

halfway there, when a cop stopped him. And they went around to the back of the car and they talked a long time, and I said, "If we were speeding, officer, this young man's doing me a great favor. He's taking me to see my ^{sick} son." He says, No, you weren't speeding. So Ronny got back in the car and we drove off. And Ro -

Q. Did Ronny say what he was stopped for?

A. Well, coming to that. Ronny said, "I'm gonna tell you ~~what~~ ^{why} he stopped me. He thought I was going to kill you." He said, "I'm a - I'm a -" he said, "I have been in Angola." He said, "I'm a convict and I've been in for attempted murder," he said. He said, "they must have got word somewhere that I was gonna do you in. And they told me I'm gonna be watched, and they're gonna watch us get there and watch us come back, and not to touch you." "Oh," I said, "Ronny, I'm not afraid," of course, I was.

Q. How heavy a man was Ronny?

A. Ronny's a big fellow.

Q. More than six feet?

A. Six feet and maybe a little more. and also he was on dope. He's a dope addict. Now, uh -

Q. Are you sure that's his right name? - Did he ever -

A. Oh, yes, I'm sure it was Ronny Ramisof(?) because he used to come around here after that, you know.

Q. Yes.

A. And uh -

Q. What did you find out when you got to the hospital?

A. Nothing. That Ronny - that Godfrey ran up to Ronny and they talked a little in low tones and ~~ixsaiix~~ then Ronny and I - I said, "well, honey, I'm going to try to get you out of here, and get you in ... like you want," you know. And maybe it was a plot or a plan, I don't know. I just don't know. But he brought me home safely. And then he had to come back in and everything and visit me and like that, and so I had a detective coming around, because someone had - what do you call it - cased this joint up here.

Q. Cased it?

A. Yes, cased it. One day the bell rang and a nice-looking man in a trench coat started to ask, he said, "I want to investigate these nice(?) places." I said, "Well, if you want to investigate them, you ask them." He made me mad -

Q. Did he identify himself?

A. He said - No; he didn't identify himself.

Q. What did he look like?

A. Nice-looking. Nice-looking fellow.

Jerome - 27

Q. Did he have an accent?

A. No.

Q. About how tall was he?

A. Medium height, brown eyes, very magnetic ~~looking~~ brown eyes, nice-looking guy, well-dressed. Looked like the kind of guy that would be driving a sports car. I don't know whether he was or not, but he looked real sharp. You know. So, then he smiled and he was winning my confidence. And then he started asking me all these questions. Did they have anything expensive up there, do they have a collection of cons up there, do they have any antique furniture, what days does the maid come, and where's the back steps, and all that, you see. So when the - and then he left. And when Jackie came home I told her. and right away she said, "Margie, he was casing this joing." And so she called her husband, jim. And so that's when she called the detectives and the detectives came over and this guy Milton Meyer brought me all these mug shots to look and see if I could find the fellow. He says, "But what I can't understand is this guy wanting to pull a second-story heist," he called it. And - so, anyway, when Ronny was coming over, this was a good excuse. I said, "Ronny, you know I don't want you to get in trouble, honey, because, "I said, "you know this Milton Myer's over here all the time and everything," and I said, "As a matter of fact, he's leaving his wife and is going to move over here." And that was the best way of keeping Ronny from coming here because I was scared to death of Ronny, you see. So, anyway, right after that I took Godfrey out; my mother ~~want~~ lent me the money to put him in dePaul(?). I couldn't stand to see him tortured and everything like that -

Q. Did he show any signs of torture?

A. No. But he says you don't know what goes on up there. And ush, he says - ~~for instance~~ I says, "For instance, what?" He said they told him to mop the floor and he told them "F U" you know, and they took him and locked him up in this iron room they call it. And oh! the things he told me, any mother would run up there and take her son out. So, I couldn't stand to keep him but one month in DePaul because I couldn't pay any more, so I took him out again, you see. And then I forget when I had to put him back in. But that's the story of that.

Q. He's in Jackson now.

A. Yes.

Q. Have you see him recently?

A. No, but he wrote to me he would do his duty for his country if it meant his life. He was just trying to be a good soldier.

Q. How long ago?

A. Uh - that was just a few days ago.

Q. What do you think he meant by that? Do you think he meant Garrison again?

A. I meant - I think that he meant that he was out but he couldn't tell me. Do you remember when I asked them if he was out and they said he

Jerome - 28

Qx but he couldn't tell me. You remember when I asked them if he was out ~~that~~ and they said he wasn't out. I think that he meant that he was out.

Q. That's right. That's when you think he had been out. That's what I think he meant.

A. /I think - because I had been writing and saying, please tell me the truth. Were you in town those days. He never answered until I sent all the presents and then he said he just wanted to be a good soldier. He was willing to give up his life to be a good soldier. Now after this murder of Kennedy, the boy would always say to me - you see, right after it happened, I kept bombarding the Picayune with letters to investigate the murder of Kennedy. I said, it doesn't make sense. And I would write these letters, and write and write to the editor. They didn't publish or anything, but I'd keep writing. And every time it was his birthday or the birthday of his assassination - I mean the anniversary - I would write again and try to spur them on again, you know, and say I think its a disgrace, you know. Well, every time I would start these letters, this boy would run after me. So the last time when Bill was up here he grabbed me by the throat and said, "You're trying to ~~xxx~~ ruin the CIA." I didn't know what he was talking about, you see?

Q. Bill who?

A. Bill's my husband.

Q. Ph, yes.

A. He was here when it happened and so he didn't do anything to me. And then another time -

Q. What made him think that you were trying to ruin the CIA?

A. Well, I didn't know. But now that this investigation is coming out, I'm beginning to see what he was talking about.

Q. Do you think your husband really believes that Godfrey was connected with the CIA?

A.-I don't know what my husband believed. Sometimes I think he's connected with them because he showed up right after - he showed up in January right after the murder. He's been here -

Q. January of '64?

A. Yes. And he's been here ever since.

Q. Uh, he's out of town on business now. Do you know where?

A. Uh, right at the present time he's in Morgan City. But he'll come back in.

Q. Do you know that he's writing insurance when he's there?

A.- He doesn't sell insurance. He sells concrete. This is another husband, Jerome.

Q. Yes. He sells concrete.

Jerome - 29

- A. Yes. Now. I think that - I don't know, but ... he got this wonderful job with Roll(?) Equipment Company, they were telling him he was going to make \$50,000 a year and all that kind of stuff. And I - since these men had offered my son a job, I figured they'd offer my husband a job next, you know. And I think that was the job. Because whenever I would say I'm going to the DA, Bill, my husband, would say to me, don't you go to that District attorney. Don't you go to him. So finally, when Godfrey came back and I knew that the District Attorney's life was in danger, I went to the district attorney. He lost his job the same day - a couple of days afterwards. And he jumped at me and he just cursed me from A to Z and said he didn't want to have anything to do with me and my imbecile son and my whole family and all that. So that made me think - and he never did tell me he had lost his job but I knew he did because he didn't have his car and he kept making up excuses why he didn't have it. He lost his job the minute I went to that DA. So I figured that that was a little payoff. He might have been - you can't tell about people. And he might have been telling them, you know, he could keep me shut up and this and that and - I don't know. Maybe it's true and maybe it's not but -
- Q. How old a man is he, do you know?
- A. He's a - 40. He's 12 years younger than I am.
- Q. Yes. And how tall is he?
- A. About 6 feet tall.
- Q. About 6 feet?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What color is his hair?
- A. ~~Black~~ Black hair and black eyes. Dark brown.
- Q. Slim or heavy build?
- A. Heavy.
- Q. ...
- A. Almost. Not quite. About 175 -
- Q. And what's the name of the concrete company where he now works?
- A. Oh. He won't even tell me - he don't tell me anything. I think he said Concrete Specialty Company.
- Q. Did you ever see any of his paychecks?
- A. No.
- Q. So you don't really know of your own knowledge where he is working.
- A. Well, I think he's working for the concrete company. I do believe it. And I do know that he was very disappointed when he lost out on that other job and why - he had never said anything unkind to me until

Jerome - 30

I went to the District Attorney and then he even hit me.

Q. When you told him you'd been there.

A. He knew I was going. He knew I was going.

Q. But did he know - how did he know you had gone?

A. Because I told him I went.

Q. And that's when he hit you.

A. Yes.

Q. The job with the road equipment company; do you know of your own knowledge that he did work for the road equipment company - or did he just tell you that?

A. Yes; I do know it. I do know. Because they came over here and everything, and he even told me, they're dying to get in this house. I said, for what?

Q. Uh - if they told you they were the road equipment company, that's one thing. But do you know of your own knowledge that they were?

A. Oh, yes. He got checks from them. Yes.

Q. Fine. But now you've never seen his checks.

A. No.

Q. And you don't know how much money he has or does not have, or even what he ^{has} does - only what he tells you.

A. No. Yes. At the present time. So it made me sort of alienated to a certain extent - alienated me from him when he did me that - I said, look, it's my son that's involved and I'm not gonna - if they want to kill the DA, that's their damn business but they ain't gonna use my son if I can help it.

Q. Does he ever make any trips to the Baton Rouge area?

A. Uh, no.

Q. Or - you know, it's only 30-40 miles away - in that direction.

A. Uh - no, no. He called me this morning and told me he was gonna go see Godfrey tomorrow. I was wondering why you - the DA and you all don't go up to see Godfrey.

Q.= I want to do it.

A. You can. You certainly can.

Q. Can I get - Will I need your permission?

A. No, indeed.

Q. Uh - Jim asked me if I would do it and I don;t know if I have time. But if I have time before I go back, I'd like to. And uh - I wanted to speak to you first, though.

Jerome - 31

A. Yes.

Q. Because Jim and I discussed this last night.

A. Since he's been - since all this investigation has broken, I have tried to question him and he always says he doesn't know anything. Uh, if anybody wants to talk to him, let the Secret Service come talk to him, I'm not talking to you.

Q. Yes. Have you heard or have you any reason to believe that there was any other official interest in your son?

A. Uh - what you mean, any official interest?

Q. I mean by ~~what~~ people asking about him, or looking around about him?

A. Well, he got a letter from Emmett Eccles who hires and fires for the CIA right before - right (end of tape)

Tape 2, side 1

Q. This starts a new tape, Mrs. Jerome. And I want to ask you - you were talking about a letter from Mr. Eccles.

A. Yes.

Q. Was this on a CIA letterhead?

A. Yes..

Q. And ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{they sent that} to your son.

A. Yes.

Q. And you also said, while I was changing the tape, that you told the two men who rolls you they were from the Secret Service so you think they were Secret Service each of the two times that someone came that your son had had this letter ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ from the Secret Service and you placed the date of that about October 1966.

A. Or November.

Q. Or November.

A. Yes.

Q. Anything else you can think of?

A. No. That's all I remember.

Q. Right. We'll turn it off now.

Q. Excuse me. I just turned the tape recorder on again, Mrs. Godfrey, and I asked you what you knew about - is she still your daughter-in-law or are they divorced?

A. They're divorced.

Jerome - 32

- Q. About Mary - Maud Ellen Ferrar. And asked you what you knew about her, and you said she was very intelligent and at one time she was the society editor of the Times - of the States-Item.
- A. Yes.
- Q. For -
- A. Then I believe she's been a librarian and she's been in advertising for DH Homes - and she has done advertising work for Marks Isaccs, and what else I don't know.
- Q. Do you know what she is doing now?
- A. I don't/know. And she is - uh - was a Fulbright scholar. She's a very very highly intelligent woman.
- Q. Is she a local woman?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was your son mentally ill when they got married?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think she knew at the time?
- A. Yes, she knew it because she and I went up to Mandeville together.
- Q. Before?
- A. Yes. Before they were ever married. And the doctor up there said, well, said that the prognosis is long-term hospitalization.
- Q. ~~Is~~ ^{And} she still married him after that.
- A. Yes. Said that she would take care of him somehow.
- Q. Has she ever?
- A. No.
- Q. But she was pregnant at the time.
- A. At the time she married him, yes.
- Q. Have you any assurance that your son is the father of her child?
- A. No.
- Q. Have you ever had this doubt in your own mind?
- A.- Yes.
- Q. Have you seen the child?
- A. Yes, I've seen him.
- Q. Does it in anyway resemble -

Jerome - 33

A. No.

Q. How long were they married?

A. They were married, uh - oh golly; I don't know. A few years.

Q. They were married a few years.

A. Yes.

Q. Did they live together?

A. They lived together at first, but I got tired of supporting them. Maud Ellen quit work. And the first year they were married, I gave them this entire house and to - to develop the rentals plus I gave them in cash \$6,000. And I sent all - and she kept on telling everybody I was starving them to death. So I took all of these checks and sent them to Louis Claiborne who is a friend of ours and an attorney. I said, Louie, I know I can rely on you - I just want to show you these checks. He wrote me back and he said, you know, he said, well I knew you helped them but I didn't know you helped them to that extent. But that wasn't enough for Maud Ellen so ---

Q.- Before I thank you for the time you've given me and say good-bye, I'd like to ask if there's anyone you know who might have anything - any knowledge that they might contribute about this.

A. Ronnie Ramigos, the convict man.

Q. How do you - how do you spell his name?

A. R A M A G O S.

Q. Do you know how to get in touch with him?

A. He lives in the Irish Channel, somewhere around here, and I think maybe you could get his mother, Mrs. Ramagos. Maybe she has a telephone.

Q. Do you know her first name?

A. No. But it's in the neighborhood of the Irish Channel. She talked to me a long time. She's the one who told me he's on dope. He would know what Godfrey was raving about and everything.

Q. While they were together.

A. Yes. While they were together there.

Q. Yes. Is there anyone else? For example, any attorneys that might have knowledge. Or, of the doctors you have met -

A. No.

Q. Those you think might be dependable.

A. *I don't* know - I kinda stay away from the doctors. The only name I remember is Dr. Graham's who - Dr. Graham who let him out when he tried to kill me not -

Jerome - 34

Q. You remember the name of Dr. Rafferty.

A. Well, I remember that ... yes.

Q. Uh, if Mr. Garrison wanted any of his staff to consult with any of these doctors, would you give your permission?

A. Certainly.

Q. Because you see doctors generally won't speak about their patients

A. Yes.

Q. and properly unless they have authority to. This should be a confidential matter.

A. Yes.

Q. If I did - if Mr. Garrison wants any of the doctors spoken to, you wouldn't mind.

A. No. Indeed I wouldn't.

Q. If he should want to speak to Dr. Rafferty, for example. Would you like to be there? Would you be willing to speak to Dr. Rafferty -

A. I would be willing to cooperate in any way that Mr. - the DA thinks would help the situation.

Q. Yes. You understand why I make this point about Dr. Rafferty, so there is no doubt in your mind. You remember before while you were looking through the papers and the tape recorder was turned off, I told you that there is a Dr. Rafferty who is a psychiatrist with whom one of the men who figures in this case lived.

A. Yes.

Q. Or is said to live. That young man has been indicted by Mr. Garrison for perjury. For your information, that man is Layton Martens.

A. Um-hm.

Q. And this might lead to complications, you see, so I wanted you to know about it. I don't know if Mr. Garrison would want you to be there or not. I don't know if you would want to be present. But I thought that while we were talking, so the question won't come up, then Mr. Garrison will know.

A. Um-hm.

Q. Did you ever talk to Dr. Gannon(?)

A. Yes.

Q. Did any other psychiatrist or any law official ever talk to you about Dr. Gannon having - having given a mentally ill man ...

A. No. Bill Jerome is the one who handled that whole thing for me.

Jerome - 35

Q. Do you know who he spoke to?

A. Jerome to whom I'm now married. No.

Q. Did he ever say -

A. It is in the - he - I mean the DA has that record of that visit that Bill made up there, with the gun and everything.

Q. That's when he returned it?

A. Yes. He went - he never did return it. I still have it.

Q. You still have the gun?

A. Yes. You want the gun? I have the gun.

Q. Do you have any objection to giving it to Mr. Garrison if he wants it?

A. But I need it. I need it because I'm all alone in this house -

Q. Why don't you do this. Don't turn the tape off yet until I finish talking to you.

A. No.

Q.= Why don't you turn the tape off and for the record we see if the gun has any identification and we put that on.

A. All right. They've been all over the gun in the DA's office but we can do it again if you like.

Q.= I think if we have an identification it may serve to protect you because guns have serial numbers.

A. Right.

Q. Why don't we just turn the tape off now then and we - while you get the gun and we can record

A. All right.

Q. the identification. Uh - Mrs. Jerome, you have gotten and handed to me an automatic pistol which is a Walford like in Peter PK. It has a brown plastic stock. I'm looking for a serial number and uh - it has a serial number. Let me read it carefully, 333075 possibly the letter M. That is on the right hand side right behind the trigger. ~~Abzd~~ And uh - I'm sorry; you were going to say something but for your protection I wanted - now also remember I told you that I had been told by the man with your son's name but not description - I had been told that he had exactly this kind of weapon. I wanted -

A. Same number?

Q. No, not the number, but the model. So now you were going to say something, I wanted to make that record before I forgot.

A. Yes.

Q. Say whatever you please.

A. I was going to say that when Bill Jerome first got this job with the Road Equipment Company which I thought was a CIA pay-off that sort of alienated me from him then but I didn't say anything because I was expecting that kind of a job to come up. He - he never made that kind of money; this is something out of this world for him. And when he was first with them they sent him up to - oh - Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for a training period. So, the morning he left the guy - Godfrey got out of the hospital the same morning. I took him to the plane. Godfrey got out, and later on when he came - I got Godfrey back in the hospital and everything - when he came back we discovered - no; before he came back a friend of mine had discovered that someone had taken the bullet put of the chamber and one of the bullets out of here; two of the bullets were missing, so if I'd had to use it, I couldn't have used it. I thought that was very odd ^{because I'm the only} ~~because~~ one ever fools with the gun. I don't know who took the bullet out of the ~~gun~~ chamber.

Q. Yes.

A. Just at the time when Godfrey was in town and Bill was gone. Now -

Q. What did Bill do earlier? I'm sorry -

A. Go ahead.

Q. What was his earlier employment before he got this unusually good job and what was his -

A. He was with Louisiana ~~xxxxx~~ Industries then, selling gravel, concrete and all.

Q. Yes. His level of income was considerably lower.

A. = Yes. It was around ~~\$4,000~~ \$12,000 or so. These people told him they were going to make him rich. He was going to make \$50,000 a year and all that stuff.

Q. Yes. Now one other thing. If you want to say anything, go ahead, but let's not forget I forgot to record the calibre.

A. Yes.

Q. You were going to say something.

A. I was going to say that before Bill left he wasn't speaking to me for a whole week for some weird reason. And I took him to the plane, then I went to a friend's house and I took the gun with me and everything and had friend, man friend, look and see that there was no bullet in it. So I said I think Bill took that bullet out. He's the only one that's around that gun. And so when he came back he met me over that house and said we're going to test him out, and we showed him the gun without the bullet and told him and my two friends will testify that his face turned livid and he looked as guilty as heck. But maybe it's not so. Somebody did take the bullet out of the chamber.

Q. You said your friend's house. Does she know anything besides that -

A. No.

Q. Could she in any way confirm -

Jerome - 37

- A. All she could do is confirm that we all agreed he looked very guilty when we showed him that there was no bullet in the chamber.
- Q. Yes. Now if you don't mind we can turn it off again. I've examined the Walther pistol and I'm no expert but I don't see any calibre marking. And while I was examining it you told me about an incident in which you were writing a - were going to write a letter to the papers. Mr. Jerome cautioned you against it. And then you went to the grocery store and you saw an Ivy League type you thought might be an FBI man who said to you very quietly, watch out for tonight or something like that. That night a bullet came crashing into your house, broke the window, broke a bowl and imbedded itself in the wall. And sometime later you discussed this with a friend of yours who is somewhat of an expert and he said that the hole in the wall had been repaired.
- A. And the bullet removed.
- Q. And the bullet removed.
- A. Right. And it would still be there for me to show it to you except that the hurricane broke the window out and I had it replaced. It was there for the longest time, a kind of a hole.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I called the New Orleans police about it, too.
- Q. Then there is a report on it.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you call at the time it happened.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did any policemen come out then?
- A. Yes. Couple police came out and - I spent the night out - out that night, anyway, but when I came back that morning I saw it. It might have happened when I was in there because there was a silencer on and I didn't know. You see, I just didn't-
- Q. Do you remember the approximate date.
- A. Uh - no. I don't remember. But I do remember that Jackquile MacPherson, the lady lawyer, went to her husband, the man lawyer, and she woke him up - he was sleeping; she woke him up and she said, "Jim, they took a shot at her."
- Q. You - I don't remember whether I asked you before, but what is the date of your marriage to Mr. Jerome?
- A. The 1st of May of last year.
- Q. Of 1967.
- A. Yes. Right. How long had you known him?
- Q

Jerome - 38

A. Uh - I met him October - January 17 of 1964.

Q. '64. Then you'd known him for some years.

A. Yes.

Q. But you didn't meet him until after the assassination.

A. Yes. Right near then/

Q. Do you have the impressin taht he looked you up in any way? Is there anything unusual about your meeting?

A. Oh - I _ I met through a friend; a friend introduced me to him.

Q. Yes. Is there anything else that you can think of now, Mrs. Jerome, that you'd like to add to this?

A. I think that's all I can think of at the moment. I'll try to look through the papers and see if I can find anything.

Q. Yes. And if you think of anything else that might be of moment, would you do me a favor; I think you ought to mail it to Mr. Garrison and if you can, copy to me. But if that's any kind of a problem, you can mail it to me and I can ~~xxxxit~~ make a copy and send it to him, and if you don't have any way of making a carbon, I'll make a carbon and return it to you.

A. All right. All right. I think I've told you about everything except one thing, after the murder. I don't remember when it happened, but I remember Godfrey grabbed me down in the patio one day and said, "You and that Clay Shaw."

Q. "You and that Clay Shar." I wonder why he said Clay Shaw.

A. I don't know. But it - when Clay Shaw was arrested I thought of it. That's the first time I thought of it since then. And immediately I told the DA about it.

Q. But you have no reason to believe that he knows Ckay Shaw.

A. I have no reason to believe that he does or that he does not.

Q. Or that he does not. Uh - do you have any reason -

A. I don't know Clay Shaw personally.

Q. Uh, you have no way of knowing whether he had any sexual connection with Mr. Shaw.

A. I don't know. I don't know. Anyway, he says that he never had a connection with anybody. He says that I'm a liar if I say it. I never say it, you know, you don't -

Q. You mean with men or women, or just men?

A. No. with men. He would deny it, you know.

Q. Well, you had the evidence of your own eyes, didn't you?

Jerome - 39

- A. Yes, but that was just because I wasn't going to have those people drag into my house.
- Q. You have no doubt about what was going on then.
- A. Oh, no indeed. No doubt.
- Q. One other thing I'd like to ask you if you don't mind. You know there's a kind of perversion that deals with violence, sadism-masochism.
- A. Um-hm.
- Q. where people like to torture others or people enjoy being tortured. Have you any way of knowing whether or not your son had any connection with people of this sort or had such -
- A. Well, I don't think - I don't know. I have no way of knowing. But I do know that he said that he told us that Dr. Gammon was always getting beaten up and we, Bill and I at the time, said, oh, that probably has to do with his sex life. This old doctor, you know.
- Q.= How old was Dr. Gammon?
- A. Oh, well, he was maybe in his 50's or 60's. Call him old and kind of creaky (creepy?); seemed older than he was.
- Q. Uh- you don't know whether this was done by patients or anything else.
- A. No, I don't know; except that ^{Godfrey was} ~~Bill was~~ remarking, he always had marks on him. Looked like he was beaten and everything.
- Q. Yes. That may be interesting.
- A. Yes. Godfrey never had a mark on him, or anything like that.
- Q. Yes. You never knew of him to enjoy beating people, did you?
- A. No. No. Positively not.
- Q. Yes.
- A. He has a very sweet disposition, believe it or not, when these things are not on him. After he tried to kill me, he wrote to me and said he was so sorry. When they came and picked him up, he said, How is my mother? How is she? She was -
- Q. What was the diagnosis in his case?
- A. Um. He has what they call "Alice in Wonderland" syndrome. It sometimes he thinks he has two heads. Sometimes he thinks he's tall and then he thinks he's little. ~~Will~~ You know? They call it the "Alice in Wonderland" syndrome.
- Q. Does he ever think he's anybody else?
- A. Yes. He knocks on the door and says, I'm Mitch Little this morning. What do you mean? Well, I just am. I feel like I am. He feels like he's other people.

Jeome - 40

Q. Yes.

A. And ~~then~~ many times I'm sure he feels like it's me because I saw him one time and he was - he was living here and he had a boy ^{living} with him. I didn't like this set-up at all but I couldn't do anything about it. And I happened to come in and I was always writing letters to the editor. Now who should I find ~~sitting at the typewriter~~ - there he was sitting by the typewriter, and Carlos comes in and he says, uh -

Q. Who was Carlos?

A. Carlos was the man that was here that was living with him. Carlos Lavendar.

Q. Was living -

A. With Godfrey. Yes. He says, "Don't bother me. I'm writing a letter to the editor." And, in the way he said it sounded just like me saying it.

Q. Yes.

A. And I think he was playing the part of me then, you see.

Q. Do you know anything about Carlos Lavendar?

A. No, except that he was sort of a Latino type.

Q. Yes.

A. A Latin. Oh, and one more thing I want to tell you about Godfrey. = He told me that he had an army, and I must try to find that paper. And he was writing to somebody, "Dear Sir". I have an army of Latin-Americans. They will do anything I say and I'm known as C-7 or something like that, he says, we want to go - I want to help my country. and we want to go into one of these Latin-American countries and give it - uh, uh, train them in guerrilla tactics and all. And I'll try to find that letter for you.

Q. Yes, that's very important.

A. And he says that- uh, that, uh - that they hung out at ~~Sax~~ Cafe Marina - la Marina

Q. La Casa de M la Marina?
La Casa.

A. /Right. Right. Right. He says that where they hung out. I thought there was more than -

Q. Oh, no, no, no. That could be very important.
Did he ever - would it be much trouble to look for that letter now?
It would

A. /Now, I have no idea. - Cause I looked for it before and couldn't find it. But I think -

Q. Do you remember about when?

A. No. I don't remember. It was -

Jerome - 41

Q. Did he mention any names?

A. - before the murder of Kennedy. Long before.

Q. Very long before or close to it?

A. Might have been close to it, but it was before.

Q. Did he ever mention having been to a training camp?

A. No; he said he trained these men, though. ~~xxxxxxx~~ In the letter he said, "I trained these men." ~~xxx~~ if my memory serves me -

Q. Was there a period of time during which he might have been gone during the day time and home at night?

A. Yes; possibly. He used to come home real dirty, sometimes.

Q. That was just what I was going to ask you. Like he'd been in a muddy place?
looking.

A. Real dirty. Real dirty. / Like he'd been crawling someplace.

Q. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Was the mud a little bit light-colored?

A. ~~xxxxxxx~~ I don't remember that.

Q. You know you have mud that's red and mud that's sandy color. Uh - would you mind stopping the tape for a moment? This might be important.

A. I don't remember the color of the mud now.

Q. Okay. Uh - did he ever say that he'd been on the other side of Lake Pontchartrain?

A. No.

Q. In connection with that. I'm going to tell you why I'm asking these questions. There was a training camp just exactly as you've described on the other side - at least one, on the other side of -

A. It's all coming out in the investigation. It's all coming out - everything ~~he~~ the boy said is coming out.

Q. It's absolutely true.

A. It is. And here I was saying well this was all just a deranged mind. I didn't take any stock in anything the man said.

Q. The camp existed. One camp existed until July 31, 1963. Now that's not too long before the assassination. This is why I asked you if it was not too long.

A. It might have been around that time.

Q. And it was a Cuban camp. Did he ever mention -

A. Um-hm. Said he met a Latin-American; said in Latin-America I'm known as I believe C-7, or something like that. I don't know who he was writing to; it just said Gentlemen. And it said he had this army of

Jerome - 42

and uh - of Latin-Americans, they were very faithful and they would do anything he said, and he would like to go down to Latin-America and then train natives in guerrilla tactics and all, the people down there.

Q. You don't think he ever mentioned any names in connection with ...

A. No; he didn't have to.

Q. Mrs. Jerome, this could be very important.

A. Um-hm. He never told me anything. One time the bell rang and it was a man with a gun up here and he said that uh - that he was - that Mr. Kirkpatrick had turned ^{me} him in as a mail thief, that I was stealing his mail.

Q. Excuse me. I want to make a note of something and then I want to come back. I just want to turn this off. I just don't to forget. When I turned the tape off, you were telling me about a man who had come here. Did you say he had a gun?

A. Yes. In a holster. He was a government man. T-man, I suppose you call him. It was about mail theft. And my son had turned me in for stealing his mail.

Q. Turned p you in.

A. Yes. And reported me as being a mail thief. He said that I stole his mail. And I explained to the man that the man was sick, and he said, well, we thought maybe he was, and he apologized and left.

Q. Very strange thing. There was an incident involving the interception of mail at a training camp on Lake Pontchartrain. You'll find this in my book, OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS, and I'm sorry I don't have a copy of it with me. The name of the man was Fernando Fernandez whose letter was intercepted.

A. Well, I don't know, but I know he - they -

Q. Very strange.

A. Now, I don't even know if my son had reported me.

Q. Of course. I understand that. Now we know - we know who intercepted it.

A. It seems to me that the man said my son had reported it.

Q. Yes, but this letter was intercepted by people we know.

A. Yes.

Q. It never got into the mails.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. You see? So it couldn't be the same incident. But what a remarkable parallel. I wish you would especially try and think, Mrs. Jerome, about anything connected with that Cuban camp, whether or not he ever mentioned young people, if he ever mentioned how - if he ever mentioned being there or how he got there, if he got there -

Jerome - 43

- A. No. He never told me anything. I was the enemy, always.
- Q. Did you ever know anybody he knew who might have had a truck?
- A. No.
- Q. See, this camp was not far from Mandeville.
- A. Um-hm.
- Q. Rather a remarkable coincidence, too.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Well, I'm glad we didn't stop when we were going to. Because, you see, when you get to talking, things come back into your mind.
- A. Yes.
- Q. This is why I give you my address in case you want to get in touch with me at Garrison's office. It might be faster if you have no provision for making carbon copies if you send it to me and then send this to Garrison. But it would be better if you kept a carbon copy, whoever you sent it to because each of us has less dependable mail service than we would like.
- A. Uh-hugh. ...
- Q. Do you have any idea how your son got pistol?
- A. He got it from Gammon. Dr. Gammon.
- Q. This is the same one that he got from Gammon?
- A. Yes. This is the one Gammon wanted back.
- Q. I thought that Gammon got his back.
- A. No, he didn't. We told him to go to the DA's office and get it and he wouldn't go.
- Q. Right. Right. Okay.
- A. And meanwhile, Pershing Garvais gave it back to Bill Jerome.
- Q. Yes. Can you think of anything else now?
- A. No, not offhand I can't.
- Q. Well, before I - before I put the tape recorder away, I'd like to make a telephone call if you don't mind.
You hold the tape, Mrs. Jerome.
- A. Well, when Bill Jerome was first around here - coming around here, one of his best friends was a fellow named Davis, Ricardo Davis. He called him Richard Davis.
- Q. Richard Rudolf Davis.

Jerome - 44

- A. And he must come home - come in somehow, he wanted me to meet this fellow, and how this fellow was something about military stuff and all that kind - kept telling me how interesting he was, and just - it was just sort of a sixth sense, I said I don't wanna to meet that creep; he sounds like a creep to me. Is he connected with the murder of the President? And he used to go over there and have dinner and everything ~~the~~ else, but he just come - I just ~~wanted~~ wanted to tell you that. Now I haven't heard - heard -
- Q. You never met Mr. Davis.
- A. I never met him. I didn't want to meet him.
- Q. Ever speak to him over the phone?
- A. Yes. He had a foreign accent. Real cute accent.
- Q. Could you - that's correct, by the way.
- A. And I never pay that much attention, but Bill used to come and tell me all these fantastic stories about him, you know, and wanted - said he wanted to meet me and everything like that, and I just never did meet him.
- Q. I wanted to tell you that -
- A. Apropos of nothing at all. It just came to me ...
- Q. I know. As a matter of fact, I think you may be interested in knowing that Mr. Davis was in charge of that camp from the FBI reports that I have on him, and I know that he was because he called me up and told me so.
- A. Um-hm.
- Q. And for whatever it's worth to you, I can't prove this, but I believe that camp was really for training ground for the assassination of Fidel Casyro.
- A. Um-hm. I believe it was. I believe that's what Bill said it was. He told Bill that, I believe.
- Q. Uh - your husband -
- A. If I'm not mistaken.
- Q. You think your husband told you that this camp was a camp that ...
- A. It seems to me that he was an anti-Castro man.
- Q. Well, there's no question about that.
- A. Well, I was just telling you how interesting he was and everything else, you know, and how he wanted to meet me.
- Q. Did you husband ever say anything about having been in a camp of that sort himself?

Jerome - 45

- A. He never said anything about it.
- Q. And all you know about his connection with Davis is some telephone calls and what he told you.
- A. Yes. And he used to have dinner with them and all, his family and his wife.
- Q. This was where he - where he had dinner?
- A. No. At their home. And then all of a sudden I heard no more about him. And I didn't think of him again until I read this Parlor(?) politics and I saw his name.
- Q. Yes.
- A. One more thing. When Bill first came over here, he went in the kitchen, and he was trembling. He came up to me and whispered in my ear, "I'm a fascist." And I said, "You are?" Well, I said, a year ago it's a Communist. Don't be telling me anything fascist. The way he said it, it just looked - and then he just dropped the subject. And then he told me afterwards he was only kidding.
- Q. Has he ever said anything about his own politics?
- A. No. No. I thought when he said that, I thought maybe he was trying to see if I was or something.
- Q. Has he ever said anything indicating that he has had any affiliation with any groups of people or of parties? I don't mean -
- A. He's head(?) of the Council thing.
- Q. White Citizens Council?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That's the thing I was driving at. Did he ever make any reference to an organization known as the National States Rights party.
- A. I don't remember -
- Q. Did you ever hear of a group like that?
- A. I've heard of them.
- Q. Did he ever mention the name of Guy Banister?
- A. No. But I know who he is.
- Q. You know who Banister was.
- A. Yes.
- Q.= Uh - I wish that after I leave you would think of all you can about Davis. Ricardo Davis now lives in Houston and describes himself as a business broker. Uh, and uh - now I've spoken with Davis and before I tell you I would like you to tell me the amount of accent this man = had.

Jerome - 46

A. He had an accent.

Q. Well, would you say it was light or heavy?

A. But it was attractive.

Q. It was attractive.

A. He spoke good English. But it was attractive. Kind of a light way of talking.

Q. Yes. As a matter of fact that's exactly what I was going to say.

A. Happy in a way, you know.

Q. That's the way he talks, yes.

A. Happy in a way. Sounded real cute on the phone.

Q. Yes. Well, that does sound like Ricardo Davis.

A. Oh, I'm sure it was because I mentioned it and I showed it to him in the book. He said, Yes, that 's Ricardo Davis.

Q. Who at that time was connected with an insurance company. And who also said that he had lumber interests in Guatemala.

A. Um-hm.

Q. Then your -

A. I don't remember that at all.

Q. Then you never heard anything about lumber.

A. No. I think at one time he was sort of an officer or something for a Castro group, wasn't he? or a fighter, or something? I don't know. There was some connection with Castro, but he was anti-Castro -

Q. He was.

A. Yes. Bill said he was an awfully nice man, a charming man. He wanted me to meet him but somehow or another I didn't think I wanted to meet him.

Q. Did you ever hear any mention of the Christian Democratic Party? a group of Cubans. The Christian Democratic Movement.

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear any mention of of a name like Batista? Or Laureano? Or uh -

A. No. Oh, one thing. One time I wrote a letter criticizing Castro. I called him a clown of the Caribbean in this letter and I told him he was making a fool of himself and so forth and so on, and after that these Latinos would pass here and glare at me because and then I was coming out with some laundry one time to wash it and here's this Latino taking my picture. Uh -

Jerome - 47

Q. Did the letter ever get published?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember the man who took your picture?

A. I don't know ~~his~~ who he was, but he pretended he wasn't when I - when I saw him taking it. ...

Q. That's interesting because it's an anti-Castro letter.

A. He(?) was anti-Castro ...

Q. And almost all the Cubans were anti-Castro.

A. Um-hm.

Q. This thing of Ricardo Davis fascinates me. He was the local representative of the Christian Democratic Movement, and he told me that if the Bay of Pigs had succeeded he was to be the delegate of that group in the new government.

A. Um-hm.

Q. He told me that the men from this camp were to go to Guatemala and there was a very broad inference in what I told you. Now there were a number of men who were there, and I know the names of only some. And none of them that I can think of now sounds like Lavendar. But I'm just wondering -

A. Well, Lavendar's father was the head of Jackson; he was a psychiatrist.
A Dr. Lavendar.

Q. Was the head -

A. Of Jackson.

Q. And his son lived here with your son.

A. Um-hm. He's no longer over there, though, but he was the head doctor at Jackson.

Q. Yes. It's fascinating.

A. Oh, golly. And let me tell you something else funny. Right after - right after all this happened with finding this thing and then all these people looking at me so mean and everything and all the burglars start coming in on me and everything, and - lots of things were happening - well, anyway, this girl comes and she starts living with me. Well, she was a bunny girl at the Playboy, you see? And she started bringing in all these characters, and I remember one night - and so many of them have later turned up in this investigation. It almost looks like I don't know what. Plotkin was one of them that she went out with. A guy named Nestor, was an attorney. What's his name - Marco?

Q. Nestor Marcos-Diaz?

Jerome - 48

A. Yes. She brought -

Q. That's fascinating.

A. Well, that's what I want to tell you,

Q. Do you remember her name?

A. Yes, I remember - I tell you when she came over. I used to live out Little Farms and I was friends with my neighbors, and they had this girl who was kind of bad, Stella. And one night she -

Q. Stella?

A. Yes; Stella. And she had some kind of mis-up with the DA while she was here. Uh -

Q. Do you remember Stella's last name?

A. Yes; her name was Howard. Stella Howard. And uh - so her mother called me and said, Oh, I had a fight with Stella last night ~~and I~~ ^{she} ~~xxx~~ come to spend the night. Bill was her husband. So I said all right So she came and she arrived with her lit - with one of her boys and Stella. So in the morning the boy - she and Dorothy(?) and the boy left and she left Stella here. And I said, What did you leave Stella here for? She said, Well, I got to tell you, her father put her out. Could you please keep - she has no money or anything. Could you please let her stay with you? Well, I knew she had this terrible reputation as a little thief and a little whore and everything else. So I said, Well, I'll try to help her. She was a - she was a little teen-ager, so she got a job at the Bunny Club. She started bringing all these people that were out of town; she brought Juan Valdez - Juany Valdez - Juan Valdez?

Q. Yes.

A. She brought him over here.

Q. This is Stella.

A. Yes. Stella brought him over here. She brought Nestor Diaz - Marcos-Dias.

Q. Marcos-Diaz.

A. Yes. And she brought Plotkin.

Q. She introduced you to these people.

A. Yes. So I was trying to make a - a - a decent little girl out of her I knew she was a little whore, and I said, Lock. Why don't you try to tell these people I'm your aunt or something and try to act nice, honey. You know I was trying to look at her like she was that old.

Q. This was Stella Howard.

A. Yes. Stella Howard. So, anyway, they all got so friendly and everything over here, and then the first thing you know she lost her job at - Oh, yes. So she started going with this one and that one and I

Jerome - 49

said, Look. There's not going to be any whoring if you're going to live here, Stella. I'm going to talk to you like a Dutch uncle. Uh, uh - so anyway, she lost her job at the Playboy, and these people up here tried to get her back in the Playboy -

Q. End of that side of the tape. You said that Nestor Marcos-Diaz had brought some men to you and you identified one. You were going to take them out and show them your house -

A. Yes. (Jim Cannon?)

Q. You identified one as Federico Gonzalaz. Would you care to continue? And may I suggest we don't need the air conditioner now?

A. All right. I'll turn it off. ...

Q. Yes.

A. And there were three men. They were very important because they had just been with Hale Boggs up to Washington. And that day Schiro had given them the key to the city.

Q. These same men.

A. These same men. Now, why he brought them to me, good ol' me, I don't know. Now my son was furious when they came here. I don't know why. I just thought it was more of his meanness.

Q. Yes.

A. And I - so I called this friend of mine to see if she would like to go around with them, you know, and uh - one of them was the head of the Coca-Cola Company in Mexico and another one was a professor. They were all highly educated, very lovely men. And Mr. Gonzalez was the head of - I think at one time he might have been treasurer of Mexico; I'm not sure. But at that - when I knew him - when he came over that night he was the head of the public utilities in a certain state starting with a C.

Q.= In Mexico.

A. Yes. In Mexico. Yes.

Q. Yes.

A. And we went all around. We went to different places, and you know, and everything, and uh - and the whole time Gonzalez was talking politics to me, you know. And these great - great tables of Latinos and everything, and everybody was jolly, and so he leaned over to me and he said, This Kennedy; we're afraid of him. I said, Why? He said, Because he's too powerful. And he said - I remember exactly what he said. He said, He has everything. He has wealth, he has good looks, he has power. And we are afraid. What does he want next?

Q. Hm. Do you remember the -

A. And uh - and that was that.

Q. Do you remember the name of the other man?

(last?)

A. No. One of them was D A M Y, I believe his first name, but I -

Q.- D A M Y.

A. Yes. Well, the one -

Q. Damy.

A. Yes. He was - I think he was a professor and also a banker. And the third man - the Coca-Cola man left because it was just and me, you see.

Q. Yes.

A. And we went to so many different places and they were so dull and when to leave I remember the professor said, Madame, Mexico is yours; you have won it fairly. And he makes a big bow. And he says, If you ever come to Mexico, we get the red carpet out for you, and all that kind of thing.

Q. Did he say how you could get in touch with him?

A. Yes; he wrote to me a couple of times, Gonzalez did.

Q. Do you have those letters?

A. I'm sure I have.

Q. I'd like very much to see them.

A. Yes. Enrico Gonzalez. Now - but I don't know but - but since he's connected with this little bunch of people. Then when the bunny girl - oh, I had to fire the poor bunny girl -

Q. First let me ask you; were there two bunny girls or one?

A. One. Stella Howard.

Q. Do you know how she came here?

A. She came here. Her mother brought her here and asked me if she could spend the night because she was frightened of her husband. She, she was my next-door neighbor. And I had moved here.

Q. Yes.

A. She wanted to escape her husband, she said, for the night. So she came over and she brought her boy and Stella. She left in the morning with the boy and left Stella on me. Stuck with me with Stella.... So then it started. Stella started bringing all these people in, and she'd go out on dates with them, you know, and all ..

Q. Do you remember any of the other people Stella knew?

A. Oh, I can only think of boys now because I've seen/their names - I think this Nestor is defending one of the people against Garrison because I saw it in the paper. And then -

Q. No; he's suing me.