

MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIAL

May 8, 1968

COPY

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney  
FROM: Steven J. Burton, Investigator  
RE: Interview of GERALD PATRICK HEMMING, JR.  
2668 Hoyt Avenue  
El Monte, California

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SYNOPSIS

Of particular importance during our conversation were the following points:

- BILL BURCHETTE, an associate of BRADLEY'S on the West Coast, flew PATRICK, FRANK BARTES, LUIS RABEL, and RICARDO DAVIS to the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain in New Orleans.
- The man in the photographs of men arrested in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963 who bears a resemblance to EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY is one TED SLACK.
- JOHN WILLIAM REILLY, of the Reilly Coffee Company in New Orleans, worked for the CIA for years.

INTERVIEW

On May 7, 1968, in the company of LAWRENCE HOWARD, I met with GERALD PATRICK HEMMING, JR. (GERRY PATRICK) at his home. PATRICK acknowledged having known or known of almost everyone I asked him about. In most instances, he did no more than say, "Yea, I knew him," and remain silent. A list of names is attached to this memorandum.

Of possible importance was my observation that PATRICK knows the current whereabouts of most of these people. I doubt that he would respond directly to a request for a location, due to his extreme skepticism of the validity of our investigation. However, it is possible that LAWRENCE HOWARD could obtain some addresses for us.

For example, MIKE McLANEY is now in politics in the Bahamas. EUGENE LYONS (American Committee to Free Cuba in Los Angeles) is in Idaho. MANUEL GARCIA GONZALES is probably in the Honduras. RICHARD BUTLER (who introduced HOWARD to COL. WILLIAM P. GALE and REV. WESLEY A. SWIFT) is also in Idaho.

PATRICK was shown a series of photographs. He identified a number of people whom he had known, but declined to provide any information about them (see attached list).

When he was shown the series of photographs of men arrested in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, PATRICK identified the man who resembles EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY as TED SLACK, a former ONI reserve commander. PATRICK would provide no further information, would not give his present location, and would not speculate as to why SLACK was evidently in Dallas on November 22.

PATRICK identified the man behind 'SLACK' (the one in the European-style jacket) as a person, name unrecalled, whom he had seen on LARRY LABORDE'S ship, the L.C. Rikor.

PATRICK also identified the man who appears in the DCA film, apparently in custody, as MARINO, a man who was selling arms for RICHARD LAUCHLI. This is the photograph that has variously been identified as LAWRENCE HOWARD, CHARLES BREHM, and others.

PATRICK advised that JOHN WILLIAM REILLY, of the Reilly Coffee Company in New Orleans, was working for the CIA for years.

He also said that he knew JIM and JERRY BUCHANNAN in Miami. These brothers advised the FBI that they had been in a fight in a park in Miami with LEE OSWALD during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. PATRICK did not know of this incident, which appears to parallel the Fair Play for Cuba Committee literature distribution episode in New Orleans the following August. He said that JERRY BUCHANNAN was on No Name Key in the early days (1960-61) and that he was acquainted with ALEXANDER RORKE.

PATRICK said that he recalls that a pilot named BILL BURCHETTE flew him; FRANK BARTES, LUIS RABEL, RICARDO DAVIS, and others to the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain to scout the area for a possible training camp. He said that BURCHETTE knew BARTES well and lived at that time in Metairie. As you know, a man named BILL BURCHETTE was evidently closely associated with EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY'S apparent activity at Van Nuys Airport. Because of the extreme importance of this possible link, the conversation is reproduced below in paraphrase form:

Q. Did you ever hear of a man named BILL BURCHETTE?

A. That name is familiar. Is he a pilot?

Q. Yes.

A. Yea, I think he flew us across Lake Ponchartrain. You know, there never was a training camp there. We looked around and planned to start one; we even had permission from the pastor of a church up there to use his property; but it never got started.

Q. Who was with you on that trip?

A. Oh, BARTES, RABEL, DAVIS, and maybe a few others.

Otherwise regarding the New Orleans area, PATRICK said that people in that area were used for arms pick-up and delivery, boat acquisition and transport, etc. He said that little of the really militant action came out of people in that city.

PATRICK said that he was in GUY BANNISTER'S office on one occasion and had met, at least once, most of the New Orleans people who have come up in the case. He excepted FERRIE, SHAW, and many who were only witnesses. He knew MIKE McLANEY and LARRY LABORDE quite well and knew RABEL, DAVIS, and BARTES somewhat well. He believes that he met ARCACHA, BRINGUIER, and ED BUTLER on one occasion each. Unfortunately, he is so skeptical of the investigation's validity that he saw no point in talking about these people.

PATRICK said that the name THOMAS BECKHAM seemed familiar to him. He recalled that a person in Dallas, FRANK WATERS, had a friend that may have been BECKHAM. He described 'BECKHAM' briefly as 28-30 years old, light skin, medium hair, 5'11".

PATRICK said that he had met CLINT MURCHISON, GORDON McLENDON, and NELSON HUNT at various meetings in Dallas. The purpose of these meetings was to raise funds for raids into Cuba. Often at these meetings, there was talk of killing KENNEDY, but he can recall no specific instance where MURCHISON, McLENDON, or HUNT participated in this talk.

PATRICK advised that WALLY WELCH knew about almost everything that happened in Dallas relating to anti-communist activism during the relevant period. He did not know if WELCH would talk to one of our investigators and did not know where he could be located. He did say that WELCH married oilman TEX FELLMAN'S daughter.

I asked PATRICK if he knew anyone who might be able to pass for LEE HARVEY OSWALD in appearance. He said that JOHN BLOOMER, an aide to ROBERT DE PUGH in St. Louis bore a physical resemblance to OSWALD. He also said that WILEY YATES, a friend of HALL'S in Dallas, could possibly have passed.

PATRICK told me of a Los Angeles area incident regarding LEE HARVEY OSWALD in 1959 that he apparently told the office many months ago. He said that when CASTRO took over in Cuba on January 2, 1959, a group wearing 26 July Movement armbands took over the Cuban consulate in Monterrey Park. He said that Monterrey Park police investigators took photos and, among them, one showed LEE HARVEY OSWALD. PATRICK did not indicate that OSWALD was sympathetic or antagonistic to the 26 July people.

PATRICK said that on November 22, 1963, he was in Miami. When the news of the assassination flashed, he immediately thought of LORAN EUGENE HALL. He had spoken with LESTER LOGUE in Dallas one week prior to the assassination and LOGUE told him (by phone) that HALL had returned. PATRICK said that LOGUE did not see HALL in Dallas after the week before the assassination.

PATRICK also advised that ED COLLINS and ENRIQUE MOLINA (a Castro Spy) were in Dallas during November, 1963.

PATRICK'S version of the SYLVIA ODIO incident was extremely interesting. I asked him if it was his own speculation or knowledge that he had gained from people who knew, and he replied that it was the latter.

According to PATRICK, SYLVIA ODIO was working loosely with the CIA on arms deals. When she thought that she had seen LEE OSWALD at her home, she immediately talked to her CIA contact, KIKI FERRER, who lived in the same building. FERRER contacted his superiors and it was decided to have ODIO testify as she did.

HALL had been to see FERRER and had run off at the mouth. ODIO had overheard him and probably saw him as well, but HALL did not see her. It was discovered by the CIA that HALL was travelling with HOWARD and CELIOS ALBAS, so the story was arranged to include two other Cubans. OSWALD was probably at her home at one time.

KIKI FERRER was well known among anti-Castro circles as a CIA contact. He had been on No Name Key in the early days (1960-61). He had worked with ELIO SANTANA and a Czech named VOLT. PATRICK described him only as a curly haired mulatto.

#### ANALYSIS:

No doubt, PATRICK did not provide anything near the total of information known by him. His knowledge of anti-Castro activities in the early 1960's is extensive, to say the least. His contacts in Miami, New Orleans, Dallas, and to a lesser extent, Los Angeles, are considerable. His instant recollection of names and places is admirable.

But it was obvious that he was determined not to help the investigation in any way. He would constantly begin a long description of some raid or preparations that I had not asked about and that was obviously irrelevant. As HOWARD had warned me, I only got that information that PATRICK was willing to give me.

In short, I don't trust him and am in no way convinced that he did not work for the CIA.

May 8, 1968

Persons examined by GERALD PATRICK HEMMING

1		
2	BUCHANNAN, JIM*	RABEL, LUIS*
3	BUCHANNAN, JERRY*	McLANEY, MIKE*
4	LESTER LOGUE *	GARCIA GONZALES*
5	YATES, WILEY*	BRADLEY, EDGAR EUGENE
6	WELCH, WALLY*	LORENZE, JOHN
7	MORRIS, BOB*	GALE, COL. WILLIAM P.*
8	CRESPI, NIKO*	SWIFT, REV. WESLEY A. *
9	STOCKTON	DRENNAN, DR. STANLEY*
10	SCHWILLY, ED	COLLS, BR. SALVATORE
11	WALKER, GEN. EDWIN*	MARKS, SID
12	REYNOLDS, WARREN*	BUTLER, RICHARD*
13	ODIO, SYLVIA*	CHAIN, PROF. MELVIN
14	HERRERA	WHEAT, CLINT*
15	FERRER, KIKI*	WELLS, BOB*
16	HUNT, H.L.*	LYONS, EUGENE*
17	McLENDON, GORDON*	BECKHAM, THOMAS*
18	MURCHISON, CLINT*	CRISMAN, FRED LEE
19	RUBY, JACK	TORRES, EMMANUEL
20	FERRIE, DAVID	BRADLEY, LESLIE*
21	SHAW, CLAY	DELLEY, DENNIS
22	BERTRAND, CLEM	BURCHETTE, BILL*
23	BERNARD, ALTON	NAGEL, DICK
24	ALTON, BERNARD	
25	QUIROGA, CARLOS	
26	ARCACHA, SERGIO*	
27	CRUZ, MIGUEL	
28	HERNANDEZ, CELSO	
29	COURTNEY, KENT	
30	BARTES, FRANK*	
31	DAVIS, RIBARDO*	
32	BANNISTER, GUY*	
	WARD, HUGH*	
	ED ORDE	
	LAURIE	
	THORNLEY, KERRY	
	DALZELL, WILLIAM	
	BUTLER, ED*	
	BRINGUIER, CARLOS*	

\* indicates that PATRICK had knowledge of.