

Harold,
The Makou - Hughes - CIA - Mafia -
F.B.I. stuff is fascinating as per the
book I gave you.

1/21/72

"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

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" TRUTH LETTER "
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An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

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Editorial: As a hardened war criminal, Butcher Nixon even outranks Adolf Hitler.

How Garrison Was Framed (ctd. from TL IV/8)

Pershing Gervais: Portrait of a False Friend

Under the headline "The long checkered career of one Pershing Gervais," the New Orleans States Item - a paper consistently opposed to Dr. Jim Garrison ever since he launched his Kennedy assassination inquiry and therefore certainly not suspect of partiality towards him in the case - on July 3, 1971, revealed a great deal more damaging information about his accuser. Here are a few telltale excerpts from this story:

"... Paradoxes and contradictions are nothing new to Gervais. They've followed him through one of the zaniest careers of any local public official in decades. And it was usually Gervais who stood accused of corrupt acts, although he was never convicted of wrongdoing" (emphasis added - J.J.)

This is the very hallmark of the professional stoolpigeon: being often accused but never convicted of criminal acts. In Gervais' case, the indications are clear that he became an FBI informer in his early youth and stayed with the feds throughout his "long checkered career," a fact which Jim Garrison, deplorably, failed to discern in time. The New Orleans paper goes on to report:

"At the age of 21, in 1940, Gervais was arrested on a charge of carrying concealed weapons - a blackjack and brass knuckles, according to Civil Service files. There was apparently no local court action taken against him. He was held for federal authorities and later released." (emphasis added - J.J.)

Carrying concealed weapons is a serious federal offense which, in the normal course of proceedings, would have led to an indictment, followed by certain conviction and imprisonment. Why, then, was Gervais, who had been caught red-handed by the police, later released by the federal authorities? The answer is, almost inevitably, because the young ruffian made himself available to the FBI as an informer. That's the way it always goes.

Shortly after World War II - during which he served a stint with Jim Garrison in the same artillery battery - Gervais got a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we further learn, and then became a patrolman on the New Orleans police force.

"In 1952, while a detective, he traveled to New York City and shared a hotel room with a girl friend, which got him fired from the force by then Police Supt. Joseph L. Scheuering. The police chief said Gervais was violating police regulations by associating with persons known to be 'police characters' and by operating a jewelry business without authorization from his superiors."

Here the States-Item is being a little ambiguous. Reading the first part of that paragraph, one is apt to get the impression that Gervais was fired from the force because he slept with a woman not his wife - hardly a major offense, even for a policeman. The subsequent lines, however, make it quite clear that this indiscretion was not the main reason for Gervais' dismissal. Either the girl in question was a 'police character' herself, or else the couple lived in shady surroundings. The reference to a "jewelry business" suggests that Gervais was dealing in stolen goods on the side, for where else would a police detective get the funds from for operating a business that requires considerable starting capital - quite apart from an authorization by superiors.

The next paragraphs of the States-Item story must remain a bit obscure to anyone without a solid knowledge of N.O. local politics (which this writer, of course, does not have) but they again cast Gervais in the role of informer:

"However, Gervais had provided the Orleans Parish Grand Jury with considerable information against Schauerling during the celebrated police scandals of 1953. - He appealed his dismissal unsuccessfully before the Louisiana Supreme Court." Then comes this item:

"In May, 1955, while operating the Bucket of Blood Bar on the waterfront, Gervais was charged with allowing B-drinking and employing a convicted narcotics violator as a bartender. He claimed he did not own the bar, and was acquitted." So he did not own the "Bucket of Blood," but he operated it. What's the difference? Shady business throughout.

After that, Gervais was for several years a part-time investigator for the Metropolitan Crime Commission, the paper goes on to report. This information is of particular interest, because this Commission, and in particular its managing director, Aaron M. Kohn, subsequently did everything in their power to hinder and damage Garrison's inquiry into the Kennedy assassination. They even went so far as to try and get the DA disbarred because of his alleged "unethical" pursuit of that investigation. No wonder Kohn and Gervais hit it off well together, as this further quote from the States-Item story shows:

"Kohn said this week he hired Gervais because of his 'underworld connections' and praised his work as 'reliable.' "

"Shortly after Jim Garrison's election to district attorney in 1961", the story continues, "he announced that he was naming Gervais his chief investigator. Gervais, Garrison claimed, had been given a 'complete clearance' by the MCC. Kohn later denied this."

Garrison never made a worse false move than when he put his official trust in a personal friend of long standing with such a conspicuously shady past - even then. Whether or not the Crime Commission had given Gervais a "complete clearance" is really beside the point. The new DA, who must have known what his old pal was up to, ought to have used better judgment in the case.

As chief investigator in the DA's office, Gervais performed according to his old standards. In July, 1963, he was haled before a Grand Jury on charges of having beaten up criminal suspects, but again was cleared, as he always has been. Now for a couple of colorful items from the continuing States-Item account of a truly zany and checkered career:

"During that 1963 summer, Gervais' activities had also cropped up in the murder trial of William R. Livesay, charged in a French Quarter barroom death. Livesay told the court he had spoken with Gervais prior to 'setting up' one man for a crime-against nature arrest and also prior to committing a burglary." And -

"... police received a report in October, 1964, that Gervais' wife had beaten a 17-year-old girl with a rock in front of the Gervais residence. Gervais said his wife had been receiving anonymous phone calls that he had been 'keeping company' with the girl."

(to be continued in the next issue)

New Light on the Robert Kennedy Murder Fraud (ctd.)

Neutron activation is performed in an atomic nuclear reactor which bombards the specimen with a beam of neutrons at 186,000 miles a second. The extraordinary sensitivity of this method is demonstrated by the fact that British scientists in 1964 were able to prove in this manner that Napoleon Bonaparte had been poisoned in his exile in 1821 at St. Helena. They bombarded preserved strands of Napoleon's hair with neutrons in a nuclear accelerator. The tests revealed arsenic in the hair, thus proving conclusively what had long been suspected but never before been proved: that the emperor died of poisoning.

In the Kennedy assassination cases - both of them - neutron activation would have been an invaluable help in getting to the bottom of the facts. That is precisely why the use of this foolproof scientific method was ruled out a priori, in both cases, by the powers-that-be. Truth was not wanted; in fact, it was shunned like the plague.

Imagine the metal fragment from Robert Kennedy's head being tested in this manner: Do the trace metals jibe with, or differ from, those of the shoulder bullet? In the former contingency, the evidence of Sirhan's guilt as killer is overwhelming; in the latter, he is exonerated of the actual murder, while still guilty, of course, of an assassination attempt.

For the Los Angeles authorities to have shunted aside this invaluable fact-finding method, juggling instead the ballistics tests in the above-demonstrated manner, is equivalent to a tacit admission that they knew beforehand, or at least suspected, what the results of the neutron activation analysis would be.

Dr. Noguchi, for his part, has clearly given to understand that he suspects the truth. At a seminar on the assassination of Sen. Kennedy and the trial of Sirhan, held by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Chicago, in the late spring of 1969, he gave a paper on the autopsy details and showed pictures of the lesions and also presented the X-ray films. He told the audience that neutron activation studies had been done and were available, but were not introduced in evidence.

Who authorized these studies? Where, by whom and under what conditions were they carried out? What were the results? Other pathologists who attended the meetings of the Academy were unable to obtain details from the L.A. Coroner, who clammed up instantly when he noticed the interest his remarks had aroused.

Dr. Noguchi, a gentle, moon-faced man of Japanese descent, had reason to be circumspect. As a matter of fact, he had already ventured out too far on a very thin limb. Shortly after the end of the Sirhan trial (May 21, 1969) - at which Dr. Noguchi was given a very brief hearing, amounting to snort shrift, and his autopsy report was practically ignored - the chief administrative officer of Los Angeles County moved to oust the coroner from his job. Bizarre (and, as it turned out, unfounded) charges of insanity, drug addiction and worse were levelled against him. Noguchi demanded a hearing which the county Supervisors tried to hold in camera, but public pressure forced them to open the doors to the press. The outcome of that hearing was as strange as had been the Supervisors' attempt to oust Dr. Noguchi: the charges against him almost literally evaporated one by one. In the end, he was reinstated.

What had happened? Simply this: Dr. Noguchi's attorney, Godfrey Isaac, had swung a formidable club over the Supervisors' head. If his client was not cleared and reinstated, he intimated to them, he would "introduce evidence relating to the Kennedy autopsy." In other words, he was going to reveal key facts from the still secret autopsy report. That threat really scared them. Deputy County Council Martin Weeks at the time was quoted in the press as saying that the introduction of such evidence would cause "international repercussions" - whatever that meant. In any event, the Supervisors promptly voted to drop the charges against Noguchi like a hot potato.

(to be continued in the next issue)

It was, then, without the knowledge and against the will of President Kennedy that the CIA during his administration made six unsuccessful attempts to assassinate Premier Castro by various means. For the first of these ventures, which occurred even before the Bay of Pigs and was to constitute the prelude to the planned invasion of Cuba, the CIA, according to Jack Anderson, enlisted the help of former FBI agent Robert Maheu who many years later acquired a notoriety of a very special kind as the Las Vegas manager of Howard Hughes' far-flung business empire. The connection is noteworthy for it suggests that the Texas billionaire tycoon had something to do with the CIA's determined assassination campaign against Castro which culminated in the Dallas coup d'état. Maheu, who had handled other undercover assignments for the CIA before, at the time cloaked his activities in the guise of a Washington public relations office.

Shady characters and outright criminals are the mainstay of the CIA's Department of covert activities, alias Department of Dirty Tricks. Quite naturally, therefore, Maheu, whom even Anderson credits with "shadowy contacts," recruited as taskmaster of murder assignments a convicted racketeer, John Roselli, who had been an associate of Willie Bioff's in the famous million-dollar Hollywood labor shakedown of the fifties.

"The CIA assigned two of its most trusted operatives, William Harvey and James 'Big Jim' O'Connell, to the hush-hush murder mission," Anderson reports. "Using phony names, they accompanied Roselli on trips to Miami to line up the assassination teams."

Contrary to the popular notion assiduously spread by the mass media and the movies, CIA operatives are seldom heroes. More often than not they are furtive, sly, cowardly characters who arrange their killings in the dark, with maximum precautions for their own safety. Typically, therefore, the gang recruited by the CIA for the purpose of knocking off Castro tried its hand first at the most dastardly form of murder - poisoning. In the words of Jack Anderson:

"For the first try, the CIA furnished Roselli with special poison capsules to slip into Castro's food. The poison was supposed to take three days to act. By the time Castro died, his system would throw off all traces of the poison, so he would appear to be the victim of natural or mysterious ailment. Roselli arranged with a Cuban, related to one of Castro's chefs, to plant the deadly pellets in the dictator's food. On March 13, 1961, Roselli delivered the capsules to his contact at Miami Beach's glamorous Fontainebleau Hotel. A couple weeks later, just about the right time for the plot to have been carried out, a report out of Havana said Castro was ill. But he recovered before the Bay of Pigs invasion on April 17, 1961."

So, you see, the CIA, for all its effectiveness as an assassination machine, even managed to bungle poisoning in this case. And now it was in two minds about whether or not to repeat the attempt, for the Cuban agent who had sneaked the poison into Havana had disappeared without trace. In the end, it was decided to try again with a more powerful dose. Several weeks after the Bay of Pigs, Roselli arranged for triple-strength capsules to be slipped into Castro's food. "But once again, the plot failed and the conspirators disappeared," Anderson writes.

After that, the columnist goes on to report, four more attempts were made on Castro's life, using assassination teams equipped with high-powered rifles, explosives and two-way radios (as later in the Dallas coup d'état - J.J.) In the dark of night Roselli delivered the teams in twin powerboats to the Cuban shores. However, Castro's security men were on their guard. Not one of the assassination teams ever got a shot at Castro, although the last group reached a rooftop within range.

Why did well-placed sources inside the CIA slip these hush-hush details to the noted columnist?

(to be continued in the next issue)

I learned today that The New York Times owned Quadrangle Books is doing a book with Mabeu on The Hughes Case.

Also, The Times was the only paper not to identify Mabeu as the "S.O.B. who stole me blind" as per the Hughes interview.

Hughes made other allegations against Mabeu not carried in the press.

Certainly, Mabeu seems like a provocative figure.

Best Wishes,
