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July 14, 1979

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your brief note.

I just wanted to write today and let you know of some information relating to your distant relative Willie Weisberg. Knowing of your sensitivity to this area (and of the potential for mischievous use of it by your would be detractors) I thought I would let you know of the information in question. It comes from some of our file material on Weisberg and his organized crime colleagues which was not included in any of the Committee's published reports. Since I expect to discuss it with various people who have an interest in learning more about Willie Weisberg and his avowed wish to murder President Kennedy, I thought I would inform you of it directly; so that you won't jump to the conclusion that I am maliciously spreading information about Weisberg behind your back. As you know, I do think you have overreacted in believing as you do that any discussion of Willie Weisberg and his La Cosa Nostra associations is meant as an attack upon you in some way.

In any event, for whatever it's worth, federal organized crime files derived from the Philadelphia area establish that Weisberg was closely associating with David Yaras, the senior executioner of the Chicago Mafia, during the fall of 1963. Yaras, the close associate of Santos Trafficante, Sam Giancana, and James Hoffa, was of course an acquaintance of Jack Ruby, and is infamous in the annals of organized crime as a particularly inhuman torturer-executioner. (I'm enclosing a brief rundown on his career for your information). Federal files reflect that Yaras (who was also closely identified with several other associates of Jack Ruby) made various travel arrangements with his associate Willie Weisberg in late September of 1963; with Yaras and his wife socializing with Weisberg and his wife Annie during that period.

Additionally, federal files indicate that when Weisberg crudely spoke with Philadelphia Mafia leader Angelo Bruno about wanting to assassinate President Kennedy, he was speaking about a subject not entirely unknown to him; the files indicate Weisberg's familiarity or knowledge of various organized crime executions in the Pennsylvania region. (An account and analysis of the Weisberg remarks about the need to kill the President is contained in both the Committee's Final Report and supporting volume on organized crime. Additionally, our volumes contain a more detailed account of Dave Yaras's activities in a lengthy

profile of his longtime partner Lenny Patrick, another brutal Chicago executioner and friend of Ruby. I'll send you the relevant excerpts once these reports are released if you wish).

I also wanted to write and correct you about a mistake you made in both of your recent notes. You stated that I had discussed the parole of Oswald in August of 1963 and the alleged mob association of those involved in this incident. I think you have got my conversation with you mixed up with some other recent conversation you had with another person. I did not discuss this with you, although I know it is a hot topic among various critics at the moment. In point of fact, I myself have been throwing cold water on such discussions and have been correcting various critics on what they have "heard" about it. In particular, I've been pointing out the totally erroneous reports about Nofio Pecora's alleged involvement in the parole; reports first printed by Oglesby in the A.I.B. newsletter and then repeated in the NBC-TV coverage a few weeks ago. Like I say, you're confusing me with someone else you've talked to; I'm in complete agreement with you about what some people are saying - inaccurately - about the Oswald jailing incident.

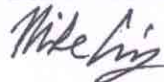
Lastly, I wanted to enclose one brief item I came across a couple weeks ago in regard to your continuing chastisement of those who discuss the possibility of Oswald-Ferrie association through their respective "connections" to the small 544 Camp Street building in mid-1963. I enclose a page from your associate David Wrone's new book on your FOI work on the JFK case; a valuable book that I gather is the exclusive product of your work in this area. Recalling your association with Wrone (who I respect), and his continuing work with your files, I would tend to assume that you probably reviewed and approved his manuscript prior to publication. In any event, in reviewing your obtainment of the January 22, 1964 WC transcript, Wrone writes that Oswald's use of the 544 Camp Street address is noteworthy because he was using "the return address of a right-wing, anti-Castro organization located in a building housing a Central Intelligence Agency office." (Underlining mine). This of course was and is news to me. I'd love to know his or your source for putting a CIA field office in the building. However much you may complain about those of us who attempt to draw some potential significance from Marcello operative Ferrie's work out of the small building during the same period in which Oswald used it for his return address, at least there is documentary evidence supporting their respective connections (however limited) to the premises. However, I don't believe the same can be said for the Wrone claim about a CIA office being housed in the building.

But, as I have said before, we all have our biases, and some prefer chasing the CIA more than Marcello. In any event, I do hope you (and your associate) might at least acknowledge that 544 Camp Street is in fact a significant area to pursue, with at least as much cause for looking for signs of Marcello as signs of the Agency.

Whatever Wrone's or your sources are about the purported CIA office there, we do in fact know that at least three (and perhaps more) of the people who were working out of the Camp Street building were being employed by Carlos Marcello. And we also know that the Cuban exile (and CIA-funded) organization in the building had been expelled by the landlord in February of 1962, a year and a half before Oswald used the place as his return address.

Again, forgive me if I have sounded overly contentious.

Best wishes,



Mike Ewing

Encs.

RECORD: FBI No. 4450441. CPD No. 3238. USPA No. 74036A. USPL No. 70736. FPC No. 25-I-M-14/27-I. Record dates back to 1945, more than 14 arrests: possession of burglary tools, robbery, burglary, auto theft; indicted for armed robbery, nol-prossed; robbery (2 counts), not guilty. Conviction: violation of firearms act, 2 years in USPA.

MODUS OPERANDI: Active in loan sharking on West Side and a Syndicate assassin.

Vogel, Edward

AKA: Big Head, Dutch, Five-by-Five, Eddie Brown, Guy Cahn, E. David, Eddie Miller, George A. Renn, George Crane, George Walters, Edward Wartenberg.

DESCRIPTION: Born July 16, 1895, Chicago; 5 feet 6½ inches, 180 pounds; Edu: 8th grade; RO: Bohemian.

FREQUENTS: Postl's Health Club, Playboy Club, Armory Lounge. Resides at 7730 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles.

RECORD: FBI No. 4329702. CIR No. D-33254. Record dates to 1926, more than 7 arrests. Took Fifth 39 times before McClellan Committee.

BUSINESS: All manners and forms of coin-operated machines.

MODUS OPERANDI: A power in Cicero in days of Al Capone; one of gangsters who engineered the Syndicate's take-over of Cicero in 1924. Considered slot-machine czar of Cook County for the past 40 years.

Yaras, David

AKA: David Miller, Yarras, Yaris.

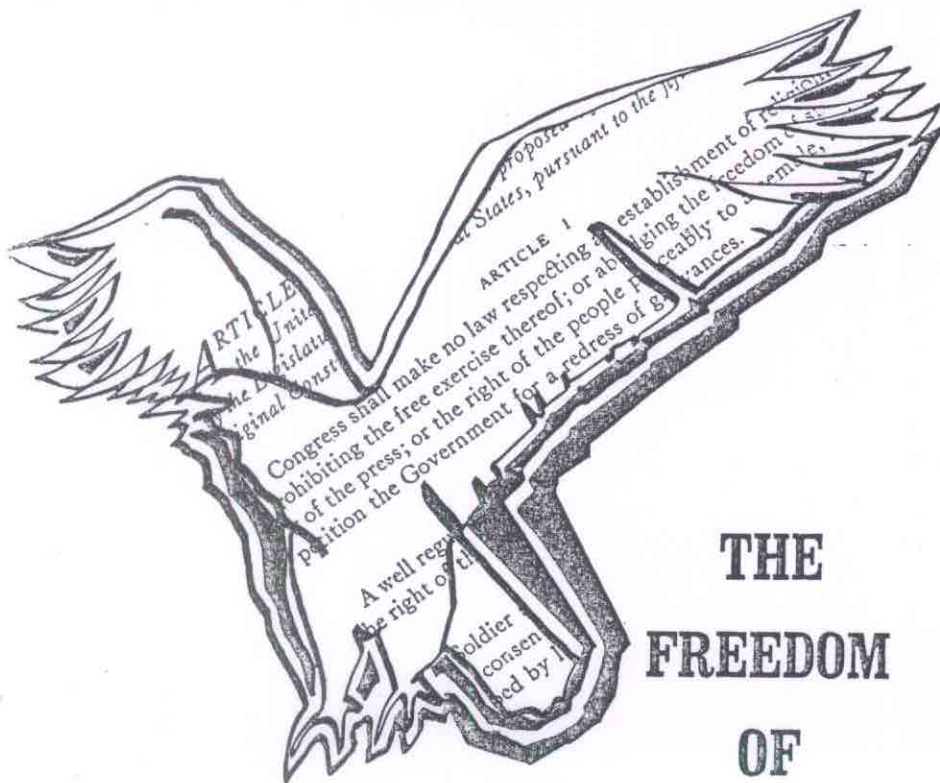
DESCRIPTION: Born November 7, 1912, Chicago; 5 feet 9 inches, 175 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair, sallow complexion; RO: Polish.

FREQUENTS: West Side and Miami, Fla. Resides at 3600 N. Lake Shore Drive.

RECORD: FBI No. 655697. CPD No. D-14360. Record dates back to 1930, more than 14 arrests: burglary, robbery, possession of burglary tools and a prime suspect in several gangland slayings. Indicted with William Block and Leonard Patrick for the 1947 murder of James Ragen, nol-prossed.

BUSINESS: Industrial uniforms, bath houses, jukeboxes.

MODUS OPERANDI: A West Side gambling boss; layoff bookmaker with Patrick on national sporting events; active in juice.



**THE  
FREEDOM  
OF**

**INFORMATION ACT  
AND POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS**

**VOLUME 1**

**David R. Wrone, Editor**

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**The Legal Proceedings of Harold Weisberg  
v. General Services Administration**

together with the  
**January 22 and 27 Warren Commission Transcripts**

[MR. RANKIN] A: It is going to be very difficult for us to be able to establish the fact in it. I am confident that the FBI would never admit it, and I presume their records will never show it,<sup>2</sup> or if their records do show anything, I would think their records would show some kind of a number that could be assigned to a dozen different people according to how they wanted to describe them. So that it seemed to me if it truly happened, he did use postal boxes practically every place that he went, and that would be an ideal way to get money to anyone that you wanted as an undercover agent, or anybody else that you wanted to do business that way with without having any particular transaction.

FORD: There might be people who would see what was going on with that particular box, because the postal authorities do watch, they have means of watching in many places that no one could see. They can watch the clerks as to what they are doing in these boxes, and they can watch individuals that are going in and out. They do that only when they have an occasion to be suspicious, but they might, in watching for somebody particularly, they might also see other things that they just have to note. That is a possibility.

DULLES: What was the ostensible mission? I mean when they hire somebody they hire somebody for a purpose. It is either . . . Was it to penetrate the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?<sup>3</sup> That is the only thing I can think of where they might have used this man. It would be quite ordinary for me because they are very careful about the agents they use. You wouldn't pick up a fellow like this to do an agent's job. You have got to watch out for your (7) agents. You have really got to know. Sometimes you make a mistake.

FORD: He was playing ball, writing letters to both the elements of the Communist parties. I mean he was playing ball with the Trotskyites and with the others. This was a strange circumstance to me.

<sup>2</sup>The Warren Report, p. 327, states: "Director Hoover has sworn that he caused a search to be made of the records of the Bureau, and that the search discloses that Oswald 'was never an informant of the FBI, and never assigned a symbol number in that capacity, and was never paid any amount of money by the FBI in any regard.' This testimony is corroborated by the Commission's independent review of the Bureau files dealing with the Oswald investigation."

<sup>3</sup>Lee Harvey Oswald established a chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans. He was the sole member. The organization was pro-Castro but used the return address of a right-wing, anti-Castro organization located in a building housing a Central Intelligence Agency office.

DULLES: But the need a person like this on was with the Fair Play for

BOGGS: Of course back from Russia you know

A: If he was in the time of the assassination,

didn't he get back in Febru

A: I think it was Feb

Q: Of '62, Was it of '6

A: Oh yes, that is rig

DULLES: They have

They may have some peopl their own in Russia.

A: Yes.

DULLES: They might sometimes American Commi so forth and so on under thei

COOPER: Of course i FBI is acquainted with rumor

[MR. WARREN] A: may have no bearing on this

and who was under observat frequently, could (8) walk a

one day and come out the ne to Russia. From my observat

passports are not passed out w

DULLES: Mr., I think y

[MR. WARREN] A: I c

DULLES: Because the i specified countries. There is a

minist China, North Vietnam, stamp not good for Hungary.

can get a passport that is goo Russia is one of the countries th

[MR. WARREN] A: Wei

DULLES: You can get th