

Dear Paul,

4/20/95

Thanks for your 16 # 1.

Of what is listed under Elrod all that interests me, if it is not long, is #24, that Hard Copy segment transcript.

In #25, as I presume you know, that info was in the WC-records and perhaps in the FBI broadcast transcript.

None of what Solo said has any credibility.

Moreover, if anything like that had happened the CIA's phone taps would have produced some clue to it.

The wording of the memo on the shooting is cute. One time Frazier shot at that speed. But with the overhauled rifle, after he had adjusted to it and the sight, and not at that distance or under those conditions but prone in the FBI's inside range- at a distance of 25 feet.

None of which the memo, which Frazier may well have written, mentions.

Hope all is going well with all of you.

NEVER AGAIN! is again delayed. I've no word on it. It may well be in the stores before I know it is out. I'll have many of them to wrap and mail so if you decide to get one rather than wait until I can get to it will you please let me know? It is ~~not~~ not the cost of the book. It is that I'll have so many to wrap and mail in addition to all ~~else~~ else.

When I get them. With Case Open they sent me about six and then I had to wait until all distribution was made before they sent me a box. This time the boxes will hold about half as many so I'll then have to get more.

Much larger book.

Best
Herold

This list does not include all known released documents on the indicated subjects, and it is somewhat weighted towards items from my own old files. It is basically what I took to COPA with me. Some material has been found since then, and some has been given to me for my own use but not for distribution. There will be much more information in the La Fontaines' book.

When requesting copies, you can refer to these documents as #1994.1 through #65. As usual, items are one page unless specified.

To identify the most interesting items, refer to the La Fontaines' Washington Post article and my commentary in 16 EOC 1. Some of the best material may have the shortest descriptions in this list; I wanted to avoid repetition. Since the list is being sent only to people who have indicated an interest in the Elrod-Nonte-Masen story, and are thus likely to ask for copies, I have not made my usual effort to pick out the key points in these documents consistently.

My thanks to the La Fontaines and to Bill Adams for many of these items.

Edward Scannell Butler:

#1. (14 Oct 67, 2 pp.) PLH transcript of the introductory and concluding remarks of the INCA record "Lee Harvey Oswald Speaks." Sen. Thomas Dodd talks of inviting Ed Butler to come to Washington to testify to his Senate Internal Security Subcommittee "a few hours" after the assassination. Rep. Hale Boggs says this recording helped prompt him to call for a Presidential Commission.

#2. (26 Nov 63 [FBIHQ 105-82555-208, AIB #34]) DeLoach to Mohr, transmitting and summarizing Butler's 24 Nov 63 SISS testimony. The SISS testimony is now available, but I have only a white-on-black copy which will not reproduce well. On a first reading, it looks like testimony meant for public consumption, with none of the sensitive details about Butler or Oswald that I had hoped to find.

#3. (29 Nov 63 [FBIHQ 105-82555-209, AIB #15], 2 pp.) A longer summary of Butler's SISS testimony. This Wannall memo mentions that two Oswald tapes were turned over to William Sullivan by Butler on November 26.

#4. (18 Dec 63) Nine-line FBI interview report given to the Warren Commission (CD 231, p. 18), apparently an insubstantial followup interview of Butler by SA Milton Kaack.

#5. (21 Aug 63 [FBI Exh. D-118; Att. to CD 897]) Photo of plastic WDSU disc recording of "Conversation Carte Blanche," initialed (apparently by SA Kaack) on 22 Aug 63.

#6. (9 Dec 70) PLH FOIA for other Butler interviews (and material on Carlos Quiroga, NO T-5 in CD 75).

#7. (7 May 71, 2 pp.) Letter from Deputy AG Richard Kleindienst, asserting the nonexistence of other reports of Butler interviews (and claiming the investigatory file exemption on Quiroga material).

#8. (5 Jun 71, 5 pp.) PLH letter to AG John Mitchell, appealing various denials and providing additional information and comments on Butler (and Quiroga).

Louis Kutner:

#9. (9 Dec 63) Twelve-line followup interview of Kutner by SA William Roemer (CD 104, p. 23)

#10. (31 Aug 73) PLH FOIA request for the original interview.

#11. (18 Sep 73) Letter from Clarence Kelley, noting that the earlier interview was not sent to the Warren Commission and claiming the investigatory file exemption.

#12. (13 Oct 73) PLH appeal, quoting Chicago Daily News articles.

#13. (27 Nov 73) Acting AG Robert Bork to PLH, denying the appeal.

The "Elrod story" - overview:

#14. (27 Aug 94, WP) Letter from Dallas SAC Buck Revell, in response to the article by the La Fontaines (16 EOC 1, pp. 7-10). Revell mainly focuses on the apparent problems in Elrod's account and doubts about his access to Oswald. Revell mentions that while in the Marines he helped the FBI conduct "a detailed inquiry into [Oswald's] military background at the Marine Corps Air Facility, New River, N.C." Presumably Revell, not Oswald, was in North Carolina - but what inquiry is this?

#15. (3 Sep 94, WP) Response by Ray La Fontaine (on-line version).

#16. (1 Sep 94, 2 pp.) Unpublished letter to the WP from Bill Adams, noting (among other things) the absence of any FBI interview of Elrod - he was, for whatever reason, as much a "suspect" as several other people questioned by the FBI, and he says he was repeatedly questioned by them.

#17. (14 Nov 93, Houston Post, 2 pp.) An earlier article on Elrod by the La Fontaines, unfortunately headlined "Recluse won't tell what he knows of '63 assassination."

John Franklin Elrod:

#18. (22 Nov 63) DPD arrest record for Elrod ("Inv. Murder & Co. Vag")

#19. (8 Dec 63, Dallas Times-Herald) Unbylined story alleging that an "early suspect" (with Elrod's age and address) is still in jail. (The La Fontaines determined that he was out of jail much earlier than this.)

#20. (11 Aug 64, [CD 1472, pp. 116-7], 2 pp.) FBI FD-302, reporting the interview of Elrod in the Shelby County (Memphis) jail.

#21. (12 Aug 64 [CD 1472, p. 118]) Information from Elrod's FBI ID record, which does not reflect incarceration in Dallas in 1963.

#22. (11-13 Aug 64, 2 pp.) Letter from A. Gilless (Shelby County), asking for a record check on Elrod and mentioning his claim of "information concerning the murder of Lee Oswald," and the FBI's reply.

#23. (27-28 Aug 64, 2 pp.) FBIHQ to Memphis, asking what action has been taken, and Memphis' reply (the interview was forwarded to Dallas).

#24. (16 Nov 93, 4 pp.) Transcript of the Hard Copy segment with excerpts from the La Fontaines' interview of Elrod.

#25. (22 Nov 63, 3 pp.) Pages 86-88 of the Arch Kimbrough transcript of the DPD radio log, including the 2:23 dispatcher's message about a white male reportedly carrying a rifle in the Cobb Stadium area.

#26. (22 Nov 63) DPD arrest record for Daniel Wayne Douglas, age 19, held for investigation in the Tippit case apparently for mingling with the police at City Hall.

#27. (25 Aug 64 and 22 Nov 63, 5 pp.) Part of CD 1444 (part is CE 2187), a letter from Curry and records of the phone calls made by Oswald and other jail prisoners.

Donnell Darius Whitter:

#28. (17 Apr 64, CD 847a) M. W. Stevenson (DPD) to Texas AG Carr, transmitting the following report of a Whitter-Ruby link and noting Whitter's arrest.

#29. (5 Apr 64, CD 847b) Lt. Cunningham to Curry, on his discovery that Whitter "took care of Ruby's work for him" at Moralli's service station.

#30. (17 Apr 64) Stevenson to SA Sorrels (USSS), identical to CD 847a.

#31. P. 80 of the list of CD's, indicating a cover letter of 23 Apr 64 (which I do not have) from Carr for CD 847.

#32. (4 May 64) Rowley to Rankin (attention: Griffin), transmitting one page on Whitter (next item) and about 45 pages on the Minutemen.

#33. (29 Apr 64) Arnold Sagalyn to T. Kelley (USSS), summarizing information on the Whitter-Miller case from ATF (which was "not involved").

#34. (5 May 64) Routing slip, Willens to Griffin, asking if anything other than filing should be done with the preceding two items (which were not given a CD number as Willens suggested).

#35. (Mostly Nov 63, 3 pp.) Clippings from Texas papers on Whitter and Miller, mostly about the November 18 arrest, some about the trial and about arrests many years earlier.

John Thomas Masen and Frank Ellsworth:

#36. (16 Apr 64) Griffin to Slawson, re interview with Frank Ellsworth, ATF, about gun dealing, Masen, Manuel Rodriguez, Minutemen, and Hosty. Griffin said "most of this interview was totally uninformative" and the reason for the interview is not clear, but I wonder if Ellsworth was trying to get Griffin interested in something he could not spell out. I suspect that this memo had not been cleared for release when I came across a copy in the Archives in 1973.

#37. (8 May 64, 2 pp.) FBIHQ memo (Brennan to Sullivan), apparently prompted by Hoover's concern about "assistance rendered by Secret Service [directly] to representatives of the Warren Commission." Summarizes a USSS memo (which I do not have) on Griffin's interview of Ellsworth, and the FBI's information on Masen (including a too-brief summary of the Dallas investigation of him).

#38. (23 Aug 76, Village Voice, 3 pp.) "Is the 'Second Oswald' Alive in Dallas?", by Dick Russell, based in part on his interview of Ellsworth.

#39. (14 Jan 64, 2 pp.) ATF to USSS, giving the names and addresses of the eight ATF men who assisted in the search of the TSBD, with a chronological summary of what they did. (From the USSS files.)

#40. (22 Oct & 13 Nov 80, 2 pp.) PLH FOIA based on the previous item, asking for the reports of those agents, and the ATF response - nothing was found, not even the document I submitted.

#41. (25 Jul 78, [pp. 1-27, p. 4 missing], 26 pp.) The first part of the HSCA testimony of Frank L. Ellsworth. This part is nonsubstantive but potentially interesting in ways not quite clear to me; it relates to the exclusion of an ATF attorney and Ellsworth's supervisor from the deposition, and concern about talking about Masen in light of a pending case. It is not clear whether someone did not want Ellsworth talking too much.

#42. (Same document, pp. 28-38, 11 pp.) Mostly on general ATF matters.

#43. (Same, pp. 39-69, 31 pp.) Masen, Nonte, Cubans. Ellsworth clearly knew less of the story than the FBI did in 1963, not to mention what we know now. And the HSCA lawyer (Lee Matthews) apparently did not know as much as he should have either.

#44. (Same, pp. 70-94 [p. 77 missing], 24 pp.) The search of the TSBD, the possibility that he was taken for a Secret Service agent, and his contact with Oswald in custody - his first impression was "he looked like" Masen.

#45. (26 Jul 78, 27 pp.) HSCA Testimony of John Thomas Mason [sic; there may be other transcription errors.] Masen had a bit of a memory problem, apparently compounded by a bit of an attitude problem. Like Ellsworth, he did not then appear to know parts of the story that are in the now-released documents.

Items #46-#51 (74 pages in all) are from the FBIHQ Masen file (105-125147) as I had it when I prepared my COPA talk, and may well not be complete, in light of later releases.

#46. (24-26 Oct 63, through serial 3, 12 pp.) Teletypes prompted by Nonte's report of Masen's approach to him, and record checks.

#47. (28 Oct 63, 2 pp.) FBIHQ memo (Wannall to Sullivan), serial 4 (?), summarizing information from Nonte about Masen. This looks to me like there was a surprising amount of high-level interest inside the FBI, the nature of which is not clear.

- #48. (30 Oct - 7 Nov 63, 17 pp.) Serials 4 (?) through 8, including a 5-page letterhead memo (29 Oct) on Masen, information from Nonte, and the FBI's attempt to identify Masen contact Joaquin Martinez
- #49. (8 Nov 63, 5 pp.) 105-125147-9, with extensive distribution (as noted in 16 EOC 1.4), transmitting another letterhead memo (8 Nov) on Masen.
- #50. (12-26 Nov 63, serials 10-12 and some unserialized items, 10 pp.) Includes the FBI's attempt to identify George Perrel (including Hosty's airtel of 15 Nov), and Nonte's report on a letter from Masen and a phone call on November 19, seeking weapons.
- #51. (29 Nov 63 - 28 Aug 64, serials 13-27, 28 pp.) Includes information from ATF and other sources on Masen's arrest and the subsequent disposition of his case (mentioning his representation by Pete White), the ongoing search for Perrel and Martinez, and a version of #37 with ATF and USSS agent names deleted.
- #52. (Mar 64, CD 897 (pp. 82-4, 86-7, 112-3), 7 pp.) FBI search for Dallas sources of Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition, including two interviews of Masen, with no reference to his Internal Security - Cuba case.
- #53. (August(?) 1994, 2 pp.) The abstract of Carol Hewett's COPA talk on "The John Thomas Masen Story." (This may not reflect all the revisions made during her actual presentation.)
- #54. (3 Oct 94, 4 pp.) Hewett to ARRB Executive Director David Marwell, submitted for the ARRB hearing of October 11.
- #55. (1982, 18 pp.) Catalog sent out by John Masen, "supplier of the finest in survival weaponry parts, accessories and related equipment." Listed as a souvenir only; there is no overt politics.
- #56. (20 May 64, 2 pp.) Rankin letter to Hoover, asking about Cuban groups, left-wing groups, and the Minutemen.
- #57. (8 Jun 64, 2 pp.) FBIHQ memo (Bland to Sullivan, describing available material and reluctance to "blindly comply" with the request.
- #58. (23 Jul 67, 3 pp.) Hoover to Rankin, listing CP and SWP reports shown to the Commission but not kept, and noting no 1963 Texas investigation of the Minutemen. (The letter, without the FBI's internal note, is CD 1286.)

Cubans:

- #59. (24 Apr & 17 Jan 64, CD 853 [cover letter and part a], 4 pp.) Secret Service report on "Manuel Rodriguez - Reaction by Cuban Exile Community to [JFK's] Death." Mentions Ellsworth, Masen, Parrel, Coyle (CIC), et al.
- #60. (26 May 64, CD 1085U, 6 pp.) FBI report on Manuel Rodriguez Orcarberro, who denied the report that he had made derogatory statements against JFK. He described Alpha-66 activities in Dallas, including the meetings at the home of Jorge Salazar, "3128 Hollandale."
- #61. (1 Dec 63, from CD 23, 3 pp.) A sighting of "Oswald" in a car with Cubans at a service station in Oklahoma on November 17. The Cuban doctor who was visited said that Manuel Rodriguez "possibly did resemble Oswald."
- #62. (Aug 63, Bringuier Exh. 3-4, 2 pp.) As discussed, 16 EOC 1.5.
- #63. (14 May 64, 11 pp.) Hubert & Griffin memo to Rankin on the "Adequacy of Ruby Investigation," proposing further work.
- #64. (16 Apr 64, 3 pp.) Griffin to Slawson, re interview with Odio's psychiatrist, who essentially supported the more interesting Connell version of Odio's story. For example, Odio told Dr. Einspruch "that she had seen Oswald at more than one anti-Castro Cuban meeting." Like #36, this item had probably not been cleared for release when I found it in the WC's Odio file.
- Another Cuban: #65. (17 Jun 64, CD 1359, 2 pp.) Finally, a deletion-free version of Hoover's "Top Secret" letter to Rankin, reporting Castro's comments to an FBI source (identified elsewhere as "Solo"; see 4 EOC 3.5-6). "He (Oswald) stormed into the embassy, demanded the visa, and when it was refused to him, headed out saying, 'I'm going to kill Kennedy for this.'"