

with the US 7/1/67

Taped and transcribed 22 February 1967, ABC-KGO (San Francisco),
Frank Hemingway newscast, 5:30 p.m. : --

Wesley J. Liebeler -- "The Commission and the FBI were quite aware of the fact that Ferrie had flown this airplane over to Texas on the day of the assassination, and that was checked out as thoroughly as anything could be checked out. There's a stack of FBI reports on this investigation about a foot thick. And the staff of the Commission -- it was primarily my responsibility in the first instance -- analyzed these reports, and there wasn't a shred of evidence that there was any connection between Ferrie and the assassination."

(The above appears to have been an excerpt, played by Hemingway on his newscast, of a taped interview with Liebeler made some time earlier in the day).

Ferrie Not Linked to Oswald, Attorney Says

An attorney for the Warren Commission said here Thursday that an extensive FBI investigation failed to establish any connection between David William Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Prof. Wesley J. Liebeler of UCLA law school, whose interview of a New Orleans policeman contained the only mention of Ferrie in the Warren Commission report, said the FBI had checked him out long before.

"There were a substantial number of reports from the bureau, containing all details of Ferrie's trip to Texas and tracing any possible connection with Oswald," Liebeler said.

Clear Memory

"There isn't anything in them that would indicate any connection. I remember them very clearly."

Liebeler said the FBI reports, which he estimated to be more voluminous than the 40 pages mentioned by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, are in the national archives. He said he does not know why they have not been released.

(Sources in Washington said that some of the

material on the investigation of Ferrie has been declassified. That which remains classified is in accordance with the federal government's policy that information which would cause personal embarrassment to innocent persons would be withheld.)

While Oswald and Ferrie may have had some "peripheral contact" while in the Civil Air Patrol when Oswald was in junior high school in New Orleans, Liebeler said the FBI reports showed no relationship between them at the time of the assassination.

As for the investigation being conducted by Garrison, Liebeler had this to say:

"I personally don't think he has anything, because everything I have seen so far was aware to us then."

Edward Butler, a New Orleans publicist who participated in a taped interview with Oswald prior to Mr. Kennedy's death, said here Thursday that Ferrie had made an attempt to contact him after the assassination. Butler said he was told Ferrie contended he was innocent and was being unjustly linked with Oswald.

N.Y. Post 7/23/67

FBI Cleared New Orleans Pilot After Quiz, Warren Aide Says

By MICHAEL J. BERLIN

A Warren Commission staff member said today that David M. Ferrie, who was found dead yesterday after being named in the New Orleans investigation of a possible plot to kill President Kennedy, "was not involved in any way."

Wesley Liebeler, the counsel who handled the New Orleans end of the Warren Commission inquiry, told the New York Post:

"Ferrie was picked up shortly after the assassination and questioned thoroughly by local officials and the FBI. I remember specifically doing up a substantial stack of FBI reports on Ferrie that we reviewed in order to make our determination."

"It was perfectly clear that he was not involved in any way."

Writing a Book

Liebeler, now a UCLA law professor, is working on a book defending the Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination.

"To the best of my recollection," says Liebeler, "there were two people with Ferrie, and they accounted for his moves on the day of the assassination . . . They were not near Dallas. I don't remember the names of the two, but they're in the commission files."

The FBI reports on Ferrie were not included in the Commission's 26 published volumes of testimony and documents, Liebeler says, "because it was so clear he wasn't involved."

Liebeler says the Commission staff did not doublecheck the FBI inquiries, "aside from some questions I asked" of two witnesses who were called upon by the Commission, primarily to discuss other aspects of Oswald's background.

One of the witnesses was Edward Voebel, who had attended junior high school in New Orleans with Oswald and Ferrie.

Voebel brought Oswald to "two or three meetings" of the school's Civil Air Patrol unit, after which Oswald "lost interest." Ferrie was the captain of that CAP unit, Voebel said.

Later that same day (April 7, 1964) Frederick O'Sullivan, another Oswald classmate and now a member of the New Orleans vice squad, testified.

Liebeler pressed him for a relationship between Oswald and Ferrie in their teenage CAP

days, but O'Sullivan could remember none.

When Ferrie was arrested for questioning in 1963, O'Sullivan testified, he and another policeman went out to the airport "where we found Dave Ferrie's airplane. We wanted to check it to see if it was flyable, to see possibly whether he had been flying it lately, with the thought that he may have transported Oswald to Dallas. This isn't my thought. This was brought up to me, but his plane was not in flyable condition."

Finally Liebeler asked:

"You have never had any contact with Ferrie in connection with your activities on the vice squad? Is that correct?"

O'Sullivan's reply, as printed in the Commission record, was:

"No; Ferrie lives or he did live in Jefferson Parish. We have no authority in Jefferson Parish. (Deletion.)"

Today, Liebeler was asked if the Commission had established that Ferrie was a homosexual—if that had been the reason for the deletion.

"There was something of that sort, I remember," said Liebeler.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 — Documents in the National Archives disclosed today that Jack S. Martin of New Orleans, who linked Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie had admitted to the Secret Service that the President's story had been a lie.

Mr. Ferrie, who was found dead yesterday in his bed, was a major figure in an investigation by the New Orleans district attorney, James Garrison, of an alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy. The district attorney has promised sensational disclosures and arrests. He insists the alleged plot was hatched in New Orleans.

Mr. Martin told Mr. Garrison shortly after the assassination that Mr. Ferrie had known Oswald, that he had trained him in the use of rifles with telescopic sights and that Mr. Ferrie had visited Dallas about two weeks before the assassination of the President by Oswald on Nov. 22, 1963.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Martin swore in separate statements to F. B. I. and Secret Service agents that his story had been a figment of his imagination.

On the night of Nov. 29, 1963, two Secret Service agents, Anthony E. Garrets and John W. Rice, interviewed Mr. Martin "at length" in his apartment in New Orleans.

Their report states:

"Martin, who has every appearance of being an alcoholic, admitted during the interview that he suffers from 'telephonitis' when drinking and that it was during one of his drinking bouts that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about David William Ferrie being involved with Lee Harvey Oswald.

He said he had heard on television that Oswald had at one time been active in the Civil Air Patrol and had later heard that Ferrie had been his squadron commander. Martin stated that Ferrie was well known to him, that he recalled having seen pilot in Ferrie's home and also, said that Kohlman (who had been a newspaper reporter pre-

viously had written an article on Ferrie and that Ferrie had been a Marine and had been President's killer and Ferrie. It was not clear whether any of the testimony was based on documents that came in

Herman S. Kohlman and had told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination.

The Secret Service men also reported that they had learned that F.B.I. agents had talked with Mr. Martin three days after the assassination and that he had admitted the information on he had furnished Assistant District Attorney Kohlman was a figment of his imagination and that he had made up the story after reading the newspapers and watching television.

16 Pages of Data

Their reports and others are contained in 16 pages of information about Mr. Ferrie relating to the Warren Commission investigation into the Kennedy assassination. About 40 more are still classified, but the National Archives has asked the F.B.I. to clear those as well.

The 16 pages that came to light today were declassified by the F.B.I. in September, 1965, but until this month they were scattered through "many thousands of pages" of information, according to Marion Johnson, the archivist in charge of the Warren Commission records.

Mr. Johnson pulled the declassified information about Mr. Ferrie together in response to requests by reporters for New Orleans newspapers.

Mr. Ferrie is mentioned on pages 14, 29, 30 and 31 of Volume 8 of the Warren Commission hearings. The last three pages contain testimony by a detective, Frederick S. O'Sullivan, of the New Orleans Police Vice Squad. He was also in the Civil Air Patrol headed by Mr. Ferrie.

Mr. O'Sullivan told the Warren commission that he knew of no connection between Oswald and Mr. Ferrie. He also said that he had inspected Mr. Ferrie's airplane at New Orleans Airport shortly after the assassination and had found it "not in fvable condition" because its tires were flat and instruments were missing.

Mr. Ferrie was once interrogated as a possible "getaway pilot" for a Presidential assassination.

Another member of the air patrol unit, who knew Oswald, told the Warren Commission he had no link between the President's killer and Ferrie. It is not clear whether any of the testimony was based on documents that came in

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COURT REJECTS LAWYER'S CALL

N. J. L. 8-6-67

Testimony in Andrews
Case Ruled Out

A Vermont state district judge in Brattleboro has denied a request for summons to have former Warren Commission lawyer Wesley J. Liebler appear at the perjury trial of Dean Andrews.

Judge John H. Carnahan ruled the request contained no factual evidence, but only conclusions of a Louisiana judge.

Judge Carnahan said there are written transcripts of information which Liebler can supply, and his presence is not necessary in the trial. He also said the short notice given to Liebler to appear will create a hardship.

Liebler told the court he has personal business outside Vermont that would conflict with an appearance in New Orleans.

Liebler, a professor of law at U.C.L.A., contended he had not been served with papers until 10:30 p.m. Friday. The trial gets under way Wednesday morning in the court of Judge Frank J. Shea.