

Martin file

Today is Tuesday, December 13, 1966, my name is Louis Ivon, Investigator for the District Attorney's Office. We are in the Fountainbleu Motor Hotel. We have a radio transmitter and a tape recorder hooked up and will be used in this interview of one Jack Martin. This interview will be of Jack Martin in the effort to gain more information and knowledge of David William Ferrie. The interview will be conducted by Pershing Oliver Gervais in Room 125 of the Fountainbleu and I, Louis Ivon, will be in Room 119 recording the interview. This interview is for the purpose of gaining additional information on David Ferrie, as Jack Martin in the past has given us information on David Ferrie in connection with Lee Harvey Oswald. The time is 12:35pm

MARTIN: First, I have some names you might like to write down, names of people that have complete files on David Ferrie and I refer to these people along the lines of your conversation. Richard Robby is an investigator in the Office of Compliance & Security, Federal Aviation Division in Washington, D.C. Anything I tell you, he will be able to affirm it. There is a local cat around who is mixed up in a narcotics deal and he has been pardoned and he is Ferrie's godson. You could probably sweat him out. His name is Morris Brownlee. He plays with a bunch of queers in the Quarter.

GERVAIS: What does he do?

MARTIN: I don't know what the hell this man does. I don't think Morris knows what Morris does. He could be making LSD right now.

GERVAIS: Brownlee?

MARTIN: Yeah, that's right.

GERVAIS: He has that kind of ability?

MARTIN: Oh, yeah, absolutely; he is studying to be a medical doctor. He went to medical school. He got booted when busted by the Narcotic Squad and he has been pardoned on it. These people are worried, he has a hell of a chemical laboratory.

GERVAIS: Where does he live?

MARTIN: I don't know. I could probably look in the phone book. There is only three or four Brownlee's in the book.

GERVAIS: Morris Brownlee?

MARTIN: That's right.

GERVAIS: Now, Brownlee is Morris's godson?

MARTIN: That's right.

GERVAIS: Where did he meet him at first? Do you remember?

MARTIN: I don't know, sir. -I know they met probably here in New Orleans and he is in contact with Ferrie and Ferrie obviously doesn't want to keep in contact with him at all.

Ferrie?

GERVAIS: He never wants to keep in contact?

MARTIN: Uh huh. I used to have his number with me. I might have it here somewhere. Oh! Here it is. 833-6444. I am pretty sure that's right, and his address is 4728 Jefferson Hwy. I'm pretty sure that's the right address.

GERVAIS: You think that's where he lives?

MARTIN: That's right.

GERVAIS: Who lives there with him?

MARTIN: Hugh L. Brownlee, Jr.

GERVAIS: Who's that?

MARTIN: I don't know, some relative.

GERVAIS: He is related?

MARTIN: Yeah.

GERVAIS: Are they close?

MARTIN: Oh, yeah.

GERVAIS: Did you ever meet Hugh?

MARTIN: Yeah, but I never been at any of these places.

GERVAIS: Well, how did you know he had a laboratory in his house?

MARTIN: Well, because he wanted me to come out there and do some work with some acids one day.

GERVAIS: Oh, yeah? He does this kind of stuff too?

MARTIN: I don't know his particular line, but I have spoken to him about it and then I got to wondering about whether he was fair torpedoing at Ferrie; and then, after I busted with Ferrie, I thought I'd better go. I didn't want to get involved too much with him. You know? Now they've moved since all this.

GERVAIS: You think maybe a studio in the Quarter?

MARTIN: I don't know, but you know this guy is a bio-chemist.

GERVAIS: A bio-chemist?

MARTIN: Yes siree, he's a good one; whether he's qualified in school or not, I don't know, but he has started to study medicine. One of the guys who is a prominent doctor today is trying to study with him.

GERVAIS: Do you know what school he studied at?

MARTIN: Probably L.S.U.

GERVAIS: Are you guessing, or are you sure?

MARTIN: This guy was a student of a friend of mine, who is now a medical doctor, in fact, the man I am speaking of is in Viet Nam. You couldn't get a hold of him. Ferrie converted him into Catholicism.

GERVAIS: How did they get close to him?

MARTIN: I don't know. This is before I met Ferrie or Morris. Now, of course, you know G. Wray Gill, Sr.?

GERVAIS: Yes.

MARTIN: Barney ? (or Berney) works for him. Barney blackmailed G. Wray Gill with Brownlee. That's how they got to Carlos Marcello for a lot of money so that they can get the gas station out there and Barney went South with it.

GERVAIS: With the gas station?

MARTIN: No, the money.

GERVAIS: Did they ever run a gas station with it?

MARTIN: Yes, it was a Gulf Station.

GERVAIS: Where?

MARTIN: Out on Veterans Hwy. and Causeway Blvd. It was in that vicinity out there.

GERVAIS: A Gas Station?

MARTIN: A garage with a whole bunch of spicks out there.

GERVAIS: Do you know for a fact that they really got it?

MARTIN: Yeah, they were in it, they were operating because they were on television on Chanel 4 as Gulf Distributors at that address. That's why I stepped in and checked it out.

GERVAIS: You mean they had a picture of them?

MARTIN: Yeah, they had a picture of them. David Ferrie, Porter. You know how they come through the Chanel 4 News. Oh, this has been a couple years ago, about a year ago, I'd say.

GERVAIS: Carlos Marcello put up the money for them?

MARTIN: That's right.

GERVAIS: They would have to see G. Wray Gill?

MARTIN: That's right. Now there is a George A. Hyde (George Augustin Hyde). I understand that he is in Atlanta, Georgia. I don't have his address with me, but I could get it. He used to be in Washington, D.C. Now Geo. Hyde is a clandestine, no he's not a clandestine, he's a real Orthodox Bishop in the Orthodox Catholic Church. Now Hyde was real close to him. (to Ferrie) Ferrie had conned Hyde into ordaining him to come in and let him operate the church monthly for him. Right after that, Hyde left Washington and went to Georgia.

or Alabama. He's operating down there now and he has a bunch of roadside signs and chapels out and stuff. I understand that's where Ferrie was operating with George Hyde. I don't know for certain. Now here is another name who has a file on Ferrie. In a minute you'll find out how he got all his trip connections in New Orleans. Now there is an Alexander Turner. This guy is real legitimate. This guy is a ? in a real Syrian Church out of New York.

GERVAIS: This man's name is Turner?

MARTIN: T-u-r-n-e-r. Turner.

GERVAIS: What is he?

MARTIN: He is a hypermanline, like a monsignor. He is with the Syrian Fathers in the Syrian Orthodox Church. He is in Mt. Vernon, New York, on King's Bridge Road, NW, No. King's Bridge Road, W. Mt. Vernon, New York. Ferrie had made application to Monsignor Turner to the priesthood in the Syrian Orthodox and almost had it locked up. This was after he left Egypt. He almost got into it. That's when the Metropolitan ? was a head of the whole Syrian Church here in the United States, was about to ordain Ferrie in New York and Turner wrote me asking what I knew about the man and I sent him copies of the newspaper files in the Times Picayune and it is still ?. Now Turner has got a whole bunch of stuff on Ferrie. Ferrie continued to correspond with him after that. I know Hyde and Turner real well. Now, Regis Kennedy of the FBI. Regis investigated Byrd's (?) connection with the Jack Ruby's ? with the Oswald Case. A man who can find Ferrie and Oswald right here in this city is Kenny Arthis. Arthis, the old man who's erratic. He calls up the radio station and talks about the dirty deals. You know the old man who put out the monkey picture against Dowling, located at 520 Camp Street around Lafayette Square. He does nothing. He's retired. He just copies the Nazi newspapers and fights segregation.

GERVAIS: He sounds like a nut!

MARTIN: Yeah, he is.

GERVAIS: Well, how can you believe what he says?

MARTIN: Well, Lee Harvey Oswald had offices right door to Jimmy Hodges.

GERVAIS: They maintained an office?

MARTIN: They got one right up in the Newman Bldg, the address on Camp St.

GERVAIS: How come they never came out and how come ? didn't get it?

MARTIN: What the hell, I don't know if they went up there or not, but Jimmy Arthis has all of Oswald's paraphanelia up there and Lee Harvey Oswald used to hang out his banners with this ass-hole Ferrie. Ferrie had a

whole bunch of guns, foreign-made guns he ordered from these mail order deals and Lee Harvey Oswald learned how to order his guns that way. I told that to Regis (Kennedy).

GERVAIS: From Ferrie?

MARTIN: That's right. Ferrie was in Dallas when Lee Harvey Oswald was, but he lied about it and he knew he lied about it. He had his Stinson Voyager (airplane) in Dallas.

GERVAIS: He had what?

MARTIN: His Stinson Voyager in Dallas.

GERVAIS: What is that?

MARTIN: It's his airplane.

GERVAIS: How could you be sure he had his plane in Dallas?

MARTIN: I know he had his plane in Dallas because I used to keep track of the son-of-a-bitch because he was cutting his rope.

GERVAIS: What was the name of the plane?

MARTIN: It was a Stinson Voyager. I tell you, there is more to this Ferrie Cat than what meets the eye. Regis knows about him and I don't think he valued my information very much.

GERVAIS: Now, let's back up?

MARTIN: Alright.

GERVAIS: The best way to start is with Ferrie, the first time you met him.

MARTIN: I had met David Ferrie casually through some Cubans.

GERVAIS: Through some Cubans?

MARTIN: That's right, Sergio Acacha Smith, Phd., Columbia University, formerly with the Cuban Diplomatic Service. He headed the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front.

GERVAIS: Was he living in New Orleans?

MARTIN: Out by the Lake Front, somewhere.

GERVAIS: Was he married?

MARTIN: Yeah, at that time, his wife and children were in Cuba. I helped get them out.

GERVAIS: We'll talk about that after.

MARTIN: Alright. In fact, I have a friend of mine in the Navy. They got his wife and kids in Guantanamo.

GERVAIS: Wait a minute!

MARTIN: Acacha and I were good friends with the Front Navy.

the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front, the anti-Castro movement.

GERVAIS: Where did you meet Acacha?

MARTIN: I had met Acacha through various means, through a couple of friends of mine connected with radio and one thing or another. I happened to run into Acacha. A friend of mine called me one night and I went into the St. Charles Hotel and ordered some coffee and met Acacha.

GERVAIS: You mean a kind of clandestine meeting?

MARTIN: More or less, yeah.

GERVAIS: A secret meeting?

MARTIN: They wanted to turn around and send out some publicity toward Cuba and to talk to the refugees, the people still under Castro's domination and he was just starting to turn Communist at this time. I had formerly been Pro-Castro before he took over and turned Communist. We weren't sure of his standing and I had been in with some people that were Pro-Castro at that time. We were against Batista. So anyway, through Acacha, I met Dave Ferrie. Ferrie was in with Acacha and Dr. Kordonas, he's in Washington. He's presently in Cuba right now. If they take over now, Dr. Kordonas might be present at the killing.

GERVAIS: Do you know his first name?

MARTIN: No, I met him four or five times and the last time I saw Kordonas, it was in Guy Bannister's Office. Now, this is a guy here, he's a colonel, who lives here. He formerly chief of the Secret Police for the Cubans and he strictly anti-Castro, he lives here right in New Orleans.

GERVAIS: What's his name?

MARTIN: I forgot now, I was with him and Bannister one day and we drove him home. He lives out by the Lake Front. Rebel will probably be able to get hold of him. I have Rebel's unlisted phone number at the house. You know Rebel?

GERVAIS: No, who's Rebel?

MARTIN: He is one of the anti-Castro people here who knows the Cubans.

GERVAIS: Rebel?

MARTIN: Yeah, Rebel, they call him.

GERVAIS: Do you know his first name?

No, Mr. Rebel is all I know. I got a number on him. He's got an unlisted number. Well anyway, I met Ferrie through Acacha, and Acacha said "What do you think?"

Where did you meet him at?

MARTIN: Carlos Korego was there incidentally.

GERVAIS: Korego?

MARTIN: Yeah, he's related to Vic Schiro. He's married to one of the girls in the Schiro Family.

GERVAIS: C-o-r-r-e-g-a?

MARTIN: yeah, he was formerly an electrical engineer in Cuba.

GERVAIS: Corrego?

MARTIN: Yeah, his father is stew in St. Thomas Prison. So, anyway, that's Corrego's file.

GERVAIS: So, Acacha introduced you to him?

MARTIN: Yeah.

GERVAIS: Where was this meeting at?

MARTIN: In the St. Charles.

GERVAIS: In the Room?

MARTIN: No, in the Coffee Shop. So, anyway, Acacha tells me I don't trust this guy. Ferrie speaks a good bit of Spanish.

GERVAIS: Ferrie does?

MARTIN: Oh, yeah. He can take the ? -? of the Romans Canons. They go like this: (You would swear he is reading English, but he is reading Latin). He could cold turkey read Greek and he could cold turkey read Latin. I meant it and you will find out why. Well, anyway, I met Ferrie and he didn't trust him after what I knew about him.

GERVAIS: But he arranged the meeting himself? If he arranged the meeting, why would he then say he didn't trust him?

MARTIN: He happened to be there. He barged in on the deal when I was talking to Acacha the second time.

GERVAIS: Whos knew him?

MARTIN: Acacha knew him: I had met Ferrie casually several different times. Then he got up in the St. Chas. Hotel and he'd talk about Communism and Castro, Ferrie did. Now there's a record of this speech he made in the newspaper. This is before he got knocked off in the queer operation. He was talking about Communism and Cuban deal and this and that and other things. Cubans didn't like this bastard. I got along with him. I'M like El Dringo, I take the bitter and the sweet, but I knew these guys and I agreed with them. Anyway, when Lee Harvey Oswald was in here, he was like this.

GERVAIS: Real Close?

MARTIN: Oh, tight, man: Carlos Corrego hated Ferrie with a

passion. He knew things about Ferrie, I had no idea about. Acacha used to accept Ferrie. Oh, he's a bastard and he played FBI with them, he wouldn't talk to the bastards. Acacha was formerly with the Diplomatic Department in Cuba. Anyway, about this time, they started to close in on the Sergio Family, which was fouled up. I got hold of a friend of mine a former FBI. I got hold of an investigator of the Naval O.N.I. (Office of the Naval Intelligence) to get his family down into the Guantanamo Naval Base and have them flown back to New Orleans and seen he got his people back. After that, Sergio trusted me more than he ever did, you know? He told me to lay off Ferrie. In the meantime, Ferrie got in on this deal where he allegedly formed a C.A.P. Squadron (Civil Air Patrol). He seems that all the authorities for C.A.P. claim that they knew nothing about it. He got a bunch of young kids in this C.A.P. and was teaching them judo, close-order drill, extended-order drill, taking them on camping trips, this that and other things, like a scout master. There was a kid involved in this mess by the name of Kruschet. Everytime he flunked this kid, Kruschet, Kruschet's father got mad and came to the New Orleans Police about it. Two Juvenile Police Officers, I forgot their names, went with the Jefferson Parish Police to Ferrie's house and they made a raid and discovered a catch of arms, chemistry equipment, laboratory equipment, vast library and radio equipment and other electronic devices and all this military equipment there.

GERVAIS: Where was Ferrie living at in Jefferson Parish?

MARTIN: On Athenia Drive, at that time. It was highly publicised at the time. The story was written by Herman Kohlman. Kohlman went on the raid with them, he was there. He found all these foreign-made guns there just like the one that killed President Kennedy. Now, between the time I met Ferrie and this took place, he had known Lee Harvey Oswald intimately. Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly belonged to his nonexistent C.A.P. Squadron. This is heresay. I understand that Ferrie's C.A.P. Squadron had no official standing and as far as the C.A.P. was concerned, it was nonexistent.

GERVAIS: Now let me ask you this: How can you be sure that Ferrie was intimately involved with Oswald?

MARTIN: Well, for merely listening to them. I met Oswald at his house one time in Ferrie's home in front of Ferrie's mother, who is now dead. She died a very quick death. I'll get into that later.

GERVAIS: He introduced you to Lee Harvey Oswald in his house?

MARTIN: Yes, I know it was Lee Harvey Oswald and Brownlee was there too.

GERVAIS: BROWNLEE WAS THERE ALSO?

MARTIN: Absolutely. Brownlee used to go everywhere with them. With Brownlee, there was a tall, skinny colored guy by the name of Phillips. I believe his name is Phillips and he used to pack a rod for Ferrie. He packed a .38 pistol all the time. He drove Ferrie almost everywhere he went and this nigger would be with Ferrie.

There has been several statements made about this niger being up in the Book Depository. This guy was supposed to be Ferrie's Airplane mechanic and this and that. This niger was arrested her and held for three days later. Ferrie got me to get him released and I forget the niger's name, I didn't even write it down.

GERVAIS: What was he arrested for?

MARTIN: Vagrancy on Orleans Avenue.

GERVAIS: When did this happen?

MARTIN: I don't know, after Ferrie's case was dead, he was working for Gill at the time.

GERVAIS: This niger was picked up for Vagrancy? Who did you get to release him?

MARTIN: Judge Babylon, I think. I asked him to please release him and he did.

GERVAIS: And you don't remember where?

MARTIN: No, I don't. Orleans Avenue is all I remember. I think the guy's first name was _____. It's been so long ago and then I sent all this information to Vic Roby. All this crap I sent to Vic because he asked me, when I visited him in Washington. He asked me to send him all this stuff, all the documents. I even had formulas that Ferrie had written out on the Florient Hydrate System of Atomic Energy and this and that and other things. This guy is a brilliant bastard. Don't you kid yourself that he isn't. He bought himself a PhD. from University of Phinyx Minerva in Rome.

GERVAIS: He bought a PhD.?

MARTIN: Yeah, Hell, yeah, you can buy four Ph.D.'s.

GERVAIS: Who he bought it through?

MARTIN: Rural Publications out in New York. I'll get the name and address for you if you want it. Well anyway he bought a PhD with a phony transcript. Now, to get back to the story. Ferrie got into this trouble and got knocked off and he went with me to Guy Bannister's one morning. He asked me "Jack, can you help me?" I told him, I didn't know. Guy Bannister didn't come in that morning so Ferrie left. So, a couple days later, Ferrie got knocked off again for intimidating a State Witness. He went out and tried talking to this kid, Kruschet, about dropping charges against him. So Kruschet's father got the New Orleans Police after him and he was charged again. The next morning, I'm sitting in Bannister's Office again and Ferrie came up and said "Jack, I want to talk to you." _____? _____? I had an affair with him and Ferrie gave me \$100 bill. Now I'm sticking my own neck out.

GERVAIS: Don't worry about it.

MARTIN: I'm not worried about it. So anyway he gives me a

\$100 bill and says, I'll try to do what I can, so he says can you help me. He was afraid of his bond in Jefferson Parish. This guy was going to go off his bond over there. So, I, like a god damn idiot introduced him to Hardy Davis and Hardy Davis takes Ferrie for five bills (\$500) and then he takes him for another \$1000. Hardy Davis recommends him to Gill who get \$1500 and then they were supposed to give Louis LaClour \$500 to kill the case. One day I was talking to Mrs. Ferrie (Davis's Mother) on the phone that Dave was a brilliant man and that he knew a lot about the church and dave's mother told me he should, he is a former priest, he left the church in Grace. I asked her if he was a secucular priest or was he with an order. He was a precious blood bottle.

GERVAIS: Precious blood bottle?

MARTIN: The confraternitiy of precious blood. In the meantime, I was still talking to his mother who said he left the Roman Church in Grace by the skin of his teeth. So, I called David and asked him to come over and see me and he did. I told him what his mother had said and that this might be the leak hurting his case. That night, he put his mother on a plane and shipped her back to Philadelphia and two weeks later she died. That woman was in pretty good health. There was nothing wrong with that old lady.

GERVAIS: What is Ferrie's brother name?

MARTIN: I don't know. He's mixed up in a nuclear business some kind of a way. He's an atomic scientist. So, anyway, Ferrie starts to get his business straightened out with the airlines and they got a deal with G. Wray Gill as G. Wray Gill's representative. Gill put him to work as a half-assed investigator to research briefs for him and Gill paid him a little money. Ferrie got Brownlee in there and from Gill's own lips to me they got into my files and they're shaking me down and Gill got tried of Brownlee and through his ass out. He run him off. I do happen to know, I can't tell you how I know, but it's damn reliable, that Ferrie was in Dallas at least in Fort Worth two days before the assassin of President Kennedy. I understand he was to fly three people from there to Laredo, Texas, either there or Matamorris, Mexico. That's all I know. I'll tell you who Acacha last worked for when he was here. Acacha worked for the Public Relations man in the Cagali Bldg. who handled Schiro's campaign for the mass race.

GERVAIS: Was Acacha a Latin type kid with a crewcut?

MARTIN: Yeah, That's Brownlee, he's jewish. Ferrie converted Brownlee to Catholicism, he's jewish but he looks Latin American and speaks Spanish. In fact, he's in the habit of shaving his head sometimes. He's about 5'7" or 5'8" tall.

GERVAIS: What does he do for a living?

MARTIN: I don't know.

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GERVAIS: Have you said anything that identifies Brownlee with Oswald?

MARTIN: Outside the fact that Brownlee is sadistic as hell.

GERVAIS: Did you ever see Brownlee in Oswald's company?

MARTIN: Not when Ferrie was there. But I imagine he could have been. There was a lot that went on that I didn't know about. I'm going to tell you the truth. I don't want to know too much about this Kennedy shit for several reasons. One of the reasons is that the landlady in Fort Worth, I know her.

GERVAIS: Did they ever drop the name of Dean Andrews in there?

MARTIN: Dean Andrews, who?

GERVAIS: Dean Andrews, an attorney?

"STATIC INAUDIBLE - PHONE RANG"

GERVAIS: All these things you're telling me, did you tell to Regis Kennedy?

MARTIN: Part of it. What are you looking for?

GERVAIS: A complete picture of the mystery of Dave Ferrie.

"STATIC"

GERVAIS: We're interested in this Cuban thing.

MARTIN: I haven't been active with the Cubans at all, in a long time. I got a certificate, I was one of their Supply & Training Officers along with Grady Durham.

GERVAIS: Who's Grady Durham?

MARTIN: Yeah, He was mixed up in this too, he offered to incorporate us.

GERVAIS: Who was the head man for the Cuban movement?

MARTIN: Well, there were the friends of Cuba and Grady Durham incorporated that for a man by the name of Bill Dyzel.

GERVAIS: What I'm talking about, who was the head man for the Cuban Movement?

MARTIN: Acacha.

GERVAIS: He was the head man?

MARTIN: Right, he came here from Miami.

GERVAIS: He was the only one?

MARTIN: The Public Relations' man Ronnie Care of Ronnie Care and Associates, Inc. 309 Hillary, 866-8260, Sergio Acacha worked for him last after he left the Front.

"STATIC-TELEPHONE RANG SEVERAL TIMES"