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Q. Wednesday, July 10, 1968, and we are with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Geraci II. As of now, I'm just testing the volume.

Mrs. - except that as far as we know. I know that I have always been honest with them and I feel certain that Philip has always been honest.

Q. Let me play this back.

Mrs. - with the people who have asked us questions.

Q. Yes. Let me play this back to check the volume. Now, would you begin by making a record of what Philip told you or what you know about when and how many times and for what purpose Philip went to see Carlos Bringuier.

-- ...

Q. Yes.

Mrs. ... This was right after the Cuban - Castro took over Cuba. And Philip was in the Scouts and they were collecting clothing for the Cuban people and the churches were collecting clothing and everybody was all keyed up on doing something for the Cuban people. Uh - Philip had studied Spanish in school and was very interested in the language. And this one day he went to town, he was with a friend, and they walked down Canal Street, you know, towards the river, and he noticed on the side street the sign, Co-~~Co~~groce, and it was Spanish and it caught his eye, so he went down there and there were Spanish papers and books in the store. So he and the friend went in this store -

Q. You remember which friend that was? Was that Bill Dwyer?

Mrs. Uh -

Q. If you're not certain -

Mrs. I am not certain. It could be, I am not certain. I just know he -

Q. Don't say if you're not certain.

Mrs. - did have a friend with him.

Q. Right.

Mrs. Anyhow, they became interested. It drew their attention because it was Spanish. And so they got to talking to the man who owns the store and he said - uh, I think this was Carlos Bringuieros - and he said that he was Cuban and uh - of course, Philip became inter - had already been interested in the Cuban people and he asked if there was anything he could do to help the Cuban people. And Carlos told him no, that the only thing he could do would be to get a good education if he wanted to fight Communism because he was only 14 years old at the time, and he was too young to do anything worthwhile. So, uh - I don't know when it was, but another time he went back. He did go back several times. It was during the summer.

Q. At this point let me interrupt you to make a record of what I told you before we started taping in fairness to you people. I told you that in

his testimony before the Warren Commission which is published; I've told you how to get copies of it, - that Carlos Bringuier said - the import of Carlos Bringuier's testimony is that for the first time Philip entered his store on August 2, 1963. Now I know that's not true, but I wanted the record to show that, before we started the tape, this is in your interest. I told you this. I want the record to show also that before we started to tape I gave you to keep page 8 of the typescript of Philip's testimony where I called to your attention at the top of the page a substantive change where the language that shows that Philip was at Carlos's more times than one was removed. And again in your interest, I'm telling you that I said this was a change made by Wesley J. Liebeler, the lawyer whom you ~~you~~ know questioned Philip. I only interrupted to make an honest record in your interest. Please proceed. One other thing. I also told you that I have a Secret Service report which shows that Philip and Carlos had a written agreement on a sale of bonds dated about June 21, 1963. Now continue.

Mrs. Philip started going to Carlos Bringuier's place in the early summer.

Q. Yes.

Mrs. Right after school closed. And uh - he went several times. When he'd go to town, he'd go there. And uh - he showed us some bonds and told us that he was going to sell them for the Cuban people to raise money for the Cuban people. At this time his father and I both spoke to him and told him that we could not be sure of the intentions of these Cubans, or whether they were good or whether they were Communists, and that he would do better to mind his own business, deliver his papers, collect on his papers route and take care of his own interests, and that he was lucky to be an American boy and he should just act like a normal American kid, go out and have a good time. He was too young to be involved in this political stuff. Well, he didn't listen because he went around and my neighbors told me that he had come to them selling bonds, and they asked me what he was doing collecting this money. Also, somebody called to find out - it might have been Carlos - if he had gotten a permit to go selling these things. I think he had to go to the uh - where do you go to get a permit to sell things house to house?

Q. City Department.

A. Well, this was when I found out Philip was still involved with it, you see. I thought he had given it up. So then I really got onto him and he told me he had already collected money and he had already taken it down there. And I got very annoyed with him, and I told him not to do it any more. We really put our foot down this time. Because we did not know that he was selling these things. We thought that when we told him not to get involved he'd listen to us. So he had gone several times and given money to Carlos because he had receipts for them. And I called Better Business Bureau and I called the FBI to find out if this was a good organization or not.

Q. May I interrupt you at that point. Do you still have copies of those receipts? If you still have those receipts, I'd like to make copies of them. And I hope they are dated. The date could be important... Philip also gave money, as I remember the evidence, after the date that Carlos testified.

Mrs. Well, I think he went in there after Kennedy was killed, too, and I liked to killed him for that. Well, anyhow, Carlos was talking about

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Communism and - you know, the Communists had taken over Cuba -

Q. Carlos always talks about that.

Mrs. - and you know, this was the big thing to talk about. Uh - and he, uh - uh, talked - I told Philip he couldn't be sure whether or not Carlos was a Communist, so the best thing to do would be to avoid the man completely. We didn't know and we weren't sure about him and his character and his involvement and uh -

Q. Carlos is not a Communist, but nonetheless your instincts were good.

Mrs. Well -

Q. I'm making a note of the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Geraci have just given me a shoebox of material and attached to a booklet of 50-cent bonds is a card reading, "I received \$2.50 from the sale of bonds of the Cuban Student Directorate, New Orleans, July 5, 1963, Carlos Bringuier, Delegate." And it is written on the back of a card of the Casa Roca, Mr. Bringuier's place of business at 107 Decatur St. Some of this book of bonds apparently has been sold. There are a few stubs, and there is also a note, "FBI Harrigan, 522 4671" and on the cover - I beg your pardon?

Mrs. That's ...

Q. And on the cover of the bonds, which is stamped DRE, is the name of Alberto Muller, 30 years, and the number 113761-780. I wanted to make that identification, then I'm going to turn it off. We stopped recording while Mr. Geraci was looking through some papers. We've been talking. Philip was in the Civil Air Patrol in the Moisant group. He told his parents he did not know David Ferrie and the commander of the group of which Philip was a member at the time he was a member was a woman. Not David Ferrie. And you have no reason to believe that he knew David Ferrie under any other circumstances. Mrs. Geraci is nodding her head no which doesn't show on here.

Mrs. No.

Q. That's all right. I said it for you. I'll turn it off again while you're looking through the papers. Mr. Geraci has given me a letter on the stationery of the sheriff's office, St. Tammany Parish, dated 4 May 1965. I make a record of this because it dates the time Philip had run away and Mrs. Geraci says that the date on which he left home was April 20, 1965. Mr. Geraci has handed me a letter dated 3 June 1965 on the letterhead of El Frente Alpha 66 MA MRT. It's addressed to both Mr. and Mrs. Geraci. It's signed by Charles A. Steele, Jr., Propaganda Section, and the return address is 109 SW 12th Ave., Fla. Miami, Fla. Uh - the uh - letter refers the Geracis to Mr. Louis Bretis - B like in boy-3115 Elysian Fields Ave., New Orleans. The letter says that Philip had, during the period that he'd run away, made no effort to get in touch with any of the known Alpha 66 people, and here I want to note that before we started taping, the Geracis said that while Philip was interested in Alpha 66, he was never actually a member because he was too young. Jesse LaFontaine also was not a member. The Geracis' opinion is that the reason he was not accepted was because he was more or less of a nut.

Philip made a trip to Mexico and Mr. Geraci has just handed me a certified paper that shows the date. It is exe - the notary is executed on July 7, 1964. It was a paper prerequisite to his going to Mexico and dates his trip into Mexico in the summer of 1964. I've just asked the Geracis if they recall whether on his leaving Mandeville Philip saw Carlos. Mrs. Geraci doesn't know, but Mr. Geraci thinks that he did. And the reason I ask you this is because I understand he did. You see, that was much later. Well after the assas - What are the approximate dates of his being in Mandeville? I think we should make a record of that.

Mrs. From June 1, 1965, round September 1, 1965 -

Q. Yes. Uh -

Mrs. And -

Q. There was no definite diagnosis in terms of a chronic disease or illness. The psychiatrists at Mandeville and others told the Geracis that what Philip had was difficulty in juvenile adjustment that he would outgrow. Is that a fair statement? Right.

Mr. Geraci has just put away the box of materials we were going through, and again we were chatting, and I'm going to paraphrase what he said and if there's anything I say that is incorrect, he'll change it. Philip's library on guerrilla warfare, which included such things as how to make bombs, was kept by the sheriff's office when it was reported that Philip ran away. There was only one book on judo. The publisher of the material on guerrilla warfare that Philip had is Panthre Press of Boulder, Colo. Do you recall about how many books there were or any other titles? Did he have his name on all of them?

Mr. I really don't remember.

Q. Okay. Were there a number of them? More than one?

Mr. Oh, yes. There were six or eight books. They kept them.

Q. Yes.

Mr. He has gotten books from them from time to time.

Q. Yes. Unless there's something else in these papers we've gone over, I think we should go back to some of the things we've discussed before we started taping.

Philip was at the Silver Dollar once, or perhaps twice. Mrs. Geraci remembers once, Mr. Geraci seems to think twice, and neither one knows how he was directed there or how he got there. Correct?

Mr. Yes.

Q. And I've already explained to them that Carlos Bringuier had directed two other people in 1963 to the Silver Dollar. There is also in the file a letter in 1965 from J. Edgar Hoover referring to adding Philip to the missing persons list. And very recently the Geracis have received another letter from Hoover, asking if they want Philip, who hasn't been missing for some years, ~~put~~ on a missing persons list.

Rept

I just asked Mr. and Mrs. Geraci if Philip said/whether he had met Oswald more than one time.

Mrs. I think it was just once.

Q. Do you recall whether you asked him that? Well, let me explain to you that in Philip's testimony and Vance Blaylock's testimony it is clear that they placed the date in July, the middle of July of 1963. Carlos Bringuier places the date at either Aug. 2 or Aug. 5. And there is an inference here that it happened more than one time. There is an inference in other records that it happened more than one time, and that's why I'm asking if he ever gave you any indication.

Mrs. No. He didn't.

Q. Yes. Shall I turn it off?

Mrs. Uh - turn it off ...

Q. We've been discussing whether or not Philip could have seen Oswald more than once and Mrs. Geraci just doesn't know. Is that a fair way to put it?

Mrs. ...

Q. You have no reason to believe he took - yes. That's all.

Mrs. ...

Q. That's right. This is from what he told you. Right. Did he ever discuss it with you, Mr. Geraci?

Mr. ~~Not~~ All of us together, Philip and us.

Q. Yes. Now we were talking before about an incident involving a Mario whose name you seem to remember is what I think it is, that of Mario Bermudaz. Would you care to make a record of that in your own words, including, if you can, the approximate date and a description of the man as Philip gave it to you. Is it fair to say that all you know of this is what Philip told you?

Mrs. Uh ...

Q. Mrs. Geraci asked me to turn the tape off, and while it was off she explained that the first knowledge they had of any connection between Philip and the man we believe is Mario Bermudaz came from Raul Navas, R A W L N A V A S. Also, Peron, P E R O N or P E R R O N, both friends of Philips, talked about this. And also in this context, that Philip ran away to avoid an appointment with a psychiatrist and the Geracis just don't know where he could have gotten the money with which he ran away. Is that a fair statement of what you said when it was off or is there anything you think should be added?

Mrs. No. He didn't have much money. He went because of his appointment with the psychiatrist and I think he told us he only had about \$20 with him, so he went to Jackson and he got a job right away and he got a room and he - he talked the lady into letting him pay her rent at the end of the week instead of in advance, and she felt sorry for him and she did it.

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- Q. And we - we know he had some employment there before he returned. Is there an inference - is it - are you suggesting that in your mind there is a suggestion that Philip may have gotten some money from Mario?
- Mrs. No. He didn't get money from Mario. He - when he ran away, all he had was a few dollars that he had on hand.
- Q. Yes. Uh - did - did Philip tell you that he had had nothing to do with Mario?
- Mrs. Yes.
- Q. That Mario had taken him in his car and had offered - on the second occasion had offered to let him drive the car?
- Mrs. Yes.
- Q. Yes. Uh -
- Mrs. He got out of the car and walked home.
- Q. And that was some considerable distance.
- Mrs. Yes.
- Q. It was along the lake front, was it not, that Philip said Mario had taken him?
- Mrs. Well, it wasn't close to here. It was either the lakefront or Gently or someplace.
- Q. Yes. I think earlier you said "once" to each place, am I correct?
- Mrs. ...
- Q. Is that your recollection?
- Mrs. Yes.
- Q. And all you know of are two occasions with Mario and Philip.
- Mrs. Yes.
- Q. Would Philip tell you anything further about this when you questioned him?
- Mrs. Uh - well, he said he realized how foolish it was and how dangerous it was to get involved with someone like that,
- Q. Yes.
- Mrs. and, uh - you know, I told him that we had always warned him against going with strangers, or people who tried to give you something for nothing. He said he realized that was foolish and he wouldn't have anything else to do with him.
- Q. When we were not taping I think I should record for - to make the record fair to you, we have identified to you Mario Bermudez as a Latin Colombian, has an import-export business, and a man who has a

reputation of having been an associate of Clay Shaw in a number of ways. This was while we were not taping. You also mentioned a Carlos in the same connection. Would you care to make a record of that?

Mrs. ...

Q. Do you remember his last name?

Mrs. I might have been thinking of Mario Figueros(?). I was probably thinking of Mario.
(At this point the tape seems to have been burping every few words.)

Q. That was a misconception. Now, Philip gave you a description of Mario and I think it would be well to repeat it.

Mr. Well, he hadn't said anything about -

Mrs. It wasn't Philip; it was these kids.

Q. In case the microphone didn't pick that up, Mrs. Geraci said it wasn't Philip who gave the description, it was Raul and Kerry. Right.

Mrs. Right.

Mr. They said that he was short, stocky-built, and they gave us all kinds of description of automobiles and said he had two automobiles. One was supposed to be white or light-colored sports car and the other was a stationwagon.

Q. Did they give you any further description as to his complexion, what - whether he had a mustache -

Mr. No. Only that he was Spanish or Latin, but that's about all.

Q. Mrs. Geraci has told me while the tape was off that it was her understanding that this Mario went to the Frost Top, a frozen custard place, to pick up the boys. It was near the high school. She found out about it and she reported this to the school authorities.
I'll turn it off again.
Mrs. Geraci also went to the junior high school.

Mrs. - concerned about this thing, too.

Q. We were discussing the dates on which Philip could have been at Carlos's. And it's Mrs. Geraci's recollection that she took a look in advance downtown when she went to the dentist and that prior to the testimony before the Warren Commission she and the Blaylocks consulted their records -

Mrs. No, it was just us.

Q. Just you. And that whatever date Philip put on it came from this knowledge when he subsequently testified before the Warren Commission.

And Philip and Vance each indicated that it was in July rather than August, and my recollection is about the middle of July.

Mrs. ...

Q. Mr. Geraci just recalled something that Philip had told him that I'm going to ask him to repeat because it is a question that was not asked Philip before the Warren Commission and has to do with the friendliness of the greeting between Oswald and Bringuier.

Mr. This wasn't Philip's exact words, but this was ~~the~~ an inference that I got from what he did say; I don't remember the exact words. But uh - he inferred that, uh, when Oswald and Carlos Bringuieros had met at the store that they met on friendly terms, they shook hands and - and talked in a friendly manner, and he found it strange that a few days later they were fighting on the streets.

Q. Yes. Do you think that covers the entire incident?

Mr. Yes.

Q. Okay.
Mrs. Geraci has just started to explain that because she knew Philip had been to see Carlos Bringuier and because Carlos Bringuier's name had been linked with Oswald, at the time of the assassination, she raised the question with Philip and - it had to do with Oswald - the pictures of Oswald. Please continue.

Mrs. In newspaper and on TV, and Philip said he did not remember seeing the man; he was not familiar. Then there was more news stories, more coverage on TV, but Philip wasn't here for that, he went to camp with the Boy Scouts. So -

Q. That was for part of a weekend?

Mrs. Yes. That was a couple of days. So the next time he saw pictures was when the FBI man came and he had a glossy print. Well, as soon as Philip looked at it, he says, Yes, I've seen that man. And he said where he had seen him. I was completely surprised because he did not recognize what was in the paper or what was on TV.

Q. You're certain that he did not recognize it. It's not just that he didn't tell you the truth.

Mrs. No, I think he was telling me the truth. I don't think he recognized the picture. But it was a different, you know -

Yes.

Mrs. ~~It's~~ A glossy print/ is sharper

Q. Is sharper.

Mrs. And they had a front view and a side view. And this he recognized.

Q. Did you see that picture?

Mrs. Um-hm.

Q. Let me turn the tape off. I want to show you a picture and you tell me if it's that one.

I have shown Mrs. Geraci a series of pictures, including a New Orleans arrest photograph of Oswald, and this suggests the picture that Philip was shown. Is that fair?

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Mrs. Right.

Q. We stopped the tape at this point and I played it back to Mr. and Mrs. Geraci, and they've been thinking, and it's their opinion that Philip was away for part of the weekend probably beginning on Friday afternoon and that the FBI man Harrigan, whose name was earlier identified, didn't come until Monday and probably after school. Mrs. Geraci is not clear on what part of the day and is not clear on whether or not Philip was in school, but I have told her what the testimony of Philip and Vance is, that they had met in school, discussed it, and Philip had told Vance he had recognized Oswald's picture before the FBI man showed it to her and while we don't really know what that is, as we were discussing it, Mrs. Geraci thinks it's possible Philip just thought maybe he didn't want to say. Is that fair?

Mrs. That sounds about right.

A. Yes.

End of tape.