

To
Jim Garrison , from
Harold Weisberg
Jack Martin's phone call tonight-fascists

3/16/68

While I was eating tonight I was paged for a phone call from Jack Martin who said he was in Texas. It strikes me as remarkable that he knew where I was and what I had been doing. He was precisely accurate because these things he went into are what I have been discussing. Either my room is bugged or there have been some excellent guesses. I did discuss some-but not all- of it with Dean Andrews, and I did get some of the information from Patricia Hoffman.

Jack began abruptly by talking about Mike Slatter. This man has interested me since April 30 when I learned of him from Orest Pena. Knowing that, Pena arranged for me to learn something about him, this trip.

Moreover, it is possible to infer from what Martin said that he assumed I knew something about Slatter. Martin began by identifying Slatter as the son of a former British Air Marshall and a secret friend and former front man for George Lincoln Rockwell. Here he also said that Banister was close to Rockwell, and that Banister represented Rockwell. Martin said that Courtney, presumably Kent, had those of Banister's files not burned, sent to Augusta, Ga., to the Thunderbolt.

He now says that Banister and Delphine Roberts were "celebrating" the assassination and that when he asked them if this is what they were doing Banister slugged him (in Delphine's presence). He also said that just prior to his being hit he said he'd be talking about Ferris.

Now of all the things about which Martin could talk to me, I am wondering why he mentioned only ~~the~~ things I had ~~not~~ discussed with witnesses during the past few days. It was not until about three nights ago that I learned Slatter's name. I discussed Banister's file with Dean Andrews last Saturday and briefly this afternoon. Now Orest Pena did tell me that although she showed no signs of it when she was with me for dinner Wednesday, after they left she was angry with him for arranging it. She called me a "brain picker" and seemed pretty clearly to resent my having learned what I had from her. PATRICIA

She now works at NASA. She had been Slatter's girl friend and also has been Pena's, off and on. She is of local country origin, in her 30s, I'd estimate, blond (at least Wednesday night), with a vagrant right-hand lock that curls off to itself, about ~~5'8"~~ 5'8" in the shoes she then wore. She is radical right, has been friendly with Banister and still is with Badeau (she says he wrote a book after he went to Jefferson parish).

Orest now thinks she was with him the night of the ^{"Oswald"} drunk at his Habana, that when she was she usually stayed up late with him, and that she saw this drunk act. If so, she made no reference to it the night we dined together. She then seemed pleasant. After dinner we adjourned to my room for further discussion. Then, too, she showed no resentment at being interviewed.

The rest of the Rockwell story is that he came to New Orleans several years ago to picket the opening of the movie Exodus. He got arrested.

Martin-2, 3/16/68

Early this morning I discussed this with Barbara, Jack Werking and Jack Frazier. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ After a relative long silence, John George had looked her up again. She has, I believe, given a memo on this. I had a long talk with John last weekend in which he disclosed, whether or not so intending, his switches of allegiance. She also had a call from San Antonio from Martin that roughly coincided with mine. Like mine, it also was the first word in some time.

Martin's source?

The coincidence of these things is remarkable. (Martin, simultaneously, is trying to sell something to the LA Free Press).

~~Early this morning~~ I discussed this with Barbara, ~~Jack Werking and Jack Frazier~~. From them I get a little more information on Slatter that may eventually be of some interest. I could not fix the date of Slatter's departure. Last April I heard that he was a departed English Nazi. The version from Patricia is that he went to Spain and found it impossible to re-enter. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Pat's former husband Robert Hoffman is described as a talented artist (water colors), a "head" who has mystic phases and has been with Raslyn (approx), now his wife, at least four years. I cite this to date Patricia's associations with and knowledge of Slatter. Slatter was and may still be close to Bill Russell, who lives in the Quarter. He is about 60, his thinning hair is gray or white. He is spread shouldered and according to Barbara is the greatest living jazz authority. He was trained as a classical musician. He lives behind Preservation Hall.

Pat confirms the above relationships with Rockwell and adds Arnesto Rodriguez, Jr., as one of the many who sprang to his defense when he was arrested, publicly. Others included a number of psychiatrists, one of whom is named Van Sturriel (approx), said to have been a friend of Slatter. Some time ago, when Pat learned that Orest was friendly with Arnesto, she cautioned him against it, telling him that Arnesto had a "bad man", meaning Rockwell, for a friend.

It is possible I will get more information on the Rockwell arrest and what followed from local friends. I do not yet see its relevance. I can also check with New York sources. One triviality: at a Slatter party Arnesto either fell asleep on the floor or was drunk and passed out there, according to Pat. And there is a rumor that he was running around with Van Sturriel's wife.

Pat is still friendly with Hubie Badeau. She was with Banister, etc.