramatic slip-up.

SLATTER: *I'm curious to know just how you supported yourself during the*



three years that you lived in the Soviet Union. Did you have a government subsidy?

OSWALD: *Well, as I uh, well, I answer that question direct then, since you will not rest until you get your answer. I worked in Russia I was under uh, the protection the uh ... of the uh ... that is say, I was not under the protection the uh ... American government. I that is I was at all times consider an American citizen.*

The Warren Commission published transcript of this debate as Stuck Exhibit No. 3. The crucial exchange follows:

OSWALD: *... I worked in Russia was not under the protection of the that is to say I was not under protection of the American government ...*

(emphasis added)

Although the Commission's 99% accurate transcript contains typing errors the above "mistake" is the only one that materially alters the meaning of statement. By adding the word "not," revealing slip-up becomes a mere repetitive stammer.

This writer is indebted to the many right-wing groups who made the record of the debate. INCA's Ed Butler produced the debate on record with a flashy record album jacket: *OSWALD - Self-Portrait - Red The ultra-leftist Communist Oswald also produced one, with dynamic commentary by Dr. (Billy James) Hargis.*

Was Lee Oswald an agent? The evidence suggests that he was; that the actions were taken to establish "left cover."

What about his apparent sincerity defending Fair Play for Cuba? Oswald was full of contradictions. At the same time he criticized "Russian imperialism" on the radio, he wrote to the Communist Party for political guidance. Oswald simultaneously attempted to join groups in the opposing Trotskyist and Stalinist camps. The evidence indicates that Mr. Oswald succumbed to one of the most known occupational hazards of the informant's trade—schizophrenia.

BRINGUIER: *Do you agree with Fidel Castro when in his last speech of July 26th of this year he qualified President John F. Kennedy of the United States as a capitalist and a thief. Do you agree with Mr. Castro?*

OSWALD: *I agree with the ...*

Tonight we have with us a representative of probably the most controversial organization connected with Cuba in this country. The organization, the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, it was Lee Oswald, secretary of the New Orleans chapter to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. This organization

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