

FORD

Bolton Ford

M E M O R A N D U M

May 9, 1967 (Transcribed)

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney
FROM: JAMES L. ALCOCK, Assistant District Attorney
RE: FRED A. SEWELL, INTERVIEW WITH
MAY 2, 1967 at 4:15 P.M.

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It is now 4:15 P.M. in my office, the office of James Alcock, Assistant District Attorney, and the date is May 2, 1967. I am speaking to Mr. FRED A. SEWELL, whose home address is 6520 Ithaca Street, Metairie, Louisiana, home telephone 887-3156. Mr. SEWELL is presently Fleet Manager for Stevens Chevrolet Company, 840 Carondelet Street in the City of New Orleans.

JA: Mr. SEWELL, by whom were you employed in 1961? The Summer of 1961?

FS: Bolton Ford Truck Center.

JA: Where was that located?

FS: 1083 N. Claiborne.

JA: Did you have a man working for you at that time by the name of OSCAR W. DESLATTE?

FS: OSCAR DESLATTE was my assistant - Assistant Manager.

JA: What was your position at that time?

FS: Truck Manager.

JA: Can you recall Mr. DESLATTE ever showing you, or asking you about the sale of 10 trucks to some freedom Cuban organization?

FS: Yes, he come in my office - well our desks were together - but I was in another room with glass about 10 feet away and he come in and he said, look this may be for a good cause as kind of contributing to Cuba. They've had uprisings and all down there, and they want 10 vans like these that Ford is building now. I said, well if it's a good cause, let's put \$50.00 over cost on each one of them and OSCAR says, that's okay, I'll fix it up. So he went in and he made up a bid.

JA: Mr. SEWELL, let me ask you before you go any further, did you get a look at the proposal that he had? Did you read it?

FS: Oh yes, I had to okay it for him.

JA: Did you notice any names on it?

FS: Yes, he had one name one time, and if I remember, it was a Cuban name as far as I can remember that. And then this thin man with his hair a little long, who looked like he might need a meal, a little skinny, said you better put my name down there because I'm the man with the money. He was going to handle the money.

JA: Did this man say that in your presence?

FS: Yes.

JA: What did this man look like?

FS: Well he looked - he was about probably 5' 6 or 7", probably weighed at that time about 140 lbs. ± 145, and he wasn't dressed the best. He wasn't sloppy, he was neat, clean but his hair was long.

JA: Now let me ask you this Mr. SEWELL, was he accompanied by anybody else at this time?

FS: Yes. The man with the Cuban accent and looked like a Cuban.

JA: Can you describe this man?

FS: Heavy set, wavy hair, kind of olive complexioned, very technical and well-educated. More educated than the other man.

JA: What do you mean by "technical"?

FS: Well, he asked me interesting facts about these vans that I didn't even know myself. It shows that he was well read and knew something about mechanics and that he come over there well versed to find out what he was buying, or bidding on.

JA: Do you recall the name that he gave?

FS: No, I can't remember now.

JA: Do you feel that that name was written down on the bid?

FS: It was written on the bid, I know.

JA: Were both of the names written down on the bid?

FS: To my memory, yes.

JA: Now, what was the name of the other man, the thin man? Did you ever see his name written on the bid?

FS: I think that OSCAR DESLATTE wrote that on there, LEE OSWALD, but he didn't use the HARVEY, just LEE OSWALD if I remember right.

JA: LEE OSWALD?

FS: Yes, it's been six years or course. He represented himself as LEE OSWALD. He's the man that spoke up and said, "I'm the man handling the money. You ought to have my name too."

JA: Did you actually hear this man identify himself as LEE OSWALD?

FS: Right. That's what he said.

JA: Did the other man identify himself to you too?

FS: No. OSCAR had his name on the bid. He didn't mention his name. He didn't say much after that. Most of his was asking questions about the product he was trying to buy.

JA: How long were they in your office? Or were they in your office?

FS: Not in my office, but OSCAR and I had a double desk, like you would sit there and I would sit here. But I wasn't at my desk all the time, I was in and out working because I had customers, and at the time I was handling service on trucks too, writing the tickets and okaying the jobs, and ordering the material. Kind of running a one-man operation down there.

JA: How long was he in your presence?

FS: I would say that the men were in there that I could see them maybe around an hour.

JA: That long?

FS: Close to that. It's hard to tell that kind of time when you're working.

JA: Did you ever see these men again after that occasion? Did you ever ask Mr. DESLATTE (Mr. Garrison entered the office at this time)

JA: I wonder if you could repeat what you have already told me. It's already on the tape but it won't harm to repeat it to Mr. Garrison. Who the men represented themselves to be, etc.

FS: The first thing, Mr. Garrison, when Bolton went in the Ford business and got out of the Chevrolet, I went with them as Truck Manager for Bolton Ford, and a few weeks