

BBC Panorama 3/6/78

ROLL 6

Wm. George Gaudet

- 6 -

Int.

What other things?

Mr.G.

Well, for example, when they first chairman of the committee named to open the investigation, Mr. Gonzalez, from Texas, he called me and he pointed out to me many things in ~~the~~ dossier which he said would fill a volume, some of which were true and some of which were not true, and this was when actually I first started to get suspicion, and then the series of... well, let's look at the facts of the matter. Since this story first broke out about me, no one knew what I was doing, not even my office help not even my own wife.

Int.

They did not know you were doing CIA work?

Mr.G.

No one.. no one knew it, and I kept everything to myself, and yet suddenly virtually every newspaper of any consequence in the United States has either called or been here to see me, and, as you know, other networks have called me and have been here, so that I'm in the Warren Commission Report any number of times, and yet the Warren Commission never, not once, called me to ask me what did I think, so I'm wondering what is this all about.

Int.

Why do you think they never called you?

Mr.G.

I have no idea, and yet... He is now dead, but a member of that Commission was a very close personal friend of mine - the late Hale Boggs. He knew me by my first name and I knew him ~~by~~ by his first name, and yet they never called me and they knew I was very easy to reach. Why...why they didn't call me, when ~~they~~ my memory was fresh? Because I remember going to Mexico in 1963. Why did I go? I don't know. I mean, on that particular trip, I was going to Mexico so often that, to me, someone, somewhere, has been trying to place Bill Goday in a spot that he does not rightfully deserve. Now, I don't

Mr.G.

Yes, he was. I knew him because he was in at the International Trade-Mart for quite a few days. That's where I had my office - which was on Camp and Common in New Orleans. And he was there, distributing pamphlets for, I think, "Fair Play for Cuba". Who the "Fair Play for Cuba" committee was, I don't know, whether it was anti or pro Castro. I do know that I saw him one time with a former... I think he was an FBI agent and a man by the name of Guy Bannister, and Guy of course is now dead. What Guy's role was in all of this I.. I really don't know, but I did see him discussing various things with Bannister at the time and I think Bannister knew a whole lot of what was going on. Now, I think Bannister is a name that has come in and out of the Warren Commission Report.

Int.

Was Bannister working for the CIA, with the anti-Castro Cubans?

Mr.G.

If he was, I did not know it. He well could have been. But the CIA worked in such a fashion that your best friend could be working with the CIA and you wouldn't know it, so this is... The CIA just simply didn't tell one person everything you didn't know it. I did many jobs for the CIA and it wasn't until later that I found out what I was really working on.

Int.

What was your impression of Oswald?

Mr.G.

He was a very nervous, frail, weak man, and, as a matter of fact, my own office wanted me to do a story for our magazine on him, and I vetoed that because I didn't think he had enough strength of character and when the news came out that he had shot Kennedy it was a complete and total shock to me.

ROLL 7

147 TAKE 1

Int.

I'm going to ask you again about the Embassy and the visa thing.

Mr. Goday, how do you account for the fact that your name is next to Lee Harvey Oswald on the visa list for Mexico at the.... I'll ask you again.

Mr. Goday, how do you account for the fact that your name appears next to Lee Harvey Oswald's on the list of visas for Mexico City at the Consulate in New Orleans?

Mr. Goday

I really can't, except that his name was either before or after mine, actually, because I cannot deny I did go to the Consulate and get my visa. It was a tourist card, actually, and that's all you needed at that time, and er.. so ~~HEM~~ Harvey Oswald must have gotten it at the same time. I mean, either just before me or just after me, but I... as I said before, I do not recall seeing Oswald in the Consulate when I was there.

Int.

Are you saying that the fact that your name is next to his is pure coincidence?

Mr. G.

I've got to have to insist that it was pure coincidence - that I will be strongl emphatic about. It was pure coincidence and er... because I certainly hadn't discussed it with him because I hadn't talked to him, and er.. as I said earlier about my name not being on there - I was not referring to that - but I was referri to a list which was sent to the FBI by th United States Embassy, which they got fro the Mexican Government, and when they ge this list, as I understand it, my name wa not on the list of those who got visas that day. I cannot account for why my name was not on that list, and it actually should have been on it. Now, again,



who was responsible I don't know. People have inferred that maybe they found out because of my CIA connections it would be better my name was deleted from that list. I have no control over what the CIA did or didn't do down in Mexico or what the Mexican Government did.

Int.

There are rather a lot of coincidences though, aren't there?

Mr.G.

Yes, there are. This is why I told you, going back to what I said to you earlier.

Int.

I'll ask the question again.

There are rather a lot of coincidences though, aren't there?

Mr.G.

Yes, I must admit that, there are lots of coincidences and they do tie me in in a lot of ways with many things. I can't deny it.

Int.

What do you think Oswald's role really was?

Mr.G.

I think he was a Patsy. I think he was set up, and I think he was set up on purpose, and er... because I can't conceive of this man - I still can't - of being a man who had...well, the courage to go ahead and also the ability to do this. Let him have the courage but I don't see the ability, because this took a man of ability if he's going to do this

Int.

Is that part of the CIA way of going about things, to set people up?

Mr.G.

I wouldn't say the CIA did it, no. I don't believe the CIA WOULD have done such a thing. In my experience with the CIA they never did set me up as a pigeon. They've always shot as square as anyone. They told me frankly when I did things that if something went awry they would never recognise me or admit who I was, but I knew this in the beginning, so if I made a mistake that was just tough, and I knew it.