

M E M O R A N D U M

FEBRUARY 28, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FROM: ANDREW SCIAMBRA AND LOUIS IVON
RE: INTERVIEW WITH DAVID FERRIE

On Saturday, February 18, 1967 at approximately 3:30 P.M., Louis Ivon and I interviewed David FERRIE in his apartment on Louisiana Avenue Parkway.

As we approached the house, FERRIE came out on the porch and looked at us and began to walk down the steps to open the front door for us. As he opened the door for us, he told Ivon that he was glad that we finally decided to come and talk with him as he had been trying to get in touch with Garrison or Ivon for several days. He told me hello and asked me what I was doing with Ivon and I explained to him that I was an Assistant D. A. now and thought that I would come along with Ivon since we knew each other from the airport.

He told us to go on upstairs and that he would follow us, but that it would take him some time to climb up the stairs as he was sick, and weak and that he had not been able to keep anything on his stomach for a couple of days. He moaned and groaned with each step he took up the stairs from the bottom to the top. This behavior by FERRIE impressed me as phoney act and I am sure that he was not as sick as he pretended to be.

Once inside the apartment, Ivon and I sat down and FERRIE laid down on the sofa in the front room. He was wearing pants and a T-shirt and had two pillows under him.

There was a young man in the apartment in his early twenties who was a friend of FERRIE's from the Lakefront Airport. His name is BURT JOHNSON and I remember him from when I was working out there. FERRIE had given him flying instructions and he told me that he had already acquired his license.

My first conversation with FERRIE centered around airport talk and about people we both knew from the airport. He said that he had often wondered what had happened to me and that he thought I had gone into private practice. He said that he knew a lot of ex-D.A.'s and they were all dumb, with a few exceptions.

He then said that the reason that he had called us was that he was getting concerned over our investigation. He had heard all kinds of rumors that he was going to get arrested and that he wanted to find out if these rumors were true. He said that as a result of these rumors, he had been asked to leave the airport and now he was concerned over how he was going to make a living, that flying was his only enjoyment in life. FERRIE said he was suffering from encyphilitis and that he could not get any rest because of the radio, TV and press boys hounding him to death. FERRIE said his phone rings from morning 'til night and that he had talked to Sam DiPino from Channel 12 until the early hours of the morning. FERRIE said Sam was trying to con him, but that he was too smart to fall for his line, and that all of those people were "bastards". Just then the phone rang and it was a reporter from the Times-Picayune, and he said that he would positively not grant interviews and that he was tired of all those bastards calling him up. The reporter must have told him something, because he said that he was not calling him a bastard

personally, but was referring to the news media in general. He then hung up the telephone.

X // FERRIE picked up the Picayune paper and said he wanted to show us portions of the story that really disturbed him. He said the newspapers can kill anybody when they want to, and that it was never more evident than in the cases of CARLOS MARCELLO and JIMMY HOFFA. FERRIE said the newspapers tried to frame both of these guys. He then talked about the MARCELLO trial that he was working on in 1963, and how the newspapers tried to crucify MARCELLO. He said MARCELLO made asses out of all of them when he was acquitted. FERRIE said he wanted to know why we brought MIGUEL TORRES back from Angola. He said that he knew what people would do to get out of prison and he thought Garrison was trying to frame-up by using MIGUEL TORRES. FERRIE said that if this would happen, he would sue us and everybody. FERRIE said he had been contacted by some big attorneys in Washington, D. C., and they wanted to help him.

FERRIE also said he did not like the way Garrison was answering questions put to him by newsmen and that Garrison should make a definite statement and not say "No comment". He said the "No comment" stirs more shit than an hour's speech. FERRIE said Garrison knew this and that he was obviously using this for publicity. I assured him that Garrison was not trying to frame anybody and that he was avoiding the press and he could not say much less to the press than "No comment". Then FERRIE said he wanted to talk to Garrison personally. We told him we would try and arrange a meeting in the near future.

FERRIE then began to curse JACK MARTIN and said MARTIN started all of this stuff. FERRIE said MARTIN was jealous of him because of his relationship with G. WRAY GILL and that MARTIN was trying to ruin him (FERRIE). He said MARTIN is a screwball

and should be locked up.

FERRIE then said Garrison had better be careful because he knew that some people were trying to torpedo him; that he knew of 3 people on a local level and a couple of people on a national level who are trying to ruin him politically and are trying to embarrass him politically with this assassination investigation. FERRIE said he did not want to mention the names of the local people, but Garrison should be smart enough to know who they were. He then began to talk about FRANK KLEIN and he inferred that this man was one of the local persons trying to destroy Garrison. However, when Ivon asked him if KLEIN was one of the people he was referring to, FERRIE said that in time we would find out. FERRIE did say that Hoover was one of the people on a national level who was trying to destroy Garrison because Garrison has dared to criticize the Bureau and has the whole country wondering if they are as smart as the Keystone Kops. However, FERRIE said he was glad about this because as far as he's concerned, all cops are bastards and that he has no use for any of them. FERRIE also said he had heard that some people in Washington were talking about the investigation and that two days before the story broke in the newspaper, some people were saying that Garrison would call a press conference Friday and give the story to the press. FERRIE said he didn't want to give out any names as he didn't want J. Edgar on his ass too.

He then asked to speak to Garrison again because he wanted to see if he were serious about this whole thing, I told him that Garrison was more than serious and that we were checking out all of our leads and information. I then told FERRIE he could tell me what he wanted to say and I would tell Garrison for him. FERRIE said he wanted to talk to Garrison himself and look

him in the face.

I then asked FERRIE to tell me where he was on November 22, 1963 and how he had become so involved in this. FERRIE said it was all on account of a trip he made to Houston, Texas on the afternoon of the 22nd to ice skate. He said that all he wanted to do was relax after the MARCELLO trial and he just had the urge to go ice skating. FERRIE said, that as it turned out, it was the worst trip that he had ever made in his life. I asked FERRIE what he did in Houston. FERRIE said, "Ice skate, what else." I said, "I don't know Dave. You tell me." FERRIE said that I was a newcomer around the game and that my office knew more about the trip than he did. FERRIE said, "Ask your boss. He had me arrested when I got back into town. I was booked as a fugitive from Texas and I have never been to Texas." I asked him to tell me about the arrest as I didn't believe we would arrest a man who was perfectly innocent. FERRIE told me I had a lot to learn about life and that I was a starry-eyed kid right out of law school and I was still believing the inscriptions on the courthouse walls. FERRIE said that after a while, when you get a little smarter, you'll see that this is a stinking world and that what I told you at the airport is true. I told FERRIE that what he said may be true, but that still doesn't tell me about the arrest. FERRIE said, "All right, I'll go through the spiel again for your benefit." FERRIE said that after he had taken his trip to Texas, he and BEAUBOUF and COFFEY stopped in Alexandria and he called G. WRAY GILL. GILL told him the police were looking for him and that they wanted to ask him some questions about the assassination. He said that then he drove back to New Orleans and dropped BEAUBOUF off at his

apartment on Louisiana Avenue Parkway so that he could go upstairs and call some girls for them. He said that he and COFFEY then went to the grocery store. He said that when he and COFFEY were returning to the apartment he noticed a bunch of cars around his apartment and a lot of people. FERRIE said he figured it was the police and so he went back to the store and telephoned. FERRIE said some dumb ox answered the phone and tried to suck him into a conversation, but he just hung up. He said he then dropped COFFEY off and went to Hammond, Louisiana. I asked him "Where in Hammond?" FERRIE said, "By a friend." I asked him what friend and he burst out laughing and said, "I'll say one thing for you, you sure try hard." He then told me not to try and investigate him because he could show me and my whole office how to investigate. I didn't press the issue any further, but later on he told me that he did not stay in a motel, but with a friend who would remain anonymous. "Besides," he said, "I've got friends all over the world." I said that that was very interesting, but that I wanted his opinion on one other small matter. He asked, "What?" I said, "Dave, who shot the President?" He said, "Well, that's an interesting question and I've got my own thoughts about it." FERRIE then sent his friend into another room to get an anatomy book and a pathology book and he pulled out a sheet of paper and began to sketch on it. FERRIE drew a sketch of the Texas School Depository and of the parade route and of the area in general. FERRIE said that before he would definitely draw a conclusion, he would have to have more information and facts. FERRIE then went into a long spiel about the projectory of bullets in relation to height and distance. He said that different guns and shells have different projectories and that bullets tend to drop as they are shot. FERRIE said the

Warren Commission did not have enough pertinent scientific information to come to an objective conclusion. He said he did not read the Warren Report, but what he had read proved to him that the Commission did not know what they were doing. FERRIE went into a long spiel about J.F.K.'s neck wound. In the course of his lecture on anatomy and pathology, he named every bone in the human body and every hard and soft muscle area. He talked extensively about the dermis and epidermis. FERRIE said if the same bullet that struck J.F.K. in the back or neck eventually struck Connelly, that Connelly or Kennedy had to be a contortionist. He then rattled off some more scientific information in regard to bones, and skin, and how a bullet decreases in speed when it strikes an object and how the same bullet could not have possibly caused all that damage. FERRIE said that that question would never be answered because the doctor who performed the tracheotomy had 10 thumbs and left unanswered the most important question of all time. FERRIE then laughed and said that doctors are almost as stupid as lawyers, but that lawyers are worse because they are always in your pocket.

I then said, "In other words Dave, you don't buy the 'one shot theory?'" FERRIE said he wasn't saying anything because he didn't want J. Edgar on his tail, that he had enough with Garrison to contend with. FERRIE said that in time he would work the whole thing out and then laughingly said that he would contact our office.

I noticed at this point that he was in very good spirits and was laughing and joking and even commented that he's feeling pretty good now and that he had had 3 cups of coffee already and hadn't thrown up yet.

FERRIE then received another phone call from STEVE LITTLETON and his wife and joked with LITTLETON's wife about how he knew that she had dated LEE HARVEY OSWALD and that he was going to tell Garrison on her. She must have told him that she had seen his picture in the paper and he replied that he didn't like it because it made him look unphotogenic. She also must have asked FERRIE if it was him that some people identified with somebody or at some place and he said that the people are mistaken or he had a common face. After he hung up the phone, we told him we had to leave. FERRIE said he had more to tell us about the "one shot theory". We told him to save it for another day as it was dark already and we had to meet Garrison. I then asked him if he would like to tell me some more about his trip to Hammond and he smiled and said "Go to hell". I then asked if he stayed with CLAY SHAW. He said, "Who's CLAY SHAW?" I said, "All right, if that doesn't ring a bell, how about CLAY BERTRAND?" He said, "Who's CLAY BERTRAND?" I said, "CLAY BERTRAND and CLAY SHAW are the same person." He asked, "Who said that?" I said, "Dean Andrews told us." He said, "Dean Andrews might tell you guys anything. You know how Dean Andrews is." FERRIE then started to go into another lecture and we told him we had to go. He followed us down the stairs and walked out on the sidewalk with us. FERRIE asked Ivon to be sure and call him. Ivon assured him he would and we left.

had to be interviewed.

VOLZ: That was 61-62

FERRIE: Could have been 63.

VOLZ: Do you recall where you stayed in Galveston?

FERRIE: No.

VOLZ: Do you recall where you stayed in Alexandria?

FERRIE: No. My only source would be the FBI.

VOLZ: You are positive that all three of you came back together?

FERRIE: That is my recollection. The only way I would know for sure would be to call Mr. Wall or the individual.

VOLZ: But you are positive it was just the 3 of you that went and came back? Have you ever gone to Dallas?

FERRIE: Yes, I was in Dallas in March or April of this year.

VOLZ: How about around that time you went to Houston?

FERRIE: Thank God, no. As Gill said, if I had been in Dallas, I would have been in jail.

VOLZ: Since it came up earlier, you said you were supposed to have taught Oswald how to shoot a rifle. Have you ever taught anybody how to shoot a rifle.

FERRIE: Yes. This was in the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. Teach them how to shoot a .22 and sometimes something heavier. It is part of the program.

VOLZ: Did you teach any of these boys who were on the trip with you how to shoot.

FERRIE: Coffey, I don't know. Beauboef was a born hunter.

VOLZ: How about Brownlee?

FERRIE: He likes the outdoors but whether he goes hunting I don't know. He is the type that would collect botanical specimens or if he did hunt he would use a bow and arrow instead of shooting.

VOLZ: You say Morris wasn't interested in guns.

FERRIE: I don't know one way or the other. Morris always seemed to come up with an amazing fund of information on all kinds

thing. At this moment my recollection of Morris is that his interests would be physics, rocketry, electronics and philosophy.

VOLZ: Was he ever on these cadet training encampments that you were talking about.

FERRIE: I don't recall one way or the other. If you are interested in completing this thing I will try to remember and write this down for you.

VOLZ: What are you doing now?

FERRIE: Flying.

VOLZ: For anybody in particular?

FERRIE: Flying for myself. Flight instructions. One of your former associates is one of my customers. Jerry Aurillio.

I feel reasonably confident that the FBI agents who worked on this would cooperate and I could get other names, the times and everything else because at that time we had to work out a rather fabulous time schedule. They worked out Oswald's and mine, too. Then I could give you more definite answers.

VOLZ: The two boys that you went to Texas with, were they in your unit at the time.

FERRIE: I was not in Civil Air Patrol at that time.

VOLZ: Do you know if they knew Morris?

FERRIE: Yes, I think so. In what connection and to what depth I am not sure.

VOLZ: What was Coffey's first name?

FERRIE: Melvin. He worked at Michoud.

VOLZ: When was the last time you saw Coffey or Beauboef?

FERRIE: I see Beauboef routinely but Coffey not for a long time. He was upset about this because of his job.

VOLZ: Who does Beauboef fly for?

FERRIE: He is not employed as a pilot. He is looking for that kind of employment.

VOLZ: Do you know what he is doing now?

FERRIE: Working for his father-in-law in a meat packing place.

Chalmette Meat Packing Company. His address is 6702 N. Villara,

in Arabi.

VOLZ: Do you make a decent living with this flying?

FERRIE: I make a living, I don't know how decent it is.

VOLZ: Do you do any charter flying?

FERRIE: Occasionally.

VOLZ: Have you done any charter flying in the 60's?

FERRIE: In the first part of 1961...Up until August, '61 it was all air carrier.

VOLZ: For an airlines?

FERRIE: Eastern.

VOLZ: During that time in your spare time did you do any flying?

FERRIE: Civil Air Patrol, instructions on the side.

VOLZ: Did you do any charter work?

FERRIE: It is prohibited. Martin had me going to Cuba. It was in the newspapers... in a 110 mile an hour airplane with four hours of gas.

VOLZ: Were you doing any charter flying at the time when he accused you of this?

FERRIE: No. I was supposed to be working for the airline. I was also supposed to have gone in 1963. Klein asked if that summer I had been in Cuba. That was some more of Jack Martin. Is Pershing Gervais still around?

VOLZ: No, he is not in our office anymore. Do you want to see him?

FERRIE: Not especially. I just wanted to refer you back to him as to why I am in here this morning. I am thinking about Martin's personality. Martin somehow gets to be near the bride at every wedding and the corpse at every funeral. He somehow gets involved in civil and criminal affairs. Martin gets in on all these interesting little things. He tried to get Pershing Gervais on brutality. There was a big mess for a few days. I have sort of been speculating on why I am here and I think I can see it. There have been a number of books criticizing

the Warren Report and I think Jack Martin would have seized on this because this is exactly his type of meat. I imagine he would come to someone like Frank Klein, Pershing Gervais or Jim Garrison and sometimes Martin convinces himself on his confessions, sometimes he doesn't. I know he was in the psycho ward in Charity for a while and was in the psycho ward in Texas. He used to run a diploma mill in Texas.

VOLZ: You feel he is responsible for your being here today?

FERRIE: Yes, I feel it is a possibility.

VOLZ: Have you read any of these articles?

FERRIE: No, I am too busy trying to earn a living. I do know I have seen statements regarding Governor Connolly. I have got nothing to hide. But I have been trying to figure out for the last two days what I was being subpoenaed for and I tried calling everybody to find out what it was all about. I tried Gill, he didn't know anything. The reason I am on this Martin thing is that Gill tells me 3 or 4 days back Martin called him and wanted to know where I was, where I was working and how I could be reached. Gill and I speculated over various possibilities and this Kennedy thing was one of them.

VOLZ: Would you be willing to submit to a polygraph?

FERRIE: Certainly, I would be willing to submit to truth serum.
I have no hesitation at all.