

IVAN COTTMAN, interviewed about 12/13 northside Jackson Square 12/17/67

Cottman is an aging artist who is usually at this corner of the square, painting and selling his paintings. He is, or was when I saw him untidy, has a gray mustaches that hangings down around the ends of his lips, walks with a limp, and has the reputation of being a homosexual. He is said to have come from a good family, to have not been able to preserve his inheritance, to have lost property he inherited, the building housing Dixieland Hall, to be well/acquainted in the quarter and among homosexuals, and to have run a discussion group for some time. It is said to have avoided political issues (he seems to have favored religion), although he acknowledged that on one or more occasions, through Wes Forsythe, then owner of the Seven Seas, Cuban exiles were presented.

He says Helen Gladstone, employed by a Jewish newspaper, knew Clay Shaw well. (Other sources say she also knew Will Cuthbert Brady well, also Kerry Thernley.) Others he says know <sup>h</sup> Shaw well are Tony Devine, who he calls a liar, ~~and~~ and Mary Collins, who, he says, died recently. She owned LaFitte's Blacksmith Shop, a bar at which Cottman said he had seen Shaw. He says he knows Shaw only slightly. Cottman says he has seen Shaw act as though he were a timid man, looking into Lafitte's and then hurrying away, without entering. This behavior seems to have struck him as peculiar enough for him to recall it.

Cottman says he considers Al Clark a dependable man and that Clark does not travel in the same social set as Shaw, that they are not close friends. I have no way of evaluating what very little I got from him. I did get the impression that he knows more than he says, that he is saying nothing to shield fellow homosexuals. He made frequent, disparaging references to the Radical Right, including Brady. He says Brady has been back in New York for a while, is editing a small right-wing publication in Greenwich Village, and is again conducting political discussion groups. According to Cottman Brady now has two, meeting the same night. He ushers one in as he sends the other out.