

LaFRANCE
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EXECUTIVE SESSION

TESTIMONY OF WARREN C. DE BRUEYS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1978

House of Representatives,

Subcommittee on the Assassination
of John J. Kennedy of the Select
Committee on Assassinations,

Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 9:00 a.m., pursuant to notice
in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Richardson
Preyer (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Preyer, Dodd and Sawyer.

Present also: E. Berning, Robert Genzman and B.
Morrison.

Mr. Preyer. The committee will come to order.

Mr. de Brueys, will you stand and be sworn at this time?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about
to give this subcommittee will be the truth, the whole truth
and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Mr. de Brueys. I do.

Mr. Preyer. Thank you.

I believe you have been given a copy of the rules of
the committee.

Mr. de Brueys. Yes, I have.

1 Mr. Preyer. At this time the Chair has a brief state-
2 ment concerning the subject of the investigation. This is
3 something we do for each witness.

4 House Resolution 222 mandates the committee to conduct
5 a full and complete investigation and study of the circum-
6 stances surrounding the assassination of President John F.
7 Kennedy, including determining whether the existing law of
8 the United States concerning the protection of the President
9 and the investigatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies
10 and departments are adequate in their provisions and enforce-
11 ment, and whether there was full disclosure of evidence and
12 information among agencies and departments of the United
13 States Government and whether any evidence or information not
14 in the possession of an agency or department would have been
15 of assistance in investigating the assassination, and why such
16 information was not provided or collected by ~~that~~ agency or
17 department, and to make recommendations to the House if the
18 Select Committee determines it appropriate for the amendment
19 of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation.

20 The Chair recognizes counsel to begin the questioning.

21 Mr. Genzman. Mr. de Brueys, will you give your full
22 name and address?

23 Mr. de Brueys. Warren C. de Brueys, 4827 Michoud Boule-
24 vard, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70128.

25 Mr. Genzman. At this time I would ask the Clerk to give

1 you, Mr. de Brueys, JFK Exhibit No. 94 which is a letter from
2 the CIA to the committee.

3 Mr. De Brueys, have you had a chance to review this
4 letter?

5 Mr. de Brueys. May I read it? This is the one I read
6 yesterday, isn't it?

7 Mr. Genzman. Yes, it is. You have had a chance to
8 review the letter?

9 Mr. de Brueys. Yes.

10 Mr. Genzman. Do you understand it?

11 Mr. de Brueys. I understand it is a letter from the
12 Central Intelligence Agency that says they have no objection.
13 But I do recall asking if you had something from the Attorney
14 General and I did not. But that is irrelevant as far as I am
15 concerned. I will be happy to answer any questions you may
16 have.

17 Mr. Genzman. Thank you.

18 How long were you employed with the FBI?

19 Mr. de Brueys. I was employed as a special agent from
20 approximately August of 1950 to May 6, 1977. On the latter
21 day I resigned.

22 Mr. Genzman. What was your position with the FBI in
23 1963?

24 Mr. de Brueys. In 1963 I was a special agent and
25 investigator assigned to the New Orleans office of the FBI.

1 Mr. Genzman. What were your assignments and respon-
2 sibilities?

3 Mr. de Brueys. At that time the great bulk of my work
4 had to do with what we termed security matters. That is
5 anything involving a threat to the national security, possible
6 violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, Internal
7 Security Act, and perhaps others, espionage statutes.

8 Mr. Genzman. Did your duties include investigation of
9 political groups and Cuban groups?

10 Mr. de Brueys. Yes. Those that we figured came within
11 the purview of our investigative jurisdiction.

12 Mr. Genzman. Was the Fair Play for Cuba Committee
13 one of those groups which you investigated?

14 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, it was.

15 Mr. Genzman. In 1963 what were the positions of Special
16 Agent Milton Kaack and John Quigley?

17 Milton Kaack may have been a security type investiga-
18 tor also, but I am not certain of that. John Quigley, I do
19 not believe that he did security type work as a rule. He
20 may have done it occasionally. I don't know precisely what
21 type of work he did, but he was a special agent of the FBI.

22 Mr. Genzman. Would it be fair to characterize you as a
23 Cuban expert in the New Orleans FBI?

24 Mr. de Brueys. I think that it might be, loosely
25 using the term "expert." I had a lot of work that dealt with

1 Cubans, yes.

2 Mr. Genzman. Do you speak any foreign language?

3 Mr. de Brueys. I speak Spanish, Portuguese and some
4 French.

5 Mr. Genzman. Mr. de Brueys, I would now like to ask
6 you about the FBI's investigation of political groups and
7 Cuban groups in Cuba in the early 1960s. Did you ever
8 investigate the Cuban Revolutionary Council?

9 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, I believe I did.

10 Mr. Genzman. Could you tell us anything about this
11 organization?

12 Mr. de Brueys. First and foremost, I know that the
13 offices were located immediately across the street from the
14 Masonic Temple building, which was the location of the FBI
15 office.

16 Mr. Genzman. Were you aware that the office was located
17 544 Camp Street?

18 Mr. de Brueys. I have to answer that by saying instinc-
19 tively no, it may have been subsequent to the assassination
20 I may have read some material or seen some pamphlets where
21 the address on Camp Street was 544 or something similar to
22 that. I don't think I knew they were over there at the time.
23 Certainly they had a very large office area, visible to any-
24 body on St. Charles Avenue. I think they had a big sign
25 outside that you could see from the street, but I may be

1 wrong.

2 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever suspect that the Cuban
3 Revolutionary Council had connections with the CIA?

4 ✓ Mr. de Brueys. Not really. I thought maybe Arcacha
5 Smith did at one time, but I was never certain.

6 Mr. Genzman. Could you tell us about Sergio Arcacha
7 Smith?

8 Mr. de Brueys. Very little. It is very distant and
9 hazy in my mind. The thing that stands out is that I think
10 I learned subsequent, possibly subsequent, to the assassina-
11 tion that he had left town and there was some question as to
12 whether or not he had pilfered some funds, but I am not too
13 clear on that. I don't want to indict the man for something
14 he may never have done.

15 Mr. Genzman. Was he a source of information or infor-
16 mant for the FBI?

17 Mr. de Brueys. Informant, no. Sources of information
18 would apply to anybody that we had talked to more than once
19 and was inclined to give us information. They wouldn't
20 initiate it. They would be responsive to us. If I may add
21 for clarity, any person, any business who logically would be
22 contacted by FBI agents at that time, because they had access
23 to information, whether it be a bank employee or hotel clerk
24 or an auditor, and they were amenable to being helpful to us,
25 we may list them as a source of information, sometimes as

1 confidential sources, only to facilitate investigation for --
2 agents that may be exploring that field and if they looked
3 in the drawer they would find out, if they wanted something
4 they could see ABC at "X" hotel, considered confidential
5 sources.

6 Mr. Genzman. Would there have been a file in the FBI
7 field office on Sergio Arcacha Smith as an informant or source
8 of information?

9 Mr. de Brueys. I would say I believe not, but since I
10 had left the office many years ago I would not know. I don't
11 believe there was any that I had open and I doubt seriously
12 that there was any that anybody else had open. But I hesi-
13 tate to say anything definitive about that because I am not
14 certain. I may say if it will help to clarify, I don't think
15 my contacts were too numerous with him.

16 Mr. Genzman. How many times do you think you contacted
17 him?

18 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know. I would say maybe six
19 to ten.

20 Mr. Genzman. Were you ever aware of Sergio Arcacha
21 Smith's relationship with David Ferrie?

22 Mr. de Brueys. No, I don't think I was. It is possible
23 I could have read something where it may have said that, but
24 it is not an indelible impression on my mind that there was.

25 Mr. Genzman. Do you know David Ferrie?

1 Mr. de Brueys. No.

2 Mr. Genzman. Were you ever a member of the Cuban
3 Revolutionary Council?

4 Mr. de Brueys. No.

5 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever attend any meetings?

6 Mr. de Brueys. No.

7 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Orest Pena?

8 Mr. de Brueys. Yes.

9 Mr. Genzman. Was he a member of the Cuban Revolutionary
10 Council?

11 Mr. de Brueys. I think he was. If I were to hazard a
12 guess I would say yes, he was a member of that. If not that,
13 one or two others. I think he was, yes.

14 Mr. Genzman. Was he ever your informant or source of
15 information?

16 Mr. de Brueys. No, never my informant. Source of
17 information -- he was not considered a confidential source.
18 He was a source that if I wanted something from the Havana
19 Bar and wanted to ask somebody a question there, I would be
20 inclined to go to him rather than somebody else because I
21 happened to talk to him at one time when I had to do an inves-
22 tigation at that bar and on all subsequent occasions, why, I
23 went to see him.

24 Mr. Genzman. How many times did you see Orest Pena?

25 Mr. de Brueys. To the best of my memory I think it may

✓ 1 have been six to ten or twelve times over a protracted period
2 of time. I could be mistaken but I don't think it was any
3 more than that.

4 Mr. Genzman. Did you find him a value source of
5 information?

✓ 6 Mr. de Brueys. Not really because I don't think he
7 ever gave us anything too positive. He did respond to ques-
8 tions that were put to him. I presume, and this is not from
9 memory, but the reason we would talk to him is because his
10 bar was a place where Cuban seamen were inclined to spend
11 a fair amount of time. A lot of those were alleged by anti-
12 Castro Cubans, I say a lot, but when there was an allegation
13 it was usually someone that may have been a seaman, they would
14 say, "Well, he is pro-Castro." So we might make inquiries
15 about it and it behooved us to talk to Orest Pena and it is
16 conceivable I may have talked to somebody else over there,
17 too.

18 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Francisco Bartes?

✓ 19 Mr. de Brueys. Yes. I knew him a lot better than I
20 knew Orest Pena or Arcasha Smith. I saw him more frequently.
21 I saw him beyond the period of assassination when something
22 would come up and I would feel that maybe he might have some
23 answers, yes.

24 Mr. Genzman. Was he a member of the Cuban Revolutionary
25 Council?

1 Mr. de Brueys. I am not sure. He probably was, but I
2 am not certain at this point. He belonged to some organiza-
3 tions or several, but I don't recall.

4 Mr. Genzman. Was Bartes your informant or was he ever
5 a source of information to the FBI?

6 Mr. de Brueys. I would consider him a source of infor-
7 mation, yes. We may have written a PSI think on him, but
8 I am not positive.

9 Mr. Genzman. Are you saying there may be records
10 in the FBI?

11 Mr. de Brueys. There may be.

12 Mr. Genzman. Would there also be records in the FBI
13 concerning Pena as a source of information?

14 Mr. de Brueys. I doubt it, as a source of information.
15 There is an outside chance that in writing one of the many
16 reports wherein Cubans were canvassed about information there
17 may have been a blanket statement saying that person is
18 familiar with Cuban anti-Castro activities or sources familiar
19 with them were contacted and not identified on the report
20 that is disseminated but may be identified on the administra-
21 tive page of the report as such.

22 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever investigate the Cuban Student
23 Directorate?

24 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, I did.

25 Mr. Genzman. Could you tell us about that group?

1 Mr. de Brueys. I think that is the one that Carlos
2 Bringuier may have been the head of or an officer in. At
3 this point in time I don't think that I got a lot of informa-
4 tion from Bringuier about themembers. I think I may have
5 talked to him about being more informative at some time in the
6 past.

7 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether the Cuban Student
8 Directorate was CIA related?

9 Mr. de Brueys. No, I don't know whether it was or
10 was not.

✓ 11 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether Carlos Bringuier had
12 CIA connections?

13 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know, and I had no inclination
14 to believe that he did.

15 Mr. Genzman. What was your policy when you determined
16 that an area you were investigating was related to the CIA?

✓ 17 Mr. de Brueys. If I had any idea that it was a CIA
18 matter I would discontinue but if it was something of impor-
19 tance and something I would have to do in connection with the
✓ 20 case I would go see someone and usually [REDACTED] It is
21 possibly two people with CIA that were resident agents in New
22 Orleans. They had their office in the Masonic Temple building.
23 There was another man but I can't remember his name, but
24 [REDACTED] would usually be the person that I would contact.

25 Mr. Genzman. Was Carlos Bringuier an informant for the

1 FBI?

2 Mr. de Brueys. I would think he would be a source
3 rather than a PSI or ASI, to the best of my knowledge.

4 Mr. Genzman. Was the FBI's investigation of these
5 various groups or individuals a part of the COINTEL program?

6 Mr. de Brueys. No.

7 Mr. Genzman. Did you know Guy Bannister in New Orleans?

✓ 8 Mr. de Brueys. I knew him and had very limited contact
9 with him. I seem to recall to have gone to his office on at
10 least one occasion because I remember seeing his side of his
11 office. I don't know what the reason was, but I suppose I
12 must have had specifically to see him. Then I remember invit-
13 ing him out as a former special agent to a church meeting,
14 men's club meeting, at one time. Beyond that I don't think
15 I had any contact with him.

16 Mr. Genzman. Did he have a private investigative
17 agency in New Orleans?

18 Mr. de Brueys. I understand he did. It was also my
19 understanding he worked for the Louisiana State Sovereignty
20 Commission.

21 Mr. Genzman. Was his private investigative agency
22 located at 544 Camp Street?

✓ 23 Mr. de Brueys. It was my understanding it was but I
24 may be wrong about that. Now, other agents of the office
25 I think had more contact with Guy Bannister than I did.

1 Mr. Genzman. Did Guy Bannister ever aid the FBI or
2 the CIA?

3 Mr. de Brueys. Not to my knowledge, but I would not
4 have much information in that area. A lot of other people
5 in the office would be more likely to know than I about that.

6 Mr. Genzman. Was Guy Bannister a source of informa-
7 tion for the FBI or an informant?

8 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know. He was not for me. I
9 don't know that he was with the rest of the agents.

10 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever know Clay Shaw?

11 Mr. de Brueys. I don't think I ever met Clay Shaw
12 personally, but I knew him and knew him to be a respected
13 person in the community and also knew him to be, what other
14 people determined him to be, a closet queen.

15 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever know a Clem Bertram?

16 Mr. de Brueys. The name is familiar but I don't think
17 I knew him personally. I may have but I have no recollection
18 of knowing him personally.

19 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever know a Dean Andrews?

20 Mr. de Brueys. I knew Dean Andrews as a fellow law
21 school student. I knew him to be a law school student. I
22 don't think Dean Andrews would know me. I knew him because
23 I saw him on TV. I knew he was a rather unusual type person,
24 sort of what one may term a character.

25 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether Shaw or Bertram or

1 Dean Andrews was related to the CIA?

2 Mr. de Brueys. Shaw, Bertram or Dean Andrews?

3 Mr. Genzman. Correct.

4 Mr. de Brueys. No, but I would say of the three a
5 logical person to be developed would have been Clay Shaw
6 because of his position in the international trade market.
7 He dealt with foreigners quite a bit.

8 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever investigate the Cuban
9 training camps in and around New Orleans?

10 Mr. de Brueys No, I never investigated it. I heard
11 there were some. I heard they were CIA related but never
12 had any confirmation of their existence. In the absence of
13 specific instructions I never investigated it. I never opened
14 a case to ascertain if it was true. If it was another Govern-
15 ment operation I was not interested in investigating some
16 other Government agencies activities.

17 Mr. Genzman. Were you ever aware that these training
18 camps were CIA related?

19 Mr. de Brueys. I had heard that they were but I could not
20 say that they even existed as a fact.

21 Mr. Genzman. Were you ever involved in any raids on
22 any of these camps?

23 Mr. de Brueys. No, not a camp. I conducted a raid
24 on -- raid, I effected a search warrant of a house across
25 the lake from New Orleans, either Mandeville or Lacombe area.

1 Mr. Genzman. What is the name of that lake?

2 Mr. de Brueys. Lake Ponchartrain.

3 Mr. Gerzman. What was found at that location?

4 Mr. de Brueys. A U-Haul trailer, small size, completely
5 enclosed with a fairly large number of cases of dynamite and
6 percussion caps, wiring. I think there was one gutted aerial
7 bomb or maybe more and some napalm in powder form. There may
8 have been other things. That was in essence the content.

9 Mr. Genzman. Mr. de Brueys, will you describe your
10 investigative efforts with regard to the Fair Play for Cuba
11 Committee?

12 Mr. de Brueys. I think that it might be well to point
13 out that the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was a New York
14 organization, headquartered in New York, and our New York
15 office would have been the office of origin for any case work
16 done concerning the FPCC. I recall several leads for the
17 New Orleans Division set out by the New York Division. Usually
18 they were very simple leads which were triggered by informa-
19 tion received from sources of the New York office which would
20 simply say that "John Doe residing at such and such a locale
21 in your division has been in contact with the FPCC."

22 If I remember correctly, I think it would be a form
23 letter and it would probably say "Conduct inquiry in accordance
24 with instructions set forth in the manual of instructions"
25 and they would set out the page number. Usually all that

1 meant is that you identify the party or parties and then
2 determine their address and employment and you would take no
3 further steps unless you learned they were involved in activi-
4 ties that gave them access to classified information. To the
5 best of my memory I don't think any of them did. I think they
6 may have just written to the FPCC in connection with school
7 work or something like that.

8 Every time you would get one of these leads and you
9 completed it with limited inquiry you would send a report back
10 and you would close it in your office and for your informa-
11 tion if you are not aware of the terminology, the report is
12 RUC which are initials for "referred upon completion," to
13 the office of origin.

14 Anything in the RUC status in the office was in the
15 closed file, you did not do any more work on it. If another
16 lead came in at a subsequent date you would simply reopen
17 the file and do the same thing. If you finished what you were
18 doing then you would simply RUC it again.

19 Now, I think that that happened in the FPCC case in the
20 New Orleans Division, and Oswald's activities in connection
21 with the opening of an FPCC chapter in the New Orleans area
22 caused me to conduct inquiries about him because of his
23 alleged relationship with the FPCC.

24 Mr. Genzman. We will return to Oswald in a moment. Do
25 you recall the names of any of the other individuals you

1 investigated?

2 Mr. de Brueys. I don't, no. That would have been a
3 one-time thing and lost to memory.

4 Mr. Genzman. Did the State Sovereignty Commission ever
5 aid you in investigating the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?

6 Mr. de Brueys. No.

7 Mr. Genzman. Did they ever aid you in investigating
8 any of the other political or Cuban groups in New Orleans?

9 Mr. de Brueys. I would say no with the reservation
10 that there may have been one occasion, but I doubt it seri-
11 ously. I just didn't have any working relationship with
12 Guy Bannister or anybody else in the State Sovereignty
13 Commission.

14 Mr. Genzman. Mr. Chairman, before I question
15 Mr. de Brueys concerning his investigative efforts regarding
16 Lee Harvey Oswald, do you have any questions at this point?

17 Mr. Preyer. Are there any questions? I don't believe
18 so, counsel.

19 Mr. Genzman. Mr. de Brueys, how did Lee Harvey
20 Oswald first come to your attention?

21 Mr. de Brueys. I think it was because of his arrest.
22 My memory was cleared a bit this morning by reading a past
23 report of mine. That seems to indicate that was it. Then
24 there may have been other reports. The only other way he
25 could have come to my attention is if there was somebody that

1 received a card with a stamp on it showing that FPCC New
2 Orleans Chapter address with his name on it. Or there is
3 a third possibility, but I am just inclined to believe that
4 was the one.

5 Sometime during the inquiry we received a copy of a
6 letter from the New York Division which was a letter that
7 Oswald had written to FPCC and apparently some source in the
8 FPCC had acquired that letter, and the content of that letter,
9 while I don't recall it, gave a clear indication that here
10 was somebody trying to convince someone at the FPCC head-
11 quarters that they should let him open a chapter in New
12 Orleans.

13 The reason I say that is that it is my impression from
14 that letter that he didn't know anybody up there and he was
15 trying to sell himself.

16 Mr. Genzman. Did any other FBI agents in New Orleans
17 investigate Oswald?

18 Mr. de Brueys. Yes. I suppose that about the time that
19 he was arrested there was enough information to warrant an
20 investigation case being opened on Oswald on internal security
21 or possible under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. That
22 was assigned to Milton Kaack. When that happened my inquiries
23 about Oswald would not have had to have been as broad as other-
24 wise because he was doing all the work on the case and I did
25 not want to be going out to do something that would conflict

1 with what he was doing.

2 Mr. Genzman. Did you coordinate your investigation
3 of Oswald with Milton Kaack?

4 Mr. de Brueys. Not coordinate, but you may use that
5 term. I would say when I was going to submit a report I
6 would certainly want to either talk to him or review his file
7 and having reviewed his file I assume I would have asked him
8 if there was any additional information that he had developed
9 that he had not recorded and placed in his file. It was his
10 case. I don't think we ever did any work as a team on it
11 by interviewing somebody together.

12 In fact, I don't think we did anything together on it.
13 I did mine and he had access to the results of my investi-
14 gation either because I sent him a copy of what I sent to the
15 file or he was aware the file was there and he had access to
16 the whole file.

17 Mr. Genzman. What investigative steps did you take
18 regarding your investigation of Oswald?

19 Mr. de Brueys. For the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?

20 Mr. Genzman. Correct.

21 Mr. de Brueys. I tried to ascertain if there was a
22 working chapter and contacted as many people then as I thought
23 as logical to confirm the existence of it, mostly Cubans or
24 Spanish-speaking people. No one knew anything about it. No
25 one knew anything about Hidell. I don't know what else

1 he did. I read the report this morning under the FPCC
2 captioin. I am inclined to believe there may have been a
3 prior report and there may have been subsequent reports.

4 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever observe Oswald during his
5 demonstrations of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?

6 Mr. de Brueys. Never saw him with my own eyes except
7 maybe by looking at a picture and something on TV, not at that
8 time but maybe subsequently.

9 Mr. Genzman. Did any FBI employees ever approach
10 Oswald, while he was demonstrating, to obtain literature, to
11 question him or to photograph him?

✓ 12 Mr. de Brueys. I don't think so. I would be disinclined
13 to believe that anyone did.

14 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall the names of the people you
15 contacted to investigate the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?

16 Mr. de Brueys. Not really.

17 Mr. Genzman. Regarding Oswald?

18 Mr. de Brueys. Not really. I would say they would be
19 just about every Cuban that I would know as a source. Let
✓ 20 us say I may have contacted Frank Bartes. I may have contacted
21 Bringuier. I don't know at this time. I may have contacted
22 40 other Cubans in the area. I may have contacted an Evaristo
23 Rodriguez.

24 Mr. Genzman. I believe you mentioned earlier that Oswald
25 was arrested in New Orleans. Are you speaking of his arrest

1 on August 9, 1963 for a street scuffle during one of his
2 demonstrations?

3 Mr. de Brueys. I would not have been able to answer
4 that as to the specific date until I read the report just
5 now. Yes, that is the arrest I am referring to.

6 Mr. Genzman. Were you aware that Oswald was inter-
7 viewed by FBI Special Agent John Quigley while he was in
8 jail in New Orleans?

9 Mr. de Brueys. Yes.

10 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether this interview took
11 place on Saturday, August 10, 1963?

✓ 12 Mr. de Brueys. I understand it did but I was surprised
13 to learn it was a Saturday when we discussed it yesterday.

14 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether Oswald requested
15 this interview by the FBI?

16 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know as a fact that he did, but
17 that is what the report said.

18 Mr. Genzman. Why would Oswald have requested such an
19 interview?

20 Mr. de Brueys. That is a difficult question for me to
21 answer. I can only surmise that maybe he might have had some
22 concern about the local policy because he was involved in a
23 fight. I don't know whether there was any roughing around
24 at the time or not or whether he went peaceably. I don't know.
25 I don't even know whether I should answer a type of question

1 like that.

2 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever ask John Quigley why Oswald
3 requested an FBI interview?

4 Mr. de Brueys. Not to my knowledge, but, as we dis-
5 cussed yesterday, it seems to me I must have made some comment
6 to him. Since speaking to you last night I thought more deeply
7 about that. I may have asked him or may have suggested to
8 him or somebody that I found it peculiar because you don't
9 interview a security subject without bureau authority.

10 There again I don't know whether I asked him that or not
11 but I do know that I had knowledge or subsequently it was
12 revealed to me that Oswald had asked for the interview. In
13 that case it would not have been a violation of the bureau
14 regulations, which is just administrative. If you had done
15 it you might get a letter saying you should not do that any
16 more.

17 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall whether Quigley ever
18 stated he had asked Oswald why he requested an interview?

19 Mr. de Brueys. Whether Quigley had asked Oswald why?
20 If he had said something like that in my presence I don't
21 recall it.

22 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall whether Quigley ever told
23 you his suspected reason why Oswald requested an FBI interview?

24 Mr. de Brueys. No. I think that may be because the
25 main thrust of the inquiry of Oswald about that point would

1 have been Milton Kaack rather than Mine, although I did have
2 an interest in it.

3 Mr. Genzman. Why wouldn't Kaack or you have been sent
4 to the police department to interview Oswald?

5 Mr. de Brueys. I think that would have been more logi-
6 cal, but you helped to explain it a bit yesterday when you
7 said it was on a Saturday. Usually there is an agent assigned
8 to Saturday duty. At this time I don't recall whether on
9 Saturday duty I had a Saturday supervisor plus one or more
10 additional agents to go out and do that type of thing. I
11 don't know because that changed over the years. Sometimes
12 there was just one person there. Had there been just Quigley
13 there in the office and he was assigned to Saturday duty at
14 the office, then I would say it would have been kind of
15 foolish for him to leave because that leaves the office
16 solely manned with a clerk at that time.

17 So, I can't answer your question specifically in that
18 area because I just don't know the facts about it. I do say
✓ 19 it would have been better in retrospect had a security agent
20 interviewed him, particularly Milton Kaack. I know Kaack
21 likes to fish. He may have been off fishing on this Saturday.
22 Let me put it this way. I may have been out of town, but I
23 don't recall that anybody was looking for me. I have a very
✓ 24 vague recollection of being surprised that he was interviewed
25 but I can't go beyond that because I don't recall anything

1 else.

2 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever learn that Quigley's inter-
3 view with Oswald lasted an hour or an hour and a half?

4 Mr. de Brueys. No. If I did it did not mean anything
5 to me. The extent of it was something that I was not aware
6 of previously.

7 Mr. Genzman. Did you know that Quigley wrote a rather
8 long report of this interview?

9 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, I must have been aware of it because
10 I must have included it in my report or one of my reports.

11 Mr. Genzman. Did you know that Quigley's report con-
12 tained a number of false statements made by Oswald, for
13 example, the fact he had met and married his wife in Fort
14 Worth?

✓ 15 Mr. de Brueys. I know now, having discussed it with
16 you yesterday. Let me say that it would not be shocking. If
17 you talk to people involved in crimes you have to assume that
18 their information is going to be self-serving. I never did
19 get too upset if he told me something that was an obvious lie.
20 I would record it as he told me and perhaps in a subsequent
21 interview confront him with it after I had more information.
22 But it is nothing startling or surprising.

23 Mr. Genzman. Did you know that the FBI in New Orleans
24 had on file information which contradicted the information
25 which Oswald gave to Quigley?

1 Mr. de Brueys. I am aware -- my memory has been refreshed
✓ 2 now -- I am aware that they did, yes, now.

3 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether any FBI agents saw
4 fit to reinterview Oswald to discuss these discrepancies?

5 Mr. de Brueys. I never heard that anyone had reinter-
6 viewed him, no.

7 Mr. Genzman. Did you know that Carlos Quiroga was sent
8 to visit Oswald at his home to find out information about
9 the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?

10 Mr. de Brueys. I don't recall that. You have brought
11 to mind another name I have long ago forgotten. It does not
✓ 12 seem unlikely that that could have happened. I don't recall
13 that now even after you mentioned somebody, that that event
14 did occur. However, if I am able to read files I may read
15 things that will jog my memory.

16 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether the FBI would have
17 sent Quiroga or would have tipped him off about Oswald?

18 Mr. de Brueys. No, because I was handling most of the
✓ 19 Cuban investigations. I certainly did not do that. I would
20 be disinclined that anyone else did without my being aware
21 of it.

22 Mr. Genzman. Was Quiroga an FBI agent or a source of
23 information?

✓ 24 Mr. de Brueys. I don't think so, but I could be wrong
25 bout that. I don't want to interject with a lot of non-related

1 matters, but I think it may be pertinent to mention that I
2 left New Orleans in 1967 and was out of that environment
3 until I returned last year. I was overseas where I was
✓ 4 completely cut off from conversations that would have to do
5 with the assassination, being assigned for years alone in
6 Brazil with one stenographer, and two other years in Mexico
7 and Argentina where that didn't come up at all.

8 Mr. Genzman. Do you know why Auroga would claim that
9 the FBI was not interested in information that he obtained from
10 Oswald?

11 Mr. de Brueys. No, I don't.

12 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever ascertain that Oswald and
13 A. J. Hidell were one and the same person?

★ 14 Mr. de Brueys. I had reached that conclusion at the
15 end of my inquiry in the FPCC matter. I reached the conclu-
16 sion that he must be a fictitious person. May I interject
17 to say that I was curious about that after the assassination.
18 On ~~one~~ one occasion when I went out and talked to Maren Osward
19 along with Anatole Bogaslov, Bureau Agent, I asked about
20 Hidell. She said something to the effect that "Oh, he like
21 Fidel and thought that Hidell rhymes with it," the way she
22 put it. She said "No, he didn't exist."

23 Mr. Genzman. When did you become aware of Oswald's trip
24 to Mexico?

✓ 25 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know. I am not sure how whether
it was before the assassination or after the assassination at

1 this point. I think it was before.

2 Mr. Genzman. Would this information have influenced
3 your investigation of Oswald?

4 Mr. de Brueys. It would not have influenced mine
5 because -- let us assume that it was before the assassination
6 that we found out about it -- I think it was after he changed
7 his address from New Orleans to Dallas, we would have asked
8 Dallas about it. You must bear in mind that it would not
9 have been my primary responsibility. It would have been
10 the case agent handling the subject file on Oswald, himself.
11 It would not have been proper for me to do it.

12 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether Milton Kaack knew of
13 Oswald's trip to Mexico City and his visit to the Soviet-
14 Cuban Embassy?

✓ 15 Mr. de Brueys. I recall conversations very vaguely
16 that led me to believe that he knew about it. I think at this
17 point in time that he knew about it before the assassination
18 because after the assassination I left the next day. Of course,
19 I knew about that after the assassination because agents were
20 going down to Mexico to get information on it.

21 So, I must assume that it was before the assassination.
22 It seems to me that Kaack was knowledgeable about it but it
23 is one of those things that I can't be positive of at this
24 time without reading the reports.

25 Mr. Genzman. Assuming Kaack had received the information

1 would that have heightened his interest in Oswald and maybe
2 would it have led him to reinterview Oswald?

3 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, except the question is moot since
4 he had already moved from New Orleans. By the time he had
5 been able to confirm it I think by that time he would have had
6 a confirmation from Dallas or Fort Worth that Oswald had
7 established an address in that area in Texas. When in point
8 of time he had the office of origin changed I don't know.
9 That would be clear in the reports. But the next step would be
10 to change the office of origin and tell Dallas about it.
11 usually with an expedite type of communication that was not
12 a report but rather a letter synthesizing something about it,
13 perhaps including Xerox copies to Dallas.

14 I don't know what would have been the logical way to
15 do it. At the time he sent in his last report that included
16 the balance of the investigation not previously reported he
17 would have sent a copy to Dallas and along to the Bureau also.

18 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of Orest Pena's allegations
19 that he saw you and Oswald in a bar or restaurant in New
20 Orleans on several occasions?

21 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, very much so.

22 Mr. Genzman. And that Oswald was your informant?

23 Mr. de Brueys. Yes.

24 Mr. Genzman. Would you care to comment?

25 Mr. de Brueys. I would say that it is an unmitigated

1 lie. It has no basis whatsoever in fact. I don't know how
2 to answer the thing, but that it is just a lie.

3 Mr. Genzman. Do you know when Pena first made these
4 allegations?

5 Mr. de Brueys. I don't think it was any earlier than
6 ~~to~~ to three years ago.

✓ 7 Mr. Genzman. Do you know what motivation he may have
8 had to make these allegations?

9 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know. In fact, I never even
10 thought about it until people probed, I had the Canadian
11 broadcasting system send a representative down to interview
12 me. He kept asking me why would he do anything like that.
13 I began to get the impression it was a leading question as
14 to whether or not perhaps some organization or group was
15 trying to muddy the waters by making that type of thing.

16 It seemed to make sense. But my attitude right along
17 would have been just to disregard the thing completely and
18 go on to other things although it is annoying. I do know that
19 some two years ago or ~~more~~ after the CBS documentary on the
20 assassination of Kennedy, President Kennedy, I had been left
✓ 21 with the distinct impression that anyone looking at that
22 ^udocymentary might believe that indeed Oswald was my informant
23 or would have serious doubt that he was not, which prompted
24 me to write a letter to headquarters asking them to get
25 permission for me to talk to the Senate Select Committee under
oath.

1 The reason I did it, and it is in the transcript of
2 my testimcny with the committee, was that I felt I may die
3 and this would further divide the American people in believing
4 whatever any writer may choose to write about was a new theory
5 of the assassination.

6 So I wanted to go on the record under oath, and I did.
7 When I mentioned that to the Senate Committee they told me they
8 were not aware that I had written but I told them the Bureau
9 would have a copy of my letter on file and possibly their
10 request for me to come up may have crossed in the mail with
11 my request to talk to the committee.

12 Mr. Genzman. Are you speaking of the Senate Select
13 Intelligence Committee?

14 Mr. de Brueys. That is right.

15 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever meet Lee Harvey Oswald or
16 speak to him over the phone?

✓ 17 Mr. de Brueys. Never knowingly, no. I said never
18 knowingly, because if one asked if I spoke to him he may have
19 called under pretention.

20 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of Orest Pena's testimony
21 before the Warren Commission that you threatened him?

✓ 22 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, I am aware of that. I deny that
23 categorically. May I elaborate?

24 Mr. GENzman. Certainly.

25 Mr. de Brueys. I think perhaps it is wise to mention

1 that having left New Orleans I have been since that time
2 very busy with whatever tasks I have had and being away from
3 New Orleans I have just forgotten about those things except
4 as ~~as~~ reminded about it by somebody asking the question. I
5 have never made a fetish of a study of the assassination. A
6 lot of people have, reading books and going over testimony.

7 Those things slip your memory. Here lately, having
8 been produced with questions, I began to think a little bit
9 more about it. I think only yesterday I began to realize that
10 as I thought about it, having been asked again why would he do
11 such a thing, it occurred to me at that time that I was very
12 persistent in going back to see Orest Pena about his knowledge
13 of the pertinent aspects of the assassination investigation
14 and he never gave a complete answer on something that he had
15 and my persistence may have irritated him, too.

16 He told another Cuban that he had seen Oswald in his
17 bar along with another Latin sometime during the summer of
18 1963, and for a Latin to have to admit that this statement
19 was not true is very embarrassing. It would be embarrassing
20 to most people, but I find the Latins, like the Easterners,
21 have to save face about a lot of things. I think this may
22 have disturbed him and embarrassed him and I was the cause
23 of that embarrassment.

24 I also, reluctantly because I don't like to discuss
25 hearsay, but in dealing with him and talking to people who

* 1 knew him, he had an unsavory reputation for being a pervert:
2 By that I don't know whether he did abnormal acts on females
3 or what, but that is the impression I had, that he was a very
4 cocky type person and had on a number of occasions beaten
5 people in his bar. He was alleged to have had contacts within
6 the police department in New Orleans, so that if he did some-
7 thing like that he could do it with impunity.

8 I don't know whether ^hose are factual or not, but here
9 is a man who was apparently successful because he was able
10 to travel to Europe and was making money off his bar, and I
✓ 11 don't know whether it was all legitimate. I have no idea.
12 But if it was important to him to be successful and to have
13 a good reputation -- as I say it just occurred to me yester-
14 day, having been asked this question a number of times, it
15 seems to me that that is as logical a reply as I can give
16 to you. He was embarrassed because he had to admit or at least
17 deny that Oswald was ever in his bar or that he had ever said
18 that Oswald was in his bar, which he said when we interviewed
19 him in the presence of his attorney after the assassination.

20 You see, this was after the assassination and I think
21 after he may have been interviewed by an investor of the
22 Warren Commission.

23 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of Pena's allegation that
24 you and the FBI coerced him into changing his story concerning
25 Oswald's visit to his bar?

1 Mr. de Brueys. No, which is absurd. How am I going
2 to coerce him? I don't like to be put in the position of
3 asking you a question but did he say how he was coerced?
4 I can't conceive of any way I could coerce somebody like
5 Orest Pena who is making statements as he made. It does not
6 make any sense at all.

7 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of his allegation that you
8 threatened to get him if he did not cooperate with the FBI?

9 Mr. de Brueys. I am aware of that. That is as absurd
10 as the other statements he made. Bear in mind he was very
11 unhappy with me for continuing to come back and talk to him
12 about a very important thing, but this having been the assassi-
13 nation of the President of the United States and he being a
14 a person that allegedly had information that was very
15 pertinent to that inquiry, ~~it~~ behooved me to be persistent
16 and go back but in a professional manner.

17 I may have been annoyed or frustrated by his unwilling-
18 ness to reveal what he knew since it was something he knew
19 and he could say it and get it over with. I did have a
20 determination in a professional way to get that information
21 out of him one way or another in the sense that if he did
22 not do it, then I would suggest that maybe he ought to be
23 called before the Commission under oath or some other way.
24 But we resolved it so that was not necessary.

25 Bear in mind that I was gone two months between the

1 23rd of November and perhaps the 23rd or 27th of January
2 and my interview of him had to have occurred after the 23rd
3 or 27th of January. I assume in the meantime he must have
4 been interviewed by other agents during my absence on special
5 assignemnt in Dallas.

6 Mr. Genzman. Was Lee Harvey Oswald ever an FBI
7 informant or source of information or asset?

8 Mr. de Brueys. Never an asset. We did not use that term
9 at that time. It would have been tantamount to saying he was
10 an informant. He was never an informant. I am disinclined
✓ 11 to believe he was ever recorded as a source but that possi-
12 bility exists because a source of information can be almost
13 anybody. I would reiterate that he was not the type of
14 person that would initiate information flowing to us. He
15 would be somebody who would be in the area, somebody else who
16 could tell us about what went on in the bar. We may have
17 talked to him.

18 But he gave us bits and pieces of information, that is
19 SOP, I guess, and it satisfied our needs at the time. He
20 would not have been somebody I would have said "Here is some-
21 body we ought to consider developing as a confidential
22 informant."

23 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware that a number of FBI
24 agents submitted affidavits to the Warren Commission stating
25 that Oswald had not been an FBI informant?

1 Mr. Genzman:. Yes. I am also aware that I was not
V 2 called on to do it. It surprises me. When they did call upon
3 me in very recent years -- I don't know whether it was not.
4 I am surprised that I was not called before that time except
5 it may have been so obvious ⁱ sense the files did not show any-
6 thing in the New Orleans office.

7 Mr. Genzman. Did you say you recently signed an
8 affidavit.

9 Mr. de Brueys. It seems to me I signed one in the last
10 two years, three years. It might have been when I was up at
11 the Bureau. Suddenly somebody recognized that I had not been
12 asked or someone from outside the bureau said, well, "What
13 about de Brueys and maybe some other people."

14 So, I did it and did it in a minute or two after
15 reading it. I think I signed something. It is in the file
16 if I did. I am inclined to believe I did.

17 Mr. Genzman. Who asked you at that time to sign the
18 affidavit?

19 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know. It would have been who-
20 ever was the supervisor over me. I don't know. I just
21 know it was one of the thousands of things I have done in
22 the last few years.

23 Mr. Genzman. Can you pin down the date?

24 Mr. de Brueys. No, I can't. Let us say I am quite
25 sure it was not while I was serving overseas in South

1 America or Mexico. So I am quite certain it is not any time
2 between October 1969 and March of 1975. It could have hap-
3 pened when I was in San Juan. It could have happened while
4 I was at headquarters between '67 and September of 1969. It
5 seemed to me I signed a statement. That matter was resolved.
6 I don't give it much importance other than some other loose
7 end that was not done. There was no hesitancy about doing
8 it.

9 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware that Milton Kaack also was
10 not asked to sign an affidavit and submit it to the Warren
11 Commission?

12 Mr. de Brueys. Not particularly, but that does not
13 surprise me because I think there was somebody else that
14 didn't do it. That is a thought that is a residual in my
15 memory.

16 Mr. Genzman. Did you know that Harry Meyner who had
17 been the special agent in charge in New Orleans had signed
18 such an affidavit?

19 Mr. de Brueys. No, I was not aware that he signed one
20 or when he signed it.

21 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether any other FBI agents
22 in New Orleans signed such an affidavit?

23 Mr. de Brueys. No, I am not aware of that. One thing
24 that may be pertinent to your research on it would be if those
25 that were in the New Orleans office signed it after March 1,

1 1967. I had left New Orleans to go to the bureau by that
2 time. Sometimes in the bureaucracy maybe they came in and
3 said "Get everybody that worked on the assassination to sign
4 an affidavit." I was not in the office. I was in headquarters.

5 Mr. Genzman. Have you ever suspected that Oswald's
6 activities in New Orleans were related to the COINTEL pro-
7 gram or otherwise were not actions of the authentic left?

8 Mr. de Brueys. That Oswald's program was part of a
✓ 9 COINTEL program? No. I never suspected it for a moment, to
10 categorically answer your question.

11 Mr. Genzman. Did you ever suspect that Oswald's
12 leanings were not toward the authentic left?

13 Mr. de Brueys. No, right or wrong I would certainly
14 be disinclined to believe that his leanings were not toward
15 the left. I would be inclined to believe that he had left
16 inclinations. My inclination and evaluation of him, which
✓ 17 may not be of too much value, is that I think he was a lonely
18 individual, screwed up in many ways, trying to be somebody
19 and had been a loser for years, and felt that his knowledge
20 of some other form of Government that other people in the
21 United States were not aware of would put him in a very
22 special category and make him seem important. That is my
23 opinion of him. I think he wanted to be somebody important
24 and just didn't have the ability to do it and these was some-
25 thing wrong with the man from a psychological standpoint,

✓ 1 probably as a result of his mother's influence. I am no
2 expert but that is my feeling, trying to express what I thought
3 about it.

4 Mr. Genzman. Have you ever suspected that Oswald was
5 an informant, agent or source for some local or Federal
6 or even private intelligence agency?

7 Mr. de Brueys. No.

8 Mr. Genzman. By that I mean including the FBI, CIA,
9 any local police department or even Guy Banister?

✓ 10 Mr. de Brueys. My impression is that anyone who would
11 have hired him in that capacity would have been stupid because
12 I think the guy was just too erratic. He was a bumbler I
13 would say. I may be a hundred percent wrong, but I am giving
14 you my impression of him.

15 Mr. Genzman. Have you ever suspected that Oswald^d was
16 an agent or asset of any foreign intelligence agency?

✓ 17 Mr. de Brueys. The thought crosses your mind because
✓ 18 he was over there and this is a possibility. But as a result
19 of watching his activities or reading about his background,
✓ 20 the Russians might be stupid enough to do it, but I don't
21 think he would have been a good person to develop as such
22 because he had, I thought, habits that were erratic and
23 something that he would do on the spur of the moment rather
24 than someone who would think it out judiciously.

25 Yet, I thought he had that capacity, too. He worked
on the job and he was unhappy. He was a guy at loose ends.

1 I don't think he ever tried to get into the area where there
2 was classified information until he made an effort to open
3 the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which was done in a very
4 slipshod way, I thought.

5 He didn't have any success, to my knowledge, in that
6 field. I just don't think the man had the capacity for
7 being an informant or someone that any one could trust as
8 being dependable in that type of work.

9 Mr. Genzman. Mr. de Brueys, do you recall writing
10 a report on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee on October 25,
11 1963?

12 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, I just looked at the report and
13 it refreshed my memory.

14 Mr. Genzman. Do you know why this report made no
15 mention of Oswald's use of the address 544 Camp Street?

✓ 16 Mr. de Brueys. It may have been that I didn't have
17 that information at the time. I am certain that there were
18 other reports but I can't be positive, but I feel certain that
19 there were. There may have been a previous report or there
20 may have been a subsequent report. The FPCC only needed
21 to know the initial bit of information about Oswald because
22 now a full field investigation was being conducted of him
23 by Milton Kaack and anything that Kaack would develop would
24 have been made available to the New York division for the
25 FPCC file and it would have meant carrying on a parallel

1 investigation which would have been a duplication of manpower
2 and effort and stenographers, and it just was not logical
3 to do it, I would say.

4 Mr. Genzman. Mr. de Brueys, did you know an FBI
5 security clerk in New Orleans named William S. Walters?

6 ~~Mr. de Brueys.~~ Are you aware of his allegation that
7 he received an FBI teletype on November 17, 1963 regarding
8 the threat against the President in Dallas?

9 Mr. de Brueys. Specific dates I can't confirm, but I
10 do know that he has made that allegation, reading it in the
11 press. I don't know whether I was asked about that or not,
12 frankly. It is all confused in my mind. I just don't know.
13 I do know that I don't recall having received, the office
14 having received such a teletype and I would have because you
15 give a date very close to the assassination.

16 If that had come through and in another week there
17 would have been an assassination the first thing I would
18 have said is "My God, that is what they were talking about
19 in that teletype." But no such thought came to mind.

20 Mr. Genzman. Are you also aware of Walters' allegation
21 that when Oswald was arrested in New Orleans that Walters
22 looked up his name in the FBI indices and found that he was
23 listed as an FBI informant?

24 Mr. de Brueys. The first time I heard that was yester-
25 day in talking to you. I had not heard that previously.

1 I just don't believe it because if you had been an informant,
✓ 2 I, of all people, would have knowⁿ he was an informant in the
3 New Orleans office.

4 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of Walters' allegation that
5 the FBI headquarters told the FBI field agents who were
6 investigating the assassination of President Kennedy to coor-
7 dinate their reports to change any information which con-
8 flicted between reports?

9 Mr. de Brueys. No, except that I got a letter, I
✓ 10 receive^d a letter of censure subsequent to my special assign-
11 ment in Dallas because in reviewing the reports submitted
12 by the New Orleans office they found a discrepancy between a
13 date listed in my report and one listed in Kaack's report
14 having to do with the transcript of Oswald's debate on a local
15 radio or TV station in New Orleans.

16 The date involved was the date that it was received from
17 that radio or TV station. Mine showed one date and Kaack
18 showed another. I got the information from Mr. Kaack's file.
19 from the cover of an exhibit envelope which shows date
20 received, file number, so on and so forth, and may have given
21 it to a stenographer and said "Copy the content and show
22 the date on top." How the dates were changed I don't know.
23 I don't think it is very relevant except I got a letter
24 of censure on it.

25 Mr. Genzman. Mr. Chairman, before I ask Mr. de Brueys

1 questions about the investigation of the Kennedy assassina-
2 tion, are there any questions from the committee members?

3 Mr. Dodd. I would like, if I could, to try to focus in
4 on a couple of things. Let me tell you what I am trying to
5 get at. I am curious as to the amount of work that your
6 office accumulated and the time you spent on Lee Harvey Oswald
7 prior to the assassination in New Orleans and how many cases
8 there were like that. In retrospect after an assassination
9 obviously the importance of an individual is magnified. I
10 am trying to assess for my own self what sort of attention was
11 paid to Lee Harvey Oswald as a result of his Fair Play Cuba
12 activities in relation to other types of cases like that.
13 What sort of numbers are we talking about?

✓ 14 Mr. de Brueys. I think that I had possibly as little
15 as 40 and maybe as many as 60 or 70 or 80 cases at that time.
16 That is a fact that can be determined from the bureau files.
17 The only way I could really tell is to review the office
✓ 18 records and files. I think that we gave that rather quick
19 attention. The Fair Play for Cuba part is a secondary thing
20 because you would give them the initial information to the
✓ 21 New York office and then they would have to make the decision
22 whether they felt you ought to do some more because of what
23 you sent in.

24 Mr. Dodd. Can you recall what the time frame was
25 between the initiation of an investigation in regard to Lee

1 Harvey Oswald's activities and when that started, over what
2 period of time that was?

3 Mr. de Brueys. We certainly know it had to be at least
4 as early as August 9th. Then there may have been other
5 communications that went out of the New Orleans office on that
6 that I don't have access to. It is very difficult after all
7 these years to try to remember the time frame. I would suspect
8 you are talking about a three-month period or two-and-a-half
9 month period.

✓ 10 Then you have a new case being opened by Milton Kaack.
11 It seems to me that considerable investigation was done on
12 him by Kaack after he opened his case on it which made mine
13 secondary really because with minimal manpower and larger
14 case work to duplicate effort.

15 So we did not go out on a boondoggle, he and I
16 together. I am quite sure we didn't do that. He investigated
17 his part of that case along with other cases he had.

18 Mr. Dodd. You stated that you never had knowingly
19 had the opportunity to talk or meet with Lee Harvey Oswald.

20 Mr. de Brueys. Yes.

21 Mr. Dodd. Is that common?

22 Mr. de Brueys. Very definitely. If you are a security
23 agent, based on the rules of the bureau at that time, right
24 or wrong, you would not go out and talk to a security subject
25 until the investigation was completed and a report submitted,

1 accompanied by a letter setting forth a synopsis of the salient
2 facts developed and asking for authority to interview the
3 subject of a security case and perhaps also setting forth
4 what you felt you could gain by such an interview?

5 Mr. Dodd. How would you collect information on a
6 security case then?

7 Mr. de Brueys. You would conduct inquiry through estab-
8 lished sources, known sources, neighborhoods, talk to people
9 in the organizations they may belong to and that could be done
10 as correctly, use sources, confidential informants.

11 Mr. Dodd. Anything but direct contact?

12 Mr. de Brueys. Anything but direct contact. Now, if
✓ 13 he were to walk into the office, then you were relieved from
14 the rule. You could then interview him at length.

15 Mr. Dodd. Could you recall during that three month
16 period the type of information and the sources of information
17 that you would have used in order to develop the conclusions
18 that you did with regard to Lee Harvey Oswald and his activi-
19 ties that you were investigating?

20 Mr. de Brueys. Let me say that probably the other case
21 was opened at least by August 9th. My case may not have been
22 opened much earlier than that. It may have been simultaneously.
23 I would have been inclined to talk to everybody I knew in the
24 Latin American field and also people -- if he had used a
25 Post Office address I would have checked on how he signed that.

1 I would have done everything that would have been logical
2 to do.

3 Mr. Dodd. Would you have checked that yourself or
4 had someone to check it?

5 Mr. de Brueys. I would have checked it myself I think
6 unless Kaack had done it.

7 Mr. Dodd. Do you recall doing that?

8 Mr. de Brueys. Offhand I don't. Knowing that Kaack
9 was conducting his investigation in the field, it would have
10 been logical for me to cover the area where I could do it
11 more in-depth and more quickly than he could and I would have
12 made available for his file what I gathered for the FPCC,
13 which is very limited for the FPCC file.

14 So I definitely would have done all the Cuban sources and
15 the other sources. Whether or not I would have done the
16 neighborhood would depend on whether Kaack was doing it. I
17 don't recall at this time whether he did or not. I would not
18 have been obliged to do any more than determine his employment,
19 his address and send up what I gathered from the sources and
20 at that time let them know that individual case was being
21 worked and that they would get the results of that
22 subsequently.

23 Mr. Dodd. Can you enumerate as best you can, and
24 I appreciate the time frame, but without having necessarily
25 the specific reports in front of you, the names of people that

1 you would have used as your sources or informants? I presume
2 you would have repeaters, people that you had used in the
3 past in gathering other information.

4 Mr. de Brueys. A lot of these Cuban ~~Agmes~~ like Quiroga,
5 I may have talked to him.

6 Mr. Dodd. Do you remember anyone other than that?

7 Mr. de Brueys. I would say one person I contacted quite
★ 8 frankly was [REDACTED] I think if Frank Bartes had
9 been in town I would have contacted him. I suppose that I
10 would have contacted Bringuier. There were some other Cubans
11 that had been high in the Cuban Government that for their
12 own reason liked to know about Cubans, a man by the name of
✓ 13 Pettis. I forget his first name. [I said a minute ago that
14 you felt that, and again I appreciate you were sort of
15 reaching for an opinion, not anything based on fact, that
16 Larry Oswald had legitimate left leanings.

17 Mr. de Brueys. When you say legitimate, I would say
18 he was inclined ---

19 Mr. Dodd. As opposed to phony left leanings in
20 terms of where he was coming from?

21 Mr. de Brueys. Now that you put it that way, I don't
22 know how deep his leanings were. You again prod my memory.
23 I think in asking Maren about Oswald after the fact about
24 whether he really knew communism she said he didn't know really
25 too much about that, his Russian was not very good. I asked
her about his liking for Cuba. She said, It stands out

1 in my mind, "Lee no like United States, Lee no like Russia,
2 Lee no like Cuba. Lee liked Moon." I think she was trying
3 to tell me the kid was way out and had problems. He was
4 grasping for something. Again, that is his wife telling me
5 this.

6 Mr. Dodd. This is after the fact.

7 Mr. de Brueys. After the fact.

8 Mr. Dodd. The reason I am asking the question is
9 because as a trained investigator investigating the activities
10 of an individual who had held himself out as the head of the
11 Fair Play for Cuba Committee which would have been by any
12 objective test certainly a more left than right group in those
13 days, did you make any effort to contact people in the New
14 Orleans area who would have been identified with the leftist
15 tendencies rather than the anti-castro normally perceived
16 rightest tendencies in order to determine the legitimacy
17 of his activities?

18 Mr. de Brueys. I probably did but I don't recall that
19 I did. Now, you have to bear in mind still that Milton
20 Kaack -- my only obligation to the FPCC case was to get his
21 employment, his address, and anything additional, if he was
22 not employed in a sensitive area, send it up. Now, Kaack as
23 of August 9th had opened a full field investigation on him.

24 Anything I did after that was gratuitous. I think I
25 did do some more. I can't recall now what I did. You are

1 right, I would have sat down and tried to figure somebody who
2 would know about the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Now, had
3 he not left town and had it worked out that Kaack had finished
4 his investigation and come back and said "Discover more about
5 the Chapter," I certainly would have had to do more but at
6 that time I did all that was essential to do plus some more.

7 Mr. Dodd. Who recommended or initiated the full field
8 investigation?

9 Mr. de Brueys. I think the facts as existed in the
10 policy report would have been sufficient criteria for that
11 to be done. It would have been done by whoever was on the desk.

12 Mr. Dodd. There was no requirement that that kind
13 of investigation be approved at headquarters.

14 Mr. de Brueys. No. Over the years the bureau rules
15 in that regard changed. I think that there possibly may
16 have had a requirement to send a letter saying open the case.
17 On the other hand, it may not have been demanded at that time.

18 Mr. Dodd. It is your testimony that as a result of
19 the altercation on August 9th this would have been sufficient
20 to open up a full field investigation?

21 Mr. de Brueys. The altercation showing that he was
22 distributing literature on behalf of another nation or Cuba
23 would have been sufficient to determine whether he was acting
24 as an agent for Cuba or groups of people from Cuba or a
25 Foreign Agents registration Act case and then the general

1 catch-all category of internal security, maybe "-C," Cuba.

2 Mr. ^{Ja'}Dobb. Again I can only be emphatic in trying
3 to appreciate reaching back that many years. Would it be
4 to open up an investigation of that magnitude, and "magnitude"
5 is my own choice of words, a full field investigation, as a
6 result of an altercation and the fact that someone was handing
7 out leaflets in support of a different U. S. policy with
8 regard to another nation?

9 Mr. de Brueys. It was not a question of difference
10 in policy. Rather it was the implication that may have been
✓ 11 contained in the handbills that this man appears to be acting
12 on behalf of a foreign government or foreign group, which is
13 enough to justify an inquiry to find out if indeed he was
14 representing a foreign group or foreign government. That is
15 why it was opened. There again I am really hesitant about
✓ 16 answering questions with any specificity at this time because I
17 could get embarrassed by going back and looking at files and
18 find out the reason we did it.

19 Mr. Dodd. Going back to my question a minute ago with
20 regard to the possible contacts you might have had with the
21 informants, and we will use my words, legitimate left leaning
22 tendencies, do you have any recollection of any specific
23 people you might have contacted?

✓ 24 Mr. de Brueys. No recollection. Let me say that there
25 were very few overt organizations that were pro-Castro.

✓ 1 Everything was anti-Castro. But the anti-Castro organizations
2 were very vigorous in trying to root out the existence of pro-
3 Castro groups or pro-Castro individuals.

4 Mr. Dodd. How about pro-Soviet or Bolshevic or anything
5 that might come into that?

6 Mr. de Brueys. There again you didn't have any group
7 except maybe at that time there may have been some leftist
8 type groups that were handled by other agents in the office.
9 What you would do is send out a lead to other agents saying to
10 contact this, somebody in the communist party, somebody if they
11 had a socialist party activity in New Orleans at that time.

12 Mr. Dodd. Were there members of the communist party
13 operating in New Orleans at this time?

14 Mr. de Brueys. Yes, there were.

15 Mr. Dodd. Did you make any contacts with any of them
16 or informants in any of those organizations about Lee Harvey
17 Oswald..

18 Mr. de Brueys. I can't recall I did but I am sure
19 it was done by me or by Kaack or simply a canvassing of
20 people handling informants for the communist party. But I
21 can't be sure at this time.

22 Mr. Dodd. Should or would your report indicate whether
23 or not in fact you had done that?

24 Mr. ^{de B}Dodd. If it had been done by Kaack -- in his case
25 it should have been done. If I had done it on behalf of

1 of Kaack, then it would have been shown. It was so easy to
2 do because you just send out a member or routing slip and say
3 "Please contact your sources about this fellow."

4 Mr. Dodd. I meant specific names, addresses of people
5 like that.

6 Mr. de Brueys. Those would have been informants and I
7 would not even know their names. They would have an informant
8 number if they were actually informants within a party, a
9 subversive party.

10 Mr. Dodd. To your recollection, was there anything else
11 other than the handing out of a flyer, the Fair Play for Cuba
12 flyer, that would confirm or deny Lee Harvey Oswald's activi-
13 ties on behalf of any communist organization or would have
14 led you to believe that in fact he was operating as an agent
15 of the Soviet Union or Cuba or any other communist country?

16 Mr. de Brueys. No. Bear in mind that I left town
17 in November and this thing was opened in August. There was
18 a letter from the New York headquarters that I referred to
19 before that they got from inside the Fair Play for Cuba Com-
20 mittee showing precisely what he said in his overtures to
21 get them to open a chapter in New Orleans.

22 Mr. Dodd. Let me jump to two other areas and I apologize
23 to counsel for taking so much time.

24 Mr. Genzman. That is quite all right.

25 Mr. Dodd. I didn't really follow your response as to

1 how you decided or made your decision that A. J. Hidell and
2 Lee Harvey Oswald were one and the same person.

3 Mr. de Brueys. Here again without reading reports and
V 4 having the full file before me -- no one knew him. No one
5 knew anybody by the name of Hidell. In a very short period
6 of time I think I talked to quite a number of people. At
7 this time I can't remember who they were. It has been very
8 common for me in conducting a large number of cases to do
9 anything I was doing in as great a depth as possible and as
10 completely as possible.

11 Once having done it, put it aside and get on to something
12 else. You develop a poor memory about some of the things
13 you have done when you do it that way.

14 Mr. Dodd. I know we are about to approach another
15 area of inquiry regarding the investigation in Dallas and
16 I recognize we are looking back 15 years is difficult, but
17 three months before you would become actively involved in an
18 investigation of the assassination do you not recall any
19 specific people you would have talked to in order to confirm
20 the fact that A. J. Hidell and Lee Harvey Oswald were the
21 same person?

22 Mr. de Brueys. You are talking about when I was in
23 Dallas for the two months period?

24 Mr. Dodd. Yes.

25 Mr. de Brueys. If you want me to go into this era I will

1 bear that in mind when I am trying to answer questions.

2 Mr. Dodd. Maybe I am jum^mptin a head a little bit. What
3 I hear you telling me is that no one knew A. J. Hidell. There-
4 fore the conclusion was drawn that they must be the same
5 person. Was that basically the logic?

6 Mr. de Brueys. The logic was that investigation just
V 7 failed to show the existence of A. J. Hidell. Bear in mind
8 that all this became premature, I mean the investigation came
9 to an end because of Oswald's moving out of town and assassi-
10 nating a President and getting killed. Had he stayed there,
11 there would be more time to do more things and more coordina-
12 tion with the man handling the subject case. You are talking
13 about a relatively short period of time. You are talking
14 about an ear^y in the bureau when 45 days would have possibly --
15 you would have been concerned about delinquent reporting or
16 getting communication in 45 days, bearing in mind that you
17 might have on file, say, 60 days of work to perform in all
18 your other investigations.

19 At that time Oswald was an important case only to the
20 extent that he was passing out literature for, it looks like
21 he might have been tr^ying to represent another government.
22 I had 40 or 50 or 60 other cases which were equally, and in
23 a great deal perhaps more important than that. To keep up with
24 all of them you just don't get it all done in a week or two
25 weeks. You never close it out until you have done it

1 completely.

2 Mr. Dodd. Maybe that is something we can go into when
3 we get to the next area.

4 The other two points were the visit to the jail by
5 Quigley, Jack Quigley.

6 Mr. Dodd. Let me look over my notes for a second here.

7 The report indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald requested
8 that someone from the FBI come and interview him when he was
9 in jail. I am referring now to his incarceration. Do you
10 know whether or not anyone ever received a letter of censure
11 on this matter as a result of going to visit him? As I thought
12 you described him, it would have been at least a deviation
13 only if he had done that on his own, Quigley had done that on
14 his own without an overture from someone that you were inter-
15 viewing.

16 Mr. DaB.
17 [As I mentioned before, you would not interview a
18 security subject unless he came in on his own in the office
19 in which case the rule no longer applied. Anybody asking for
20 an interview, you are not violating any rule.

21 Mr. Dodd. I presume that Quigley was aware that Lee
22 Harvey Oswald was a security ---

23 Mr. de Brueys. At this date I don't know whether he
24 was or he was not. I don't know that I ever knew that he was
25 aware beforehand. I don't know whether he checked indices
before he went over and talked to Oswald.

1 Mr. Dodd. You never asked Quigley whether or not?

2 Mr. de Brueys. It is possible I may have asked him.

3 With hundreds of thousands of questions after all the years
4 I don't recall. The same question was posed to me yesterday
5 and last night I gave it some additional thought. It seems
6 to me I either thought that there was something unusual about
7 it or may have asked ^KCaack or Quigley, "You talked to this
8 guy who is a security subject. Did you get bureau authority?"
9 I do know the final analysis was that he had asked to see an
10 FBI agent and that is as much as I remember about it. Having
11 asked for him there would have been no violation of a bureau
12 regulation. ^{Had}~~He~~ he not asked for him and had Quigley done this
13 it is possible that Quigley may have gotten a letter of
14 censure, a mild letter, saying in the future don't do this,
15 particularly since Quigley was not a security agent, but that
16 does not get him off the hook.

17 Mr. Dodd. It intrigues me because I presume that you
18 would get an awful lot of requests from the local jail house
19 by people incarcerated there to speak with the FBI. The
20 reason I raise that is because I know from time to time even
21 my office gets inquiries, they want to speak to a Congressman,
22 they want to speak to the Judge or they want to speak to the
23 President or something. It is not an uncommon occurrence.

24 Mr. de Brueys. That is right.

25 Mr. Dodd. But it is very uncommon for anyone to go

1 down and respond to that kind of request without being con-
2 scious of some particular suggestion with regard to an
3 individual. My question to you is, one, was this common
4 for the FBI to send an agent down whether it was on a Monday
5 or Saturday?

6 Mr. de Brueys. Yes. In fact, part of the Saturday
7 duty, when I was a Saturday supervisor ---

8 Mr. Dodd. I mean at the request of the individual. You
9 might make a decision on your own to go down and talk to some-
10 one because of an ongoing investigation.

11 Mr. de Brueys. That happened with enough frequency for
12 it not to be unusual. That is the only answer I can give
13 to that.

14 Mr. Dodd. At the request of an incarcerated individual
15 to talk to the FBI?

16 Mr. de Brueys. That is right. That has happened. If
17 you canvassed people today or had somebody go in and check
18 FBI offices you would find that there are a number of people
19 who ask to talk to FBI agents.

20 Mr. Dodd. The FBI responds affirmatively?

21 Mr. de Brueys. Oh, yes, any request we get. As I was
22 trying to explain before, at that time I am sure that different
23 personnel were assigned to different precinct stations to go
24 over daily and talk to the Sargeant or ask him, "Do you have
25 anybody who has asked for us" or "Do you have anybody on the

1 books charged with something that may look like a Federal
2 violation?" And they would talk to them. On Saturday they
3 would pick up the phone, or I would, the first thing and call
4 all precinct stations and ask if they had anybody over there.
5 I don't know what happened on that morning. I am a little
6 surprised to learn at this date that it was a Saturday that
7 Quigley went over. I had not given much thought to it at all.

8 Mr. Dodd. I did not hear or understand your response
9 entirely in regard to any report that Quigley may have pre-
10 pared as a result of his interview. Was such a report pre-
11 pared?

12 Mr. de Brueys. He submitted a 309. It is an interview
13 report form, very similar to the one I have here -- maybe I
14 don't have one -- but you submit that when anybody gives you
15 information about themselves or a third party. It is included.
16 It is an interview report form which is included and made part
17 of a larger report at the time it is assembled. Now, I don't
18 recall. I glanced at Quigley's interview report form yester-
19 day, not in detail. I glanced at it. It just seemed vague
20 to me. I know that I would have included it in my communi-
21 cation to the bureau or Kaack would have had to do it, one
22 or the other.

23 Mr. Dodd. You have seen the report?

24 Mr. de Brueys. I have seen it. I glanced at it. I
25 did not read it in great detail.

1 Mr. Dodd. It is actually six pages. Am I to under-
2 stand that a six-page report would be prepared by an agent
3 for someone who was by your own testimony at this particular
4 point really nothing more than the subject of an inquiry?

5 I am impressed ---

6 Mr. de Brueys. It is not unusual.

7 Mr. Dodd. This would not be unusual?

8 Mr. de Brueys. You might even have a 12-page report.
9 And you may have one or two agents in the office that write
10 something on a match box. It depends on the personnel and the
11 agent. In a security report you would list as much detail as
12 possible while you are talking to somebody to avoid the need
13 to go back and talk to him again. Some people are more ver-
14 bal than others in writing these things up. It is not
15 unusual.

16 Mr. Dodd. You were familiar with the work of Mr. Quigley?

17 Mr. de Brueys. At this point I am familiar with
18 Mr. Quigley, but not his work, no. I probably never saw any
19 of Quigley's work other than that and maybe one or two other
20 things that had a security angle since I was not a supervisor
21 at that time. I would not go looking at what he did.

22 Mr. Dodd. Let me ask you anyway, does this strike
23 you as the kind of work product that Mr. Quigley would produce?
24 Was he that thorough an individual that he would prepare a
25 six-page report of an interview in jail that someone had

1 requested?

2 Mr. de Brueys. I really can't answer that question.

3 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Pena, the individual who alleged you had coerced
4 him into withholding information in regard to Lee Harvey
5 Oswald, you described some of your meetings with him as being
6 ones in which you asked rather persistently?

7 Mr. de Brueys. Yes.

8 Mr. Dodd. Do you recall the number of meetings you
9 might have had with Mr. Pena?

10 Mr. de Brueys. The few interviews I attempted to
11 conduct with him after the assassination of necessity would
12 have had to have been after January 27 or 23, whenever I
13 returned to New Orleans. I am guessing at that time I don't
✓ 14 think it could have been more than three or four, maybe five.

15 Mr. Dodd. Where would you generally meet with him?

16 Mr. de Brueys. It was not a question of meeting with
17 him but going to his bar and looking for him. I would say,
18 subject to contradiction, that they would be at his bar.

19 Mr. Dodd. None ever occurred at the offices of the FBI?

✓ 20 Mr. de Brueys. The last interview with his attorney
21 present occurred at the FBI office.

22 Mr. de Brueys. All the rest occurred at his bar?

23 Mr. Dodd. Were they private meetings? Did you go into
24 an office or side room or were they conducted pretty much at
25 the bar itself?

1 Mr. de Brueys. It is a little vague, but it seems to
2 me that whenever I was talking to him, even if it was in the
3 bar it would have been on the side, maybe a corner of the
4 bar. I can't envision the bar now, whether it had a little
5 hallway. It seems to me I talked to him. I don't picture
6 myself talking to him in the presence of other people, maybe
7 within the view of other people, but not within earshot of
8 other people. Those interviews after the assassination, I
9 am sure, would have been conducted by me and another agent.

10 Mr. Dodd. You would not have been alone?

✓ 11 Mr. de Brueys. I would not have been alone.

12 Mr. Dodd. Who would have been with you?

13 Mr. de Brueys. I don't know. It could have been any-
14 one else in the office. I think Earnest C. Wall on one
15 occasion accompanied me. I don't know -- maybe Steve Calendar.
16 I don't think so. Maybe he tried to interview him or knew
17 something about it. It was just one interview and I don't
18 recall.

19 Mr. Dodd. I would like you to amplify a bit, if you
✓ 20 would, on the word "persistent" because I can see where this
21 is going to cause some question. What do you mean by the
22 word "persistent"?

23 Mr. de Brueys. I think first you must go back to the
✓ 24 fact that there was a Presidential assassination. If some-
25 one has been reported by another agent or somebody else as

1 having said something that is very pertinent to the assassina-
2 tion investigation and go to him and you ask him about that,
3 and I don't recall the guy along, comments or anything else,
4 the overriding thing that surfaces in my mind was that as
5 a good investigator here if somebody has information, you
6 have to find the answer. The residual in my mind is that if
7 you had to go back 10 times I would have gone back 10 times.

8 As a result of these efforts he did acquiesce but with
9 his attorney present. Now, we certainly would have been
10 derelict in saying here is a man who knows something but he
11 does not want to talk or he is giving me evasive answers.

12 I don't recall at this date whether he was evasive or
13 what his answers were. I was not getting responses to my
14 inquiries. Here again it must be in the file. He may have
15 said A, B and C and I wanted D, E and F or he may have just
16 refused to answer or maybe I went back and did more research
17 and came back this time, I don't know, because it is just one
18 of thousands of inquiries.

19 Even though it involved an assassination, I don't recall
20 after this passage of time precisely how he was avoiding it.
21 I just know he was not giving the answer, namely, he was
22 alleged to have seen in his bar sometime during the summer
23 of 1963 Oswald in the presence of another Latin American and
24 had told it I think to Carlos Bringuier that had been put in
25 one of the many reports of the assassination investigation

1 and it was an outstanding lead that needed to be developed.
2 If you don't get the answer there, you go back two days later
3 or three days later. Finally, he just said "I don't want to
4 talk to you," he may have said without his attorney.

5 I don't know how that attorney got in, but as a result
6 of my persistence on a professional level we finally talked
7 to him with his attorney. He at that time, if I remember
8 correctly, denied he ever said that he saw Oswald in his bar.

9 Now, as a matter of time sequence and framework again,
10 I think after he said that or maybe before he did, I got,
11 thorough other inquiry, that maybe it was not he, maybe it was
12 Evaristo Rodriguez or his brother Ruperto, or both, whose names
13 I would not have remembered if I had not seen a report
14 yesterday.

15 It seems to me there was a female in the bar. I can't
16 give you any of the details except the final conclusion that
17 nobody can really say that Oswald was in that bar with any
18 definity. I may be wrong. Maybe one of them was not certain
19 and he thought it was somebody who was Oswald. I suspect
20 there were leads carrying on in other divisions to try to
21 find out who those people were. But he denied having said
22 that to Bringuier.

23 Mr. Dodd. But he would not talk to you on the first
24 two or three occasions. He only denied it in the presence
25 of an attorney.

1 Mr. de Brueys. He may have talked to me. He may have
2 been telling me stuff. I don't recall what happened during
3 those interviews. The only thing I knew, this is something
✓ 4 he has and he ought to give it to me and through all legitimate
5 channels we ought to get it from him. The legitimate channel
6 finally used was to have his attorney present.

7 Mr. Dodd. It is obviously a very serious allegation
8 he has made, not necessarily in itself, I mean the fact that
9 you or anybody else might have been meeting with Lee Harvey
10 Oswald is not something that I would in itself find so terribly
11 shocking except for the fact over the years there has been
12 such a denial of any contact whatsoever between the various
13 agencies and Lee Harvey Oswald. That allegation by Mr. Pena
14 is therefore a serious one?

15 Mr. de Brueys. It is.

16 Mr. Dodd. I am a little intrigued, given the serious-
17 ness of the allegation and the light that that shed upon you
18 as a professional and in light of the fact that you claim that
19 you met on every occasion with him with another agent present --

20 Mr. de Brueys. After the assassination?

21 Mr. Dodd. After the assassination.

22 Mr. de Brueys. I am quite sure it was. I could be
✓ 23 wrong. In other words, if I had a bet I would say every time
24 I saw him it had to be with another agent after the assassina-
25 tion because it was policy at that time.

1

Mr. Dodd. I have taken up far too much time.

2

I guess I am acting Chairman here.

3

Mr. Sawyer, do you have any questions you want to pose?

4

Mr. Sawyer. I have no questions.

5

Mr. Dodd. Counsel, why don't you proceed.

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1 Mr. Genzman. I would like to follow up on a couple of
2 points and then proceed to the third area of questioning.

3 Mr. DeBrueys, are you saying it was your policy to inter-
4 view people after the assassination with another agent present?

5 Mr. DeBrueys. I think it was the policy of the office
6 when you were going out to talk to somebody, and here again

7 I am vague, but I am almost certain that anything after the
8 assassination, particularly with Pena, where we had some in-
9 formation that was very pertinent to the assassination in-
10 vestigation, who had been reluctant to or evasive, then cer-
11 tainly if this was happening tomorrow I would say based on past
12 practice I would not go out and talk to him unless I had some-
13 body else present.

14 Now, whether or not that was the policy in the New Or-
15 leans office I can't answer that question at this time. Too
16 much time has gone by. It would not be fair to make a categori-
17 cal answer to that. It would cloud the issue.

18 Mr. Genzman. Before the assassination when you contacted
19 Pena, were you always alone?

20 Mr. DeBrueys. Sometimes I was with somebody else. There
21 were other times when I contacted him alone. Yet if I went back
22 to the file I might review all and find I was always with some-
23 body. I don't recall.

24 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall any interviews with Pena after
25 the assassination when you were alone?

✓ 1 Mr. DeBrueys. No, I don't recall any such interview.

2 Mr. Genzman. Referring to Quigley's interview of Oswald
3 when Oswald was in jail in New Orleans, did you say earlier
4 it was normal for a person who had been arrested on a mis-
5 demeanor to request an FBI interview?

6 Mr. DeBrueys. I did not say it was normal for a person
7 arrested on a misdemeanor to request an FBI interview. I
8 said it was not unusual to receive such a request for a person
9 who had been incarcerated and wanted to talk to the Feds or the
10 FBI. Perhaps I would go over and it would be something of
11 substance. There are a lot of reasons.

12 They may want to work a deal. All I can say with speci-
13 ficity is that it is something that does occur from time to
14 time. It is not unusual for it to occur.

15 Mr. Genzman. Would you then comment as to whether it
16 was unusual for a person who had been arrested on a misdemeanor
17 or more serious charge to request an FBI interview.

18 Mr. DeBrueys. I would say while it was a misdemeanor
19 for fighting you had this other thing of seemingly trying to
20 promote communism or the communist cause in the country.

21 Mr. Genzman. Are you sure that John Quigley knew that
22 Oswald was a security case when this request came into the
23 FBI office?

24 Mr. DeBrueys. I have no idea about that, nonewhatssoever.
25 I don't know.

1 Mr. Genzman. Will you comment whether it was normal or
2 common for the FBI to respond to a request for an interview
3 by a person charged with a misdemeanor.

4 Mr. DeBrueys. Absolutely. If anybody asked to talk to
✓ 5 an FBI agent in jail, whether a lost person, or has no
6 charges against him, you could be subject to censure for not
7 responding to a request from somebody who wants to talk to
8 you. It may have been some agent that neglected to do that
9 but only at the risk of censure or a more severe reprimand.

10 Mr. Genzman. Was it common policy to speak to anybody
11 who requested an FBI interview whether the jail or a private
12 citizen?

13 Mr. DeBrueys. It would be a policy to respond to any re-
14 quest unless you knew he was a nut and you had a catalog of such
15 you know, you would have information. You would go back to
16 the files and this fellow has a psychological problem, he al-
17 ways wants to talk to an FBI agent or to the President of the
18 U.S. You would not respond to anyone like that.

19 Mr. Genzman. Was it common to conduct an interview
20 lasting between an hour and hour and a half with a person who
21 had been charged with a misdemeanor and was in a local jail.

22 Mr. DeBrueys. I suppose not. The subject of the inquiry
23 had nothing to do with the misdemeanor charge against him.
24 It had something to do with a matter in which we had an official
25 interest.

1 Mr. Genzman. Again though did you say earlier that you
2 are not sure that John Quigley knew of any FBI interest in
3 Oswald at the time he went to interview Oswald?

4 Mr. DeBrueys. Unless someone over there told him he was
5 in the newspaper, when he got over there he saw him passing out
6 communist literature, I don't know. If he simply saw him pass-
7 ing out communist literature I would think he would have known
8 it was the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and would have done
9 something about it. Perhaps if it was a misdemeanor charge
✓ 10 he may have well have thought this man will be out of jail
11 tomorrow or tomorrow and I will not get a crack at him again,
12 so I will interview him at length so I will not be saddled
13 with looking him up again.

14 Mr. Genzman. Would you say it was normal or common for
15 an FBI agent to write up a rather long report of an interview of
16 a person who had been charged with a misdemeanor in a local
17 jail?

18 Mr. DeBrueys. Using the word misdemeanor, that is not
19 a criteria on which the long report was based. It was based
20 on what he knew, the factual information he had about matters
21 that brought him within the purview of FBI jurisdiction.

22 I say that the misdemeanor was irrelevant. He could have
23 been over there as a missing person and had no charges against
24 him. It depends on how probative the agent was inclined to be
25 in making these inquiries.

1 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of John Quigley's reputation
2 for not being verbose or wordy.

3 Mr. DeBrueys. No, I am not aware of John Quigley's rep-
4 utation in that regard.

5 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of allegations by persons
6 in the New Orleans Police Department that the interview
7 lasted about five minutes.

V 8 Mr. DeBrueys. No. I believe this is the first time I
9 have heard that. I may say that if I had been assigned the
10 Oswald case, I would have known a lot more about it than I do.

11 Mr. Genzman. Are you aware of allegations that Quigley
12 wrote one report of this interview and that this report was
13 later altered or expanded?

V 14 Mr. DeBrueys. No, no knowledge whatsoever about any
15 such change, none whatsoever. If he had done something like
16 that I am sure he would want to keep it to himself as much
17 as possible.

18 Mr. Genzman. Mr. Chairman, unless there are any further
19 questions from the committee I would like to move on to ques-
20 tions concerning the FBI investigation of the Kennedy assassina-
21 tion.

22 Mr. Preyer. Are there further questions? You may pro-
23 ceed, counsel.

24 Mr. Genzman. Mr. DeBrueys, were you sent to Dallas after
25 the assassination?

1 Mr. DeBrueys. Yes, I was.

2 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall the date?

3 Mr. DeBrueys. The day after, which I think was a
4 Saturday. I was ordered to go on the day of the assassination,
5 sometime late in the afternoon. The reason that evolved is
6 that I happened to be in the SAC's office along with several
7 other people when he either had previously in his possession the
8 request for "X" number of agents to be sent to Dallas or had
9 just received it while I was there.

10 Being there he said something to the effect, "Since you
11 are familiar with this type of thing perhaps you ought to go."
12 I said fine, and I guess later that day we must have made
13 reservations and left the next morning, which was Saturday,
14 for Dallas.

15 Mr. Genzman. Had you ever been in Dallas before this
16 time.

17 Mr. DeBrueys. I had never been in Dallas previously.

18 Mr. Genzman. Was Special Agent Regis Kennedy ever sent
19 to Dallas?

✓ 20 Mr. DeBrueys. Not to my knowledge. He was not sent
21 during the assassination investigation when I was there.

22 Mr. Genzman. Do you know whether he was sent to Dallas
23 before the assassination?

24 Mr. DeBrueys. I don't know but I doubt it. I think if
25 he had been I would have been aware of it.

1 Mr. Genzman. Would you not have been more useful to the
2 FBI by staying in New Orleans because of your previous investi-
3 gations there and because of your information and contacts in
4 New Orleans?

5 Mr. DeBrueys. I would say after the two month assign-
6 ment when I returned that was the position of the SAC who
7 said, there has been so much trouble conducting inquiries in
8 my absence because of people not familiar with things that he
9 regretted having made that spontaneous decision to send me
10 over there simply because he felt they ought to send somebody
11 over there who could be helpful for this investigation in Dal-
12 las who knew something about security work, and we didn't
13 have too many people like that.

14 Mr. Genzman. What are your feelings about being sent
15 to Dallas opposed to staying in New Orleans and following
16 up the issues in New Orleans on the assassination?

17 Mr. DeBrueys. I was glad to go because that is where the
18 action was.

19 As to whether it was right or not I think I performed
20 several functions that because of my background may have been
21 more difficult for someone without it.

22 I remember spending a whole night compiling a report
23 after the 38 hour period and getting something done on an ex-
24 pedited basis. I would say they were glad to have me over
25 there because I got a letter, a meritorious award for my ef-

1 forts there.

2 Mr. Genzman. Was Milton Kaack sent to Dallas from New
3 Orleans?

4 Mr. DeBrueys. No. I think there were only three others
✓ 5 sent. Robert Basham, Joe Peggs, a third young agent whose
6 name I do not presently recall.

7 Mr. Genzman. Since you knew quite a bit about Oswald's
8 New Orleans activities --

9 Mr. DeBrueys. May I interject and say that was at the
10 outset of the inquiry and I knew about it but not the in-depth
11 information that had been going on for half a year or a year.

12 Mr. Genzman. Was there anyone in Dallas who knew more
13 about Oswald's New Orleans activities than you?

14 Mr. DeBrueys. New Orleans activities?

15 Mr. Genzman. Yes.

16 Mr. DeBrueys. I would think not.

17 Mr. Genzman. Since you were probably the most knowledge-
18 able FBI agent investigating the assassination on Oswald's
19 activities in New Orleans why weren't you asked to participate
✓ 20 in the questioning of Oswald?

21 Mr. DeBrueys. You have to understand the way things
22 operate in the Bureau. My little knowledge of him in New Or-
23 leans was all contained in reports that came in from the New
24 Orleans office and elsewhere which resulted in a compilation
25 of a report. Of greater interest at that time was immediately

1 before the assassination, the main thrust being on the crime
2 of assault on a Federal officer and the thrust there was to
3 develop the facts that you would in a murder case or an
4 assault case and worry about the intelligence information af-
5 ter you got the immediate things that you needed.

6 After I got there as best I can recall -- at this time I
7 don't remember whether Oswald was shot on the first Sunday
8 following the assassination or a week later, but it seems to
9 me that I went out and helped somebody on a lead, who was a
10 Dallas agent, as a witness to an interview of one or two people.

11 It was Sunday. We got there on a Saturday and got es-
12 tablished. Maybe we did an interview on Saturday and then
13 Sunday we were out talking to somebody else when we hear that
14 Oswald had been shot on TV.

15 You have a lot of people in Dallas that got involved with
16 the Police Department and the investigation on Friday. We
17 didn't get there perhaps until late Saturday. Those people
18 were well into this matter of inquiry and dealing with the
19 police department, there was a great deal of pandemonium, a
20 lot of momentum, of agents coming in, logistics and everything
21 else, and then he was shot Sunday.

22 That sort of thing would not occur to anybody until
23 later on.

24 Mr. Genzman. Did you review the FBI files in New Orleans
25 on Oswald before you left for Dallas?

1 Mr. DeBrueys. No, there was no time for that. I say
2 no. I am quite positive that is accurate.

3 Mr. Kenzman. Isn't it true that after the assassination
4 when the FBI did interview Oswald they asked a number of ques-
5 tions concerning his background and his leftist leanings and
6 the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in addition to the physical
7 evidence.

8 Mr. DeBrueys. Let me tell you what I did. One of the
9 first things I did was to get this report compiled which had
10 to do with the background, the "IS-Cuba" or the IS-whatever it
11 was, Russia investigation, more of sifting all the background
12 information and nothing on the assault against the Federal
13 officer which was the only crime that the Bureau had jurisdic-
14 tion over at that time, nothing of the mechanics of how it
15 was done. That was ^eGimberling. We were so occupied we didn't
16 know what they were doing. I was another-agent. The inspec-
17 tor in the office, SAC people there would be coordinating
18 this as the information flowed in. We were very busy doing
19 what we had to do in a very limited time.

20 I have no idea what was asked of Oswald at the jail,
21 very ignorant of a lot of things that were done, the Ruby Case
22 and the assault case.

23 Mr. Genzman. In retrospect do you think that you should
24 have participated in the interrogation of Oswald following
25 the assassination?

1 Mr. DeBrueys. No, I don't think so. There was enough
2 information on the file that they got over the telephone,
3 by teletype, in which I played no role. They had at their
4 disposal I think all the information as far as initial inquiry.

5 Now perhaps if he had not been killed and later on some-
6 thing could have been done in a studious way, methodical way,
7 they may have considered that maybe I ought to go along.

8 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall going on an interview with
9 special agent Manning Clements and talking to a car salesman
10 named Guy Bogard?

11 Mr. DeBrueys. I vaguely recall that. That was one of
12 the loads I had. I don't know whether it was Saturday or
13 Sunday.

14 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall asking Guy Bogard questions
15 concerning his allegations that he had dealt with Oswald and
16 Oswale had come in as a customer to his car dealership.

17 Mr. DeBrueys. Let me try to explain the circumstances.
18 I was there in the office. Clements came by. He had a lead
19 assigned to him. I went along as a witness on the lead. I am
20 not certain at this date, not having been primed as to what all
21 the information was about, as to whether I asked any questions
22 at all. I was a witness as to what he said. After he wrote
23 the interview form I had to initial it to say that is what it
24 was and there was nothing inaccurate.

25 It is possible I could have been prompted to ask a ques-

1 tion of him but it was his assignment and my nature would be
2 to let him do the job since he knew the background.

3 Mr. Genzman. Do you know why Guy Bogard was not brought
4 to a line-up of Oswald and asked to identify Oswald?

5 Mr. DeBrueys. Is Guy Bogard the salesman?

6 Mr. Genzman. Yes.

7 Mr. DeBrueys. Then I would say that you may have the
8 information there as to whether that was done on Saturday or
9 Sunday, but I think at that time -- you are talking about a time
10 problem here.

11 You have the police with their problem of custody of Os-
12 wald and his protection. You have people from the Dallas of-
13 fice maybe interviewing him at that time, I am not certain.
14 I would say that had he not been shot the next day that when
15 it could have been conveniently done in an atmosphere of quies-
16 cence that I think it would have been good at the earliest
17 possible date to have this gentleman, who was a salesman, look
18 at or view him in a line-up.

19 I would say that possibly there were a lot of other people
20 to interview. You had to get them all together. You must
21 remember the pandemonium at the time, all complicated by the
22 fact that the man was killed.

23 Mr. Genzman. Would you care to comment further as to
24 how you made the determination that Oswald and A. J. Hidell
25 were one and the same person?

1 Mr. DeBrueys. Only because after a lot of inquiry I
2 could not establish any activity of the chapter other than
3 what Oswald was doing and no information whatsoever to point
4 up the existence of anybody by the name of Hidell.

5 Now, all of a sudden I get whisked out of New Orleans
6 to go somewhere else with no chance to conduct any further
7 inquiry. Then I have to remind you that that inquiry would
8 have been Kaack's, not mine.

9 Mr. Genzman. I believe you mentioned speaking to
10 Marena Oswald on this issue.

11 Mr. DeBrueys. Yes. I mentioned in that report that I
12 talked to her. She said, as I said previously, no one by the
13 name of Hidell existed; it was a figment of his imagination
14 and his reason for the selection of the name of Hidell, the way
15 she put it, was because it sounds like Fidel and he kind of
16 liked Fidel Castro.

17 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall that you interviewed Guy
18 Bogard, the car salesman, on November 23, 1963?

19 Mr. DeBrueys. I recall I interviewed somebody who was
20 a salesman with Clements. But let me qualify that by saying
21 that the interview was conducted by Clements. May I say that
22 he obviously got all the background on it, studied it, and I
23 was an out-of-town agent in the office and he came by and said
24 "I would like to have you accompany me on an inquiry" and I
25 went as a witness. I doubt whether I asked any questions. I

1 may have. It was his responsibility. I was a witness so
2 there would be no question that when he said something that
3 was put in the report I attested this is what he said or I could
4 say no, this is erroneous, we will have to resolve that. I
5 would say he took the notes and he dictated them and my name
6 was inserted. He dropped me and I got to doing something
7 else and he pursued that.

8 Mr. Genzman. Were you ever asked to testify before the
9 Warren Commission?

10 Mr. DeBrueys. I understand I was asked to testify. I
11 was up there thinking they were responding to my request --
12 I am sorry.

13 Mr. Genzman. The Warren Commission?

14 Mr. DeBrueys. No. I was interviewed by an investigator
15 I think. I think I was interviewed by an investigator of the
16 Warren Commission.

17 Mr. Genzman. Do you recall who would that be?

18 Mr. DeBrueys. No. I don't even recall what he looked
19 like.

20 Mr. Genzman. Have you formed any opinion on the assassina-
21 tion as to whether Oswald was a lone assassin or as to whether
22 others were involved?

✓ 23 Mr. DeBrueys. By the preponderance of information or
24 evidence that is known to me as a result of our inquiries and
25 things I have read, I have every inclination to believe he acted

1 alone.

2 The thing that impresses me most about that is, as I re-
3 call, and here again I did not even recall whether Oswald was
4 shot the first Sunday or the second Sunday after the assassina-
5 tion because I have not kept up with it, I have been involved
6 with things that have completely absorbed my time and atten-
7 tion and I did not make a fetish out of studying it, but the
8 thing that I recall at the time when I was there, from what I
9 read, is that Oswald worked for the Texas School Book Depository

10 I seem to recall that he was not very happy with that
11 job and I seem to recall that somebody conducted an inquiry
12 showing that he was looking for another job, that he made
13 applications for another job.

14 I also seem to recall that he stayed at Paine's house
15 with Marena and would come in to Dallas on a Monday morning in a
16 car of a next-door neighbor or a neighbor of Mrs. Paine, would
17 stay all week in Dallas in his apartment and would come back on
18 a Friday evening.

19 Also I seem to recall that he got into a very heated argu-
20 ment with Marena and left. Whether it was one week before the
21 assassination, two weeks or three weeks, it is all too vague in
22 my mind now.

23 Those are facts that are there for review. But I do re-
24 call when he was estranged from her he did not come in on a
25 week-end. At no time do I recall during the investigation --

1 I could be proven wrong -- did he ever come in on a Tuesday,
2 Wednesday or Thursday night or a Monday night: It was always
3 a Friday, go back on Monday morning and stay in downtown
4 Dallas during the week.

5 Here again from memory I am positive that no public
6 notification of the parade route was ever published until the
7 day before the assassination.

8 I seem also to recall that he went out to lunch and
9 it was after he came back from lunch on the Thursday before
10 the assassination it is conjectural on my part that he went
11 out and saw the newspapers and for the first time was aware
12 that President Kennedy's route would take him right in front of
13 the Texas School Book Depository. It was after he came back
14 from lunch, if I remember correctly again after all these
15 years, that he approached the neighbor who also worked for the
16 School Book Depository and said he wanted to go home that
17 night with him albeit he was really estranged with Marena
18 and probably had no intention of ever doing it.

19 He went out with her that night, the excuse being that
20 he wanted to pick up some curtain rods for his apartment.
21 Obviously in retrospect he went out only to get the rifle. Ob-
22 viously in retrospect, here again conjecture, the thought of
23 putting a bullet through the President's head was the same
24 abberation, mental abberation, he obviously had when he took a
25 shot at General Walker sometime previously, and missed him, at

1 the head area again.

2 I think that he simply carried out this thing. That
3 is why I have the inclination to believe that this man acted
4 spontaneously because something in his personality had gone
5 waskie, he would be doing something that would give him pub-
6 licity and notoriety and apparently he didn't care what re-
7 sults were, but he may have said "If I can do it I can get
8 away with it."

9 All this is conjecture. Everything else that people put
10 in books is conjecture but I think this is basically backed
11 up by facts. I think it is kind of hard to controvert that
12 reasoning.

✓ 13 He had no time to collude with anyone else, no prior
14 information that the President was going to be passing right
15 in front of him. Prior effort to get another job would have
16 taken him out of the School Book Depository. All coincidence.

17 That is my opinion of it for somebody who has not been
18 studying the case. That is the definite impression I am left
19 with.

20 When I left and came back to New Orleans in January
✓ 21 of 1964, except for the few leads I conducted, a couple of which
22 had to do with Orest Pena, I had nothing more to do to my
23 knowledge with that assassination investigation.

24 Mr. Genzman. When you returned to New Orleans did
25 you ever contact your informant and sources there to follow up

1 on some of the issues?

2 Mr. DeBrueys. I don't think so. I would only have
3 done it if I had an official reason for doing it. I may have
4 had a sporadic lead or two to gather up a loose end. Some-
5 body else was assigned that, not I. It wasn't Kaack. I don't
6 know whether it was Logan or Calendar or somebody else who
7 had the case then.

8 Mr. Genzman. How would you characterize the performance
9 of the American investigative and intelligency agencies who
10 were involved in investigating the assassination?

11 Mr. DeBrueys. I would say considering the fact that it
12 was basically a local matter until the President must have told
13 somebody , whoever or someone, get in there and take control,
14 I assume that is after Oswald got killed, that unfortunately
15 those people in Dallas, it was something that they were not
16 equipped to handle to start with. That is where some of the
17 gross errors occurred that are haunting us today. There is
18 no way you can do that over again except that Congress has
19 passed laws making it a Federal violation now to kill a Presi-
20 dent and the officials, stipulated officials, which is a good
21 fall-out.

22 I would say that there was a lot of pressure to get
23 things done but I don't think agents cut short any inquiries.
24 Rather, there was an awful lot of investigative effort per-
25 formed by the Bureau in a short period of time going out and

1 talking to people in insane asylums I understand who claimed
2 they had information that we knew beforehand could not pos-
3 sibly be true because it placed Oswald in some area of the
4 country where we know for a fact he was not because we had in-
5 controvertible evidence he was somewhere else. So I say there
6 was no dereliction in my opinion.

7 Of course, I did not assemble all this stuff in the
8 final analysis but I am impressed that they left very few
9 stones unturned and a vast amount of inquiry was done, not only
10 by the Bureau but by Secret Service.

11 After you look at the great maze of investigation you can
✓ 12 always come in on Monday morning and say, "Heh, you did not
13 do it I hear and this thing happened in the pandemonium at
14 the time and the way his body was handled out at the hospital
15 carlessly."

16 We know better now, people know better. At that time
17 it was a local murder case. I might even say that I recall
18 two instances that happened that show you that people were
19 just inclined to want to focus in, take tunnel vision at the
20 time to get something done. This is before we even got into
21 it fully. I recall that nobody was thinking about opening
✓ 22 a case on the Paines. If they didn't they should have. I
23 suggested here is someone who spoke Russian with a background
24 and certainly we ought to be opening a case and doing some
25 investigation on the Paines. If not, we were going to be em-

1 barrassed later on because some loopholes or something would
2 fall through the crack.

3 I think they opened cases on it. I tried to persuade
4 somebody. Here again I am nothing but an agent at the time.
✓ 5 Somebody mentioned in my presence that there was a slug in
6 the Irving Police Department or somewhere else that was taken
7 out of the wall of General Walker's home. It was a rifle
8 slug where somebody had shot at his head and missed him.
9 Nobody was doing anything about it. They were all doing things
10 at that time that had to be done and they were using every
11 minute of their time doing it.

✓ 12 I happened to hear and I said somebody ought to get it.
13 They went out, got it and sent it to the lab and found it
14 came out of the same weapon. I would say this was something
15 new for the Bureau. They did it with a great deal of effi-
16 ciency but obviously there were some omissions but I don't think
17 the omissions go to the merit of the investigation.

18 If anybody can at this day and age, because of the tran-
19 quility of the times and the long projected study, come up
20 with something else I think it would be very helpful for the
21 American public. It is very divisive to have all these con-
22 trary opinions the great bulk of which are only conjecture and
23 would not withstand analysis by investigation.

24 Lots of times things are said as fact when only they are
25 suppositions and create more divisions among the American public

✓ 1 I think it is very sad. I think agents worked there butts
2 off. I personally remember getting up one morning at six
3 o'clock, went down to the office at the Adolphus Hotel and
4 being told at five o'clock that evening that the President
5 wanted a report. I was named to compile it.

6 We had 20 guys and put this report together, worked all
7 night long under unusual circumstances and compiled this thing.
8 I recall that the report was so thick that it took an hour to
9 number the pages. It took almost an hour to put holes in the
10 report. Now days we have the equipment to do it a lot faster.
11 The report went without the synopsis I think or without the
12 Table of Contents because we wanted to get it on the plane.
13 All these things were done, mind you, under this kind of thing.

✓ 14 For somebody else 10 or 15 years later to scrutinize
15 that report of 800-some-odd pages with a great deal of venom
16 saying what a sloppy job -- nobody said that about the report
17 yet as far as I know but naturally mistakes could have been made
18 when you consider how fast the thing was done at the time.

19 It is not because of any lack of zeal or lack of intent.
20 Confusion, because who had investigative authority. I would
21 say the FBI and the people in it at this day and age would
22 welcome even something that would make them look bad if it
23 would solve the problem.

24 In my opinion it would be a great benefit to the country
25 and would not hurt the Bureau if somebody could say that is

1 what happened.

2 Now, you have a Monday morning quarterback and now you
3 have all the time to do all this analysis but all the stories
4 and the conjectures about how the assassination occurred,
5 people making statements that when you look at them you think
6 are facts, but when you do a little probing you find it is
7 conjecture on their part. A lot of people made a lot of money
8 on it, a process that really hurt our country.

9 I think those people should be ashamed of themselves
10 frankly.

11 Mr. Genzman. When did you first hear about the note
12 which Oswald presented to the FBI office in Dallas?

13 Mr. DeBrueys. Long after apparently it happened. I
✓ 14 read a newspaper account in recent months, or within the last
15 year, whenever it happened. Time has a way of compressing
16 on me. It may have been two years ago. Whenever it happened.

17 Mr. Genzman. When did you first hear that Special
18 Agent Hosty's name and address had been excluded from a tran-
19 scription of Oswald's address book?

20 Mr. DeBrueys. I recall, and here again it is unfortunate
21 to recall things like that when you can't picture where it
✓ 22 happened but I recall the address book was part of the thing
23 I took up to the Bureau Lab on the second trip where I worked
24 38 hours without sleep, and I recall somebody mentioning that
25 we have to set out leads on people whose names are in this

✓ 1 address book and somebody saying "Well, here is Hosty's name,
2 we don't have to put him down. He doesn't have to be inter-
3 viewed."

4 I am sure in that very innocuous way and most unfor-
5 tunately his name was not included in it. I don't know who
6 did it or didn't or would have argued at the time of getting
7 things done in a case which had nothing to do with the intelli-
8 gence case but rather the assault case which was Gemberling's.

9 Mr. Genzman. Are you saying then at the Hosty entry was
10 excluded from the transcription as opposed to being originally
11 included and later deleted?

12 Mr. DeBrueys. I am saying that I heard that and if I
13 were to look at it today that would be my explanation. I
14 thought it was pertinent to the inquiry.

15 Maybe all these other things did occur but I think it is
16 important for me to say I heard that. I would be derelict
17 if I did not say that.

18 If somebody said "We have to set out leads. Here is Hos-
19 ty, we know who he is, we don't have to identify him and in-
20 terview him", what happened after that I don't know. I did
21 not handle that part of it.

22 Mr. Genzman. Were you transferred from New Orleans to
23 Washington in 1967?

24 Mr. DeBrueys. I recall leaving on March 1, 1967 in my
25 own car for Washington.

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Mr. Genzman. Did your transfer occur around the time that the Garrison investigation was beginning in New Orleans?

Mr. DeBrueys. My only knowledge of that case was after I got up there and heard there was a subpoena for me that had been issued at the instructions of Garrison. I did not know about it at the time I left.

Mr. Genzman. Did you comply with that subpoena?

Mr. DeBrueys. I did not comply with it because I was not in the New Orleans area, never saw it, personally saw it, but was told by the Justice Department that one existed.

I was left with the impression that we were not going to comply with it because of the prior interest that the Federal Government had in the matter, whereas I do not know really what the reason was but I am surmising, because they felt Garrison's investigation was a fraud and had no true basis, in fact, as being relevant to the assassination investigation.

It would be absurd for a local D.A. to preempt the Federal Government in an area where they were conducting an investigation. These are all surmises on my part as a result of somebody having told me that I had the subpoena but they would take care of it, the Justice Department, not the bureau. I talked to somebody in the Justice Department. I do not know who it was.

Mr. Genzman. Do you know what interest Jim Garrison would have had in you?

1 Mr. DeBrueys. Only from comments made in the press in
2 recent years saying, "Sorry, I did not have a chance to talk
3 to DeBrueys", because they would like to find out why, when
4 Oswald left New Orleans to move to Dallas, that I followed
5 him and he would like to clarify why that happened and why
6 I returned after the assassination.

7 I do not know whether that statement was cleverly couched
8 in those terms by Garrison or whether his intelligence was
9 poor. I did in a sense "follow" Oswald in the sense that I
10 left for Dallas after he left New Orleans, that is the day
11 after the assassination. Naturally, having left after the
12 assassination, when I returned it was after the assassination.

13 If you just take the words that Garrison used, it is a
14 half truth. I never went to Dallas until the day after the
15 assassination. He knew that I was talking to Cubans. He
16 felt, perhaps, that I could help his investigation.

17 I, personally, do believe that he is responsible for the
18 death of Clay Shaw. That is from the top of my head. There
19 may be other facts to show otherwise, but that man was har-
20 rassed by this investigation which was obviously a phony,
21 for whatever nefarious reasons Garrison had for conducting
22 one because nothing came out of it. Nor was anything developed
23 of any consequence as a result of all the money he spent of
24 public funds to do that.

25 I have lost track, I do not know whether there is anything

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1 else I should add to that.

2 Mr. Genzman. That is sufficient. Thank you.

3 Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

4 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Sawyer?

5 Mr. Sawyer. No. I would make a comment though that
6 I have enjoyed listening to the witness. He has been very
7 perceptive and very forthright. He has been helpful to me.

8 Mr. DeBrueys. Thank you, sir.

9 Mr. Preyer. The Warren Commission made a mistake in
10 not calling him as a witness.

11 Mr. Dodd, do you have any further questions?

12 Mr. Dodd. None other than to thank the witness for
13 taking so much time. I appreciate your coming.

14 Mr. DeBrueys. Thank you. I appreciate your kindness
15 and professional way of handling this.

16 Mr. Preyer. I have one question which may be a little
17 off what we have been discussing. There has been a lot of
18 discussion about ^{Oswald's} ~~Hosty's~~ movement in Louisiana. Some of it
19 has been rather murky. The Garrison trial brought out testi-
20 mony to the effect that Oswald had gone to a small Louisiana
21 town to register to vote, that Clay Shaw drove him there.

22 He also applied for a job there in a hospital, as I
23 recall. Did you look into any of those allegations or what
24 credence do you give to that testimony?

25 Mr. DeBrueys. Professionally, it would not be proper for

me to malign Mr. Garrison and say that is another figment of his imagination, because I did no further inquiries in the assassination investigation with the exception of a very few dealing with Orest Pena after I came back from Dallas and I got off on to other investigative matters.

In 1967 I left and I had no further exposure to the thing. I am just speaking from what I know about Garrison and the intensive amount of investigation that was conducted by the bureau in New Orleans, Dallas and throughout the U.S.

I am left with some impressions that other agents had talked to people, some of them were of the seedy type. Maybe some of them had worked for Banxister, but it is all too vague now who I think came to the bureau in the New Orleans office and said maybe Ferrie may have been involved possibly in planning the escape route, an assumption on their part.

Since I had no further official interest in the investigation and never did any more work on it, to corroborate those things the bureau talked to quite a few people of their ilk who later, I understand, spoke to Garrison who later on projected these comments as being factual and used it as the groundwork for some of his contentions.

I feel very uneasy in talking about it. Personally, I can say he just used those things that people offer as conjecture and set it out as fact. I may be doing him an injustice in the process, but that is my personal opinion which

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1 lacks a lot of corroboration.

2 Mr. Preyer. Before you left the New Orleans office in
3 1967, had you not heard any of the allegations that Oswald
4 had been in -- what is the name of that town -- Clinton,
5 Louisiana? Had those allegations come to your attention?

6 Mr. DeBrueys. I do not think so. I heard a lot of them
7 that at the time just seemed so hairbrained that I did not
8 give much credence to them. I do not specifically recall
9 Clinton, Louisiana, or the other thing.

10 Mr. Preyer. The bureau, as far as you know, made no
11 investigation into that?

12 Mr. DeBrueys. I would hope and would suspect that if
13 they had not made any investigation, they would have in the
14 file adequate information for not doing it because I think
15 they would have been derelict in not doing something about it.

16 Mr. Preyer. Thank you very much, Mr. DeBrueys.

17 Under your rules at the conclusion of the questioning,
18 the witness is entitled to take five minutes to expand on
19 what he may have said or clarify anything or just make any
20 further statement he wishes.

21 If there is anything further you wish to state at this
22 time, we will be glad to hear from you.

23 Mr. DeBrueys. The only thing I think, and I may be
24 repeating myself, is that I feel uneasy sometimes in saying
25 things are vague in my mind. I think it may be well to use

1 some of this time to say you have to see the picture.

2 I did not stay in that area and I did not get exposed and
3 re-exposed to all the issues of the assassination. In 1966,
4 for example, I spent six months in the Dominican Republic when
5 President Johnson sent down a team of men during the revolu-
6 tion and the crisis. I got involved in that. When I got
7 involved in that, I was just up to my armpits in that.

8 I got completely detached from all the other matters
9 that seemed a little more parochial at the time. It was not
10 too long after I got back from that that I had to catch up
11 with the work I had left behind. Not long after that, I got
12 assigned to Washington, D.C.

13 All of those are new jobs. I stayed in one division,
14 General Criminal Investigative Division, for six months or
15 so and Domestic Intelligence Division for 11 months, Inspec-
16 tion Staff for 11 months, then Training Division. Then I got
17 assigned to something completely different in Mexico for a
18 year, another year in Argentina and three years in Brazil.

19 The obligations and responsibilities in each one of those
20 jobs was so demanding that in order to do a good job in spite
21 of my inherent curiosity about other things, I just became as
22 expert as I could in what I was doing at the time. I am a lot
23 more ignorant about a lot of things on the assassinations
24 than many people on the street that read this thing day after
25 day.

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1 I come back and people ask me questions about what I did
2 in 1963 and I surprise myself, I hope it is not senility, but
3 I just do not remember some of those things. I know they
4 happened. Maybe if somebody can refresh my memory. If I can
5 be of any more help by refreshing my memory, they will be
6 welcomed to do it.

7 Mr. Preyer. You must be ready for retirement now and
8 must be enjoying it.

9 Mr. DeBrueys. I am working for the Metropolitan Crime
10 Commission and wonder sometimes whether it was a wise thing,
11 because that is going to be an absorbing job.

12 Mr. Preyer. I wish you well on that.

13 Mr. DeBrueys. Thank you.

14 Mr. Preyer. You are not spending all your time fishing
15 during retirement?

16 Mr. DeBrueys. Not at all.

17 Mr. Preyer. Thank you again, Mr. DeBrueys.

18 The committee stands recessed until 9:00 tomorrow
19 morning.

20 Mr. DeBrueys. Thank you, sir.

21 (Whereupon, the committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m. to
22 reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 4, 1978).

