

CONVERSATION BETWEEN STEVE JAFFE, FRED AND MARLYNN NEWCOMB
May 1, 1969, 10:30 p.m.

Regarding personal memo dated 1/26/68, concerning Sprague:

These memos were typed in the office after a brief meeting in Chicago airport with Sprague. Sprague told Jaffe to inform the office about those subjects contained in the memos immediately. The inaccuracies were due to the informality of the discussion and the hurried note taking.

Regarding personal memo dated 1/26/68, concerning Dallas nuts:

If "Dallas nuts" refer to Sue Fitch, Mr. Arch Kimbro and Mary Farrell - who Steve discussed in memos to both Ivon and Garrison - then what should be made clear is that Steve's entire early contact with them was for the purpose of trying to obtain information that Boxley said they wouldn't tell him.

This information had to do with a member of the Commission (Jenner?) being involved with a communist front organization (Fair Play for Cuba in New Orleans?).

At ~~xxxx~~ Steve's first meeting with Mary Farrell, she told him that there was something of extreme importance that could be documented and was the result of research done by Sue Fitch. She said that Boxley had tried several times in several ways to get that information but that Sue Fitch did not trust him and wouldn't budge.

Mary said that she had persuaded Sue Fitch to write what would amount to a small book or pamphlet about her conclusions. At the same time, Mary told Steve that if Steve was able to learn even a part of it, she would not feel promise bound to withhold the rest of the story.

Steve asked Garrison if there wasn't something that Steve could offer in the way of an informational trade to Farrell/Fitch/Kimbro in order to get this "important" information.

At that time, Garrison and Steve decided to tell them a portion of the Nagell story and to fabricate another portion of the story so that it would fit their arch-conservative desires. That is why in the margin of certain memos (xeroxed with the permission of Garrison on Nagell) Steve wrote things which could aid one reading them to find the conclusion that Nagell was a communist. The notes in Steve's handwriting were false interruptions. As you can read from the memo to Ivon after Steve's visit to Dallas, he got the information which was allegedly so important, described it, and said that he doubted it's validity.

Before this visit, Steve had very carefully set up a right wing cover, so when he met Fitch and Kimbro he could gain their confidence. He went so far as to say that he was a member of the Young Republican's Committee at UCLA.

Regarding memo dated 3/20/68, concerning Rose and Turner:

Rose said that Sheinbaugn would vouch for him. Sometime later when Steve checked with Sheinbaugn (after having sent Rose to Turner to be checked out, because Garrison had told him that Turner was the top representative on the West Coast for the office. He wanted to make sure that he never took it upon himself to make a decision without first having it checked and approved by a higher authority, which in this case was Turner.)

Sheinbaugn told Steve that he could positively not vouch for Rose (Vince as Steve knew him) background any more than to say that he had shown him exhibits of his id and given him the name of someone to call to prove their validity. Sheinbaugn said he made such a call and received confirmation, but that he could not make any kind of a definite statement. He did not want to be a reference for Rose. Since Steve had sent Rose to Turner, and since Steve told Turner this fact about Sheinbaugn, it was up to Turner to make the decision. The decision was made by phone within a week after sending Rose to Turner. Turner told Steve that he believed Rose was honestly interested, could be of great help, and was coming through about his background.

Regarding memo dated 3/20/68, concerning a woman with documents first contacted by Harold, and the resulting memo:

Regarding Mrs. Lillian Helbling, Steve spent three hours interviewing her on her opinions regarding the assassination and in specific regard to her acquaintance with a man whom she claimed was a Cuban revolutionary (S.R. Colles). Steve judged her totally irrational in her presentation of the "facts" and felt she was a waste of time. (i.e. she gave him an hour and a half explanation of her sixty some odd years of life, her totally ~~meaningless~~ meaningless involvement in the garment industry, and her sad tales of unsuccessful romances.)

So, not wanting to disregard her entirely, since she was originally trying to give the information to Harold, Steve spent the following five weeks staying in contact with her on the phone and requesting the photos that she said would prove her story, in addition to other information which Steve had asked for.

She cautioned Steve not to do anything until she had collected this other information from friends that would be unhelpful to him. During each phone conversation Steve had with her, her story became more unbelievable, more involved with her own personal problems and less likely to be related to the case.

Steve kept after her for the one photograph which might have been valuable - that of Salvadore Colles, whom she said looked exactly like Sergio Aracha Smith. She refused to allow Steve to visit her at her apartment, she continually told him she was in the process of moving and that the photo was unavailable and that she would give it to him after she moved and unpacked her things.

Steve had no recourse, other than to write the memo from his notes made at the first meeting, stating those facts which he thought might tie in. He sent the memo to the office as he was told to do, and after the office received the memo, Steve was permitted to send it to Harold.

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Steve felt the delay in writing the memo was definitely a lack of responsibility on his part and the subsequent delay in Harold's receiving the information made him justified to be angry.

Regarding memo dated 1/8/68, regarding Kroman:

Steve considered the Kroman aspect important because he discussed it with Garrison and he told Steve to proceed to investigate it, implying very definitely that he thought it was important too. (This discussion was in Garrison's home in New Orleans and preceded his trip to Minn.)

Regarding memo dated 1/8/68, Jaffe feels Rose an important contact:
That's true.

Regarding memo dated 1/27/67, to Ivon regarding Bradley/Trapp pictures:

His identification of Bradley/Trapp was not made from the still photos because when he saw them he told Garrison, as a photographer, he could make no definite identification. It was after seeing Bradley in a news film on television where he was the subject after being charged - this is what he made the absolute identification of Bradley/walking men. At that time he had only seen the one side view of the walking man photo. When he later saw the other front view of the walking man photo in the office, shown to him by Ivon, he realized he was wrong and went straight into Garrison's office and told him so.

Regarding Turner/Hal Verb/Greenstein:

Steve doubts very much that Turner didn't know where the post card came from - it it's return address or postmark was Wilmington, Delaware, because he had spoken with Turner about Nagell and Turner gave him notes which he had typed up from a letter, which he also gave him, that were from Greenstein, who resided in Delaware. Turner gave him this information at 8:10 p.m. March 11, 1968 at the San Francisco airport.

Turner at that time gave him Greenstein's name, address and said that he was corresponding with Greenstein about Nagell and that Nagell was using Greenstein as an intermediary to send information to Turner.

Regarding Rose, confession about Brown and the Company:

This is the first time he had ever heard of any such confession. Who did he confess to. The only thing that he knew about Rose and Brown is that he (Rose) said he was acquainted with him in Florida. Rose said he was his roommate for a short time, Steve believes in a hotel, that should be in a memo.

In February of 1968, Harold, Al Swartz, Burton, Rose and Steve were present at Steve's apartment - Burton had the Guns and Ammo Magazine, he showed it to Steve and Steve said "wow" that certainly does look like you, to Rose. Rose said "yes" "it does look a lot like me, but I know Steve Wilson and that's not me in the picture." Rose then, in a very friendly way, persuaded Steve to believe that he was not Wilson, and since Steve trusted him at that time, accepted his word.

Regarding answering Harold's letters:

The tone of Harold's last two letters turned Steve off, so he decided to work with us exclusively.

Regarding Steve's involvement with Lamarre, meetings, etc.:

Steve first met Lamarre in Paris and followed him around the country trying to get him to trade "information" which he never did.

1968

The first time Steve saw Lamarre in the United States was in early August. He had taken Broshears down as a witness, after having verified his importance with Mark Lane. (Mark and Steve were together when they first interviewed Broshears.)

Since Lamarre was due in New Orleans a few days later, Steve remained in New Orleans and met Lamarre at his hotel (the Poncha-train). At that time he had with him a cloth bound and paper backed copies of Farewell America (it was still called Le' Amerique Brule.) The copies were in French. Lamarre presented one book to Garrison, when ~~Steve~~ Lamarre met Garrison at his home, and he presented the other book to Mark Lane when Mark and Steve visited Lamarre in his hotel room.

Steve rode to the airport with Lamarre, and since Lamarre hadn't obtained a visa to visit Mexico City, was unable to make the plane. Steve accompanied him back to the Trade Mart, to the Mexican Consul General's office, where he obtained a visa.

It was at this time that Steve saw Lamarre's passport and learned that his name was Herve Patrick Lamarre Terrand, which was included in his file on his trip to Paris, on the second or third page.

Lamarre then left for the airport, and Steve returned to town to visit with Mark Lane, his photographer Carolyn Mugur about Broshears and Lamarre. Steve's girlfriend came to town and they both left the following day.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Durring this visit to New Orleans, Jim Garrison gave Lamarre the name of one of his friends, Beth Villere, who Lamarre contacted during this visit by delivering flowers to her on the way to the airport.

According to what Jaffe has learned, Beth Villere lived in a trailer in a very out of the way place in New Orleans. At that time she was running a "coal" business which had been in the family, but the last Steve heard, she had discontinued the business.

Steve learned that Lamarre had called Beth from Mexico, and made arrangements to met her when he returned from Mexico.

As we can piece it together, Lamarre returned from Mexico, and visited Jim, received a copy of the Z film, flew to Los Angeles and visited Steve, then flew to Canada to have it copied. They were unable to copy it in Canada, so he flew to Paris, and returned the original and two copies to the office, via Charlie Ward.

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The next time Lamarre came to New Orleans, he called Steve to meet him there (December, 1968) and arranged for a room next to his at the Ponchatrain Hotel.

Steve had dinner with Lamarre, and the next morning Harold came over (Harold covers this very well in his memo) and then they went to the office, and the blow-up occurred. Steve said the only people he saw with Lamarre in New Orleans were Garrison, Ivon, Weisberg, Alcock, Vince, Moo, Charlie Ward... and Beth Villere (who Lamarre spoke to for five minutes and delivered some presents to - think Harold was with them when they stopped at her place.)

They flew to New York, and during that trip Steve remained in New York for the two or three days when Lamarre went to Canada.

Steve will look back through his papers to see if he can find the address and phone number of the hotel where Lamarre stayed in Canada.

During the time Steve was in New York, he either saw or talked to Sprague, Nagell's sister Eleanor Gumbert (by phone) and tried to reach Sid Zion of the New York Times. Steve spent those three days trying to get the newspaper clippings and arrest records on Jim Bradin aka Eugene Hale Bradin. He also saw Sam Edwards, editor of the New York Free Press. With Lamarre before he left for Canada Steve met and spoke with Martin Stone of Ramparts, and they showed him the film, which was the first time Steve saw it. Before they left New York, they had one more showing of the film, and then returned to Los Angeles.

Regarding the Bradley arrest:

Steve said that Garrison, Boxley, Turner and he were in a hotel room here in Los Angeles, and the name Edgar Eugene Bradley came up. Boxley and Turner said they needed to check some more facts out on him, borrowed Steve's car, and left.

When they returned from seeing the Adylett's, both were extremely happy, and began calling Jim in on the whole story of Bradley. Steve had to leave, and when he returned they had just finished making the decisions to arrest Bradley. Jim told Steve that he was going to New Orleans to deliver some stuff, so Steve said okay, and went out to the airport and flew to N.O.

When he arrived, he told the office he didn't know anything about why he was sent - that he had to deliver a message and that was all, and he didn't know any more details. It was some elaborate communications thing where Jim wouldn't talk over the phone and sent some code to the office.

Steve delivered the papers from Jim, turned around and came back home. He later met the Adylett's and Tom Thornhill, but didn't do much work on the Bradley matter as he had other things to do and wasn't assigned that to work on.