

January 18, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FROM: GEORGE ECKERT, INVESTIGATOR

RE: INTERVIEW OF SAM NEWMAN, W/M, Age 50 Years.
(Former owner of Newman Bldg., 544 Camp St.)

I interviewed Mr. Sam Newman at 1:30 P.M. on January 18, 1967 with regard to Guy Banister & Associates and the "Free Cuban Movement".

Mr. Newman told me at this time that he didn't have any of his records as he had given all of them to the F.B.I. and the U. S. Secret Service. Mr. Newman asked me whether or not the Office of the District Attorney or I was investigating the death of President Kennedy. I told him it was something stemming from this. He then told me he had heard about this before and that one Jack Martin told him that he would probably be called upon to be interviewed.

Mr. Newman told me that when he bought the building from Metro Realty (Mr. Copping), Guy Banister had already been a tenant in the building; that he could not remember any dates because he didn't have his records; but that during the time he owned the building Guy Banister had owed him back rent (amount unknown); that when Banister got into trouble with the Internal Revenue, all the furniture in Banister's office had been seized, including the files. Mr. Newman purchased all the office furniture including 5 filing cabinets, from the Internal Revenue hoping he could recover some of the money owed to him for back rent. The office furniture he kept and he can't remember what had happened to it. The 5 files (metal cabinets and contents) were sold to Mrs. Banister for \$25.00 (date unknown). She had them removed from his building on Camp Street to her home on Canal Boulevard.

Mr. Newman said that he could not remember the names of the people who were his tenants back in 1963, but that many of them owed him back rent when they left. Mr. Newman also told me that the Federal people and the Secret Service have questioned him on several occasions about the "Fair Play For Cuba Movement" and the people involved, and that they would have all of the information. He said he could not remember anything at all about 1962 and 1963 without his records.

It is the opinion of the interviewer that Mr. Newman was annoyed by the interview and it appeared that he did not want to become involved in this investigation, therefore, the interview was very short.

GEORGE ECKERT

Statement of SAM NEWMAN made in the Office of the District Attorney on Tuesday, January 24, 1967.

SERGIO ARCACHA-SMITH and CARLOS QUIROGA ran the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front from 544 Camp Street the last three months in 1961. This was from a building I then owned, known as the Newman Building. There was a man -- short, middle-aged and bald Cuban -- who came over to see them occasionally from the Audubon Building. He kept their books. He also attended their meetings.

They left a great amount of literature when they left and I threw this out. They never paid any rent. ARCACHA-SMITH would say that the money was going to come from Miami. I called a man there (I believe it might have been VERONA) and he said he would send it, but he never did.

They had a short wave radio and QUIROGA seemed to be working on it all the time.

GUY BANISTER talked me into letting them move in. He said I would get my money from them. After they left 544 Camp, ARCACHA and QUIROGA hung around BANISTER'S office. They often had coffee at the Mancuso Cafe. JACK MARTIN was often with them. I saw them occasionally with DAVID FERRIE.

BANISTER stayed with me until he died. He owed me eight months rent.

I remember when BANISTER pistol whipped JACK MARTIN. He had told him not to hang around and MARTIN came back anyway. This happened in GUY BANISTER'S office. I asked BANISTER what happened and he had warned MARTIN to stay out and he didn't. This was several days later when I talked to BANISTER that he told me about this. HUGH WARD hung around there quite a bit. He worked for BANISTER and loaned him some money. I recall him as being very young and he seemed to me too young to be a pilot.

MRS. BANISTER got the records. They were locked in five files (some labeled confidential). I sold the file cases (with all the files locked in them) to MRS. GUY BANISTER. She is now in Monroe. I believe that she would be cooperative about letting them be viewed. She does nursing work in Monroe.

A man named GERDES worked at BANISTER'S office for quite a while until, I believe, he had some sort of run in with BANISTER. I will obtain GERDES full name later. NEWBROUGH spent a lot of time there and was a close friend of MARTIN.

EUGENE DOOLING had an office in the building for about three months. I believe that this was in 1961. Later on he would come in and visit BANISTER'S office.

SAM NEWMAN