

Box 392 Mayo Hospital

January 31, 1969

Mr. Blair M. Bice
Pennsylvania Mirror
1015 Benner Pike
P.O. Box P10
State College, Pa. 16801

Dear Mr. Bice:

I certainly appreciate you taking the time to write and although this may sound a bit strange, am glad to know that you would like to find out more about me prior to furnishing me with information. In my previous letter I suggested that you contact Mr. Kensinger since he spent quite some time with me and could give you a better appraisal of my work than could my articles.

To be very frank, I'm not sure what the direction of my research is. I am very concerned about cleaning up all the legends left by the Warren Commission and establishing, as much as is possible today, what happened in Dallas in November of 1963. When one pursues such an elusive entity as the truth, all of the evidence must be examined. I have received encouragement in these pursuits from literally thousands of persons including congressmen, ex-federal agents, prominent businessmen, and last but not least, the witnesses.

In the case of the Fernandezes, the situation is very confusing. The FBI reports on the incident are very unsatisfactory, and answer few questions. It appears that a piece of paper was accidentally found near where they burn their trash, and on it were the names Jack Ruby, Rubenstein (Ruby's name at birth), Lee Oswald, Dallas Texas, a telephone number, and the name of a night club. This paper was found quite a while prior to the assassination and therefore is of extraordinary interest. At the very least, it is an indication that one member of the family may have had some foreknowledge of a relationship between Ruby and Oswald or even the assassination itself. Since the evidence collected by the FBI, Secret Service, and CIA, recently declassified in the National Archives, plus private investigations over the past 5 years, point to the possibility that anti-Castro Cubans may have been involved, the Fernandezes are of even greater interest. Despite the fact that the paper will be a hard thing to explain in an innocent fashion, I hope that I can find some simple explanation for it. The fewer people and incidents to investigate the better. I have little time and am \$1200 in debt since I prefer to do research rather than to stop a write books which at least could help me break even.

I would never, under any circumstances, be utilizing any material on them in any public way, even anonymously without use of their names. But what should be borne in mind in this regard is that the FBI did use their names publicly as did the commission. The FBI reports on them, which were published by the Warren Commission in Volume 26 of their testimony and hearings, do more to create suspicion than anything else. Once it became apparent that many persons independently thought that the Martinsburg incident needed looking into, it was quite a job for me to explain to all those who might decide to do some field work that I was checking it out and that it would be better for all concerned if I did the legwork. This has been quite

a chore for someone like me who does this in his spare time. And believe me, the Fernandezes are only a few of many hundreds of people whose names appear on the historical record with suspicion attached due to the work of the FBI. A number of these people have been so angered by this, that they have cooperated fully and been able to help out in other areas of the case. One of them has even become a researcher himself. My ultimate goal is to speak to the Fernandezes directly, since I have finally located them, but it would not be wise to do so until I find out all I can from other sources.

I am an independent worker, and although I am employed by the United States Public Health Service as a psychiatric researcher, my work on the assassination has no connection with that. Furthermore, although I am associated with Bernard Fensterwald Jr., Chief Counsel for the Senate subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure, I have no connections with the U. S. Senate. I hold a research card from the National Archives, but have never been in their employ either. Finally, although I helped CBS gather material for their "Special on the Warren Report," I have no connection with them and have never been on their payroll.

Enclosed are a short Vita on myself and my newspaper series. The ~~Minneapolis~~ Star, in which these articles were published, is the evening edition of the Minneapolis Tribune, a Cowles publication. I have no copies of my other two articles left.

I apologize for this long and wordy letter and hope that you will feel free to contact me if there are still some questions in your mind as to my sincerity or intended use of the information which I asked of you. Thanks for finding time to write.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Richard Schoener
Psychiatry Research
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cc:grs

From: Morrisons Cove Herald

"Exiled Cuban Editor, Educator, Teaches Spanish in Junior High"

Cuba's bearded Castro--without intending any kindness to be sure--has become a benefactor of the Morrison Cove Junior High School. The Cuban dictator helped round out the faculty by supplying a hard-to-find Spanish teacher. And there is perhaps no other junior high school Spanish teacher with a similar background. He has not one, but two doctor's degrees. He was editor of not one, but four daily newspapers as well as a number of weekly papers and magazines. He was a college professor. He edited books. He wrote articles for magazines.

And he sings high praise for Morrisons Cove. Dr. Julio Fernandez, drinking in the brilliant autumn sunshine of the past week, said: "The people are so good here. The country is so beautiful. It is like Switzerland. It is high. I think it is close to God." But this weekend promises to make Morrisons Cove even more pleasant for him, as his family will join him. They have rented the Jesse Hoover house at 400 East Allegheny Street, Martinsburg. After giving up all their property and income, the Fernandez family will be starting life anew in a small town whose customs and language will be as strange as snow in Havana.

The extent of their sacrifice in holding to principles in opposition to Castro can be measured by the loss of their library. Dr. Fernandez' personal library of over 7,000 volumes accumulated during more than 30 years was slightly larger than the Martinsburg Community Library and twice as large as the Roaring Spring Community Library. Dr. Fernandez' father, aged 98, is still living in Cuba. He was a distiller of rum and provided a good education for his son born in 1909. When he was 12 years old he went to Spain where he was a student three years. He received his bachelor's degree in arts and sciences in Havana. Later he earned two advanced degrees: Doctor in Philosophy and Arts and Doctor in Social, Political, and Economic Sciences, at the University of Havana. When a youth of 19, he was one of eight finalists in an International Oratorical Contest. He once prized a photo of himself and the other seven finalists standing with President Coolidge in the White House garden.

Dr. Fernandez' "exile" in Martinsburg is not his first brush with a Cuban dictator. While at the University of Havana, he was editor and publisher of the magazine "Alma Mater" from 1927 to 1931. He then spent almost three years as a political prisoner on the Isle of Pines--by order of Dictator Machado, he says. There never was a charge placed against him. There was no trial. He could not communicate with his family, he reported. But he out-last-ed Machado. He resumed publication of "Alma Mater" as a newspaper in Tampa, Florida. Then returned to Havana and published the paper daily from 1933 to 1935. Neither was Dictator Batista his hero. In 1939 he published a book in Havana, "I Accuse Batista." This did not end his activity as a newspaper and magazine publisher, however.

Dr. Fernandez expects that Castro, too, will pass. He said that the Organization of American States will someday have to assume the responsibility of invading the island and cleaning out the communists. The United States will have to supply the invasion with men, material and money, but that all American countries should participate, he said. In Miami, where the Fernandez family first fled with thousands of their compatriots, the Cubans are aflame with zeal to free their homeland from the Communists, he said. The great need for Cubans at home and in exile is strong leadership, he commented. And, he sees no easy solution because his homeland lacks the institutions that give a society stability. Even the Catholic Church failed the people, he charged, saying that the many leaders in the church compromised their ideals in pre-Castro days.

Rather than see his fellow exiles be too impetuous, he wants to see a massive and well-supported effort to free Cuba. Dr. Fernandez said he is concerned about the young Cubans in his country. His oldest son, for example, finished high school in Cuba. In the two years he has been in Miami, he has worked at many jobs, but has been unable to continue his education.

Last week the son, Julio Jr., arrived in Martinsburg and has been living with his father at Teeter's Hotel. He is taking examinations at Central High School, to determine where he may continue his education. His greatest interest is art and he hopes to enroll in a commercial art course. This weekend the entire family may be reunited. Mrs. Fernandez, also well educated, was a lawyer in Cuba. She has been employed as a social worker among the other refugees in Miami. Coming with her to Martinsburg are their other two children, a daughter, Walkyria, 16, and a son, Alexis, 9, both of whom will enter school here.

Dr. Fernandez has been a refugee from Cuba since March, 1961. He tried to find employment as a writer or editor of a Spanish publication in this country, but found the need more than filled. Because of his background in education as a teacher of Spanish and Spanish literature in colleges and an institute in Cuba, he qualified as a teacher in Pennsylvania. Both he and his son speak English, although Dr. Fernandez sometimes asks Martinsburg people to speak slowly. He said that understanding is more difficult than speaking. He reported that people in the community have been very friendly and helpful. Although he said this community is "beautiful, high, close to God"—his impassioned speech shows that his heart lies in Cuba, free again.

Received with covering letter, dated Feb. 17, 1969, from Mr. Blair M. Bice, publisher of the Pennsylvania Mirror, State College, Pa., former editor of the Morrisons Cove Herald. The letter read:

Dear Mr. Schoener:

A friend reproduced the article I wrote about Dr. Fernandez from Morrisons Cove Herald microfilm.

He had difficulty with the chemicals in the printout device so that it is difficult to read. However, I believe that you will be able to decipher it.

The printout copy is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Blair M. Bice

Note: A handwritten note was stapled to the reprint--

Blair-- The film was fine but the chemicals were not working very well. I believe you can interpret it however.

Geo."

The article contained a photo with the caption: "Dr. Julio C. Fernandez, Cuban editor and teacher, and his son Julio, look at an aerial picture of their new community. They are political exiles from Santa Clara and Havana. Mrs. Fernandez and their other two children will join them in Martinsburg next week."