

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH MATT O. WILSON

30 JANUARY 1968

Interview with Matt O. Wilson of Portland, Oregon, by telephone concerning Oswald literature scuffle in New Orleans on 9 August 1963.

Interviewer: Stanley R. Primmer. Wilson agreed to the interview being tape recorded.

PRIMMER: Has anyone interviewed you about this matter?

WILSON: Well, if I remember correctly, there was some FBI people here one time and inquired about this same matter.

P.: So the FBI did talk to you about this?

W.: I don't recall -- Gosh, I -- I -- I just can't remember how this went now that -- Gee, it seems hard for me to remember -- I'm pretty sure that there was some FBI people here, though. Now, I -- Gosh, my memory's poor on that. Either they were here or somebody else talked to me about it. Seems like they questioned us about it.

P.: Well, I had not heard --

W.: I can't ^{just} recall now how that went.

P.: Yes. Well, besides -- aside from that, if you could recall for me as best you can -- Oh, first I should tell you who I am. I am a volunteer investigator doing this on a part-time basis, and whatever you tell me will be passed on to Mr. Garrison's office in New Orleans. If you could recall as best you can the incident when you were in New Orleans and saw Oswald passing out literature, and especially before the main ruckus started -- what you observed then -- if you could tell me about that.

W.: Yeah, we were there on a convention deal. This Mr. Doyle, Pat Doyle, was along and his wife, and he had a boy who was using a movie camera for the first time and making every oppor -- taking every opportunity he could to get some pictures. I recall this alright when he had the -- we were walking down the street. The Doyle family was with us and my family,

and we noticed this -- this man coming down the street with a placard on his neck, and it seems to me like there was two men; there must have been another man there, too, but I don't remember if he had any placards with him. But this man had something --

P.: Were they coming towards you?

W.: They were coming toward us, yes. They were coming toward us.

P.: And there were the two men together.

W.: There was two men involved in this thing, but I don't remember if the other one had any -- any placards with him, but this one that I can think of would -- who we thought was -- was the -- Os -- (What's his name --) [pause]

P.: You mean Oswald?

W.: Oswald, yes; I'm trying to place him: Oswald. He had this placard on his neck. On it was inscribed something about Castro, long live Castro, or something on there. I just don't remember the wording or anything. But I remember it was -- we assumed that it was Cuban. And I know that he referred to Castro.

P.: Umhuh.

W.: And golly, we had no more than met them when a group of other people jumped in there and started tearing up the literature. He had this literature in his hands, and he was handing it out to people as he went. I didn't take one of these. I don't recall that I took one, but --

P.: Did any of your family take it, or did Mr. Doyle's family or he take it?

W.: I don't remember that either, if any of them took them. I know that I could see the man passing bills, as you see these street vendors do, you know.

P.: Yes.

W.: Some nut come along passing literature. I don't always take it. I don't remember if Doyle did. But anyway he was passing these out, and pretty soon several other people that looked

to me like they were not natives. They looked to be more like the Cuban type -- jumped him, right there. And they grabbed these posters, and they began throwing them about, and they shoved him around, and they shoved him on the ground once.

P.: Oh, they did shove him down on the ground?

W.: Yes, they shoved him down, and he was up, and he had this funny look on his face. I looked at him while this boy was taking pictures all the time. And I can remember that face. Then when it came out in the newspapers afterward I could recall it. That was the same face -- I mean it appeared like he looked like he was Oswald.

P.: Yes.

W.: I can recall this, yes. And then pretty soon, it wasn't only a few minutes, and the police car pulled up in there, too, and they put him in the police car. They took him away.

P.: Did they only take Oswald away, or did they --

W.: I can't recall what happened to that other guy. I -- I'm sorry, I just don't remember, but I think they took two of them. I -- I'm just guessing at it because it's so hazy now, but I can remember they put one of them -- this Oswald, the guy that had the the literature, I know they put him in the car.

P.: Yes. Well now --

W.: If I can remember now what happened to that other guy that was walking with him.

P.: Was it your impression that the man walking with Oswald before the others came along -- was it your impression that they were friends, or that they were --

W.: I thought they were together, yes.

P.: They seemed to be together?

W.: I thought they were together, yeah. I thought they were in a similar cause, whatever it was.

P.: Was the other man passing out literature, also?

W.: I don't think he was. I think he was just walking. I don't remember that he had -- He could of, and -- They had a large placard, too, and I don't know what happened to it. Somebody was carrying it. Either one of them was carrying ~~it~~ a -- a larger placard with them, and I -- I think it was Oswald. The other man could have been carrying literature, too.

P.: Well now, this large placard, is that ^{the} one that Oswald was wearing, or is that a different one?

W.: No, they had another there, too. Yeah, they had another placard. I seen it laying on the side, there, in the street, and when this -- this ruckus was getting over, why, I seen this other placard by the police car. And it was inscribed with some writing, too, that I didn't decipher. I don't recall what it was.

P.: You didn't see what this other placard said?

W.: No, I -- I did at the time, but I don't remember what it said. I -- I know it was something to do with Cuba and the revolution.

P.: Was -- Do you recall if it was pro-Castro or anti-Castro?

W.: I think it was for Castro's cause -- I thought it was.

P.: Now, did you see anyone else carrying a placard or --

W.: No, I didn't that's

P.: -- sign there?

W.: the only ones that -- Oh, these things happen so, and it was kind of a -- kind of a hurry up deal, too, and we didn't realize what it was all about, or I had no idea that this was a -- a major item and like the killing of the president or anything.

P.: Yes.

W.: I was more interested in this boy getting all these pictures.

P.: Yes.

W.: He was getting action.

P.: Right. Well, you didn't notice, then, if any of the Cubans were carrying a sign.

how far that guy's going to go in a -- in a Cuban refugee place like this with that sign." It kind of appeared to me that he was asking for trouble.

P.: Well, that could be.

W.: And that's what it turned out to be: trouble.

P.: Did you happen to overhear any conversation between Oswald and his companion as they walked by you?

W.: No. No, I didn't hear anything.

P.: Do you know if they were talking?

W.: I don't even recall if they were talking. I can't -- I just can't recall that at all. I -- I -- I don't know.

P.: Did you get a very good look at the man who was with Oswald, particularly at his face?

W.: Not that I would recognize him even if I -- I -- I probably looked at him, but I didn't -- but Oswald had a different appearing face. He had an odd expression, and that stayed in my mind. I -- I just don't recall what the other man even looked like.

P.: Well see, one thing Mr. Garrison is interested in is the identity of this other individual.

W.: Oh.

P.: And --

W.: Well, I'm sorry I can't help you.

P.: Well --

W.: I can't recall at all what he looked like.

P.: Well let me ask you this: Do you think that Jim Doyle got pictures of this other man?

W.: Well, I thought he did. I was -- I really thought he did. I'd have to -- I think to ^{my} memory, I don't remember if I've seen these pictures. You see the FBI came and -- and -- and taken them away before I had the chance to see them.

P.: Yes.

W.: That's right. Now I remember what happened. They came over

12

W.: Thank you.

P.: And thank you very much.

W.; Good night.

P.: Good night.