

CD-87

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Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed

Field	City	State	File No.
	New Orleans	La.	60-7-34-1039
Investigation Made At	Period Covered	Subject	
New Orleans, La. November 24-29, 1963		Lee Harvey Oswald	
Investigation Made By	Title		
Special Agent Anthony E. Gerrets Special Agent In Charge John W. Rice	Assassination of President John F. Kennedy		

SYNOPSIS

Investigation disclosed that information furnished by Jack S. Martin to the effect that David William Ferris associated with Lee Harvey Oswald at New Orleans and trained Oswald in the use of a rifle with a telescopic lens, also that Ferris had visited Dallas several weeks prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is without foundation. Jack S. Martin, who has the appearance of being an alcoholic, has the reputation locally of furnishing incorrect information to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

At 5:00 p.m. on 11-24-63 Donald Mitchell, 1501 1/2 General Taylor St., New Orleans (rear basement apartment), called at the office and was interviewed by reporting agent. Mr. Mitchell stated that he shares this apartment with one J. Philip Stein, a/k/a "Jerry". Mr. Mitchell advised also that the telephone in this apartment is in the name of Herman S. Kohlman, Assistant District Attorney, Parish of Orleans, New Orleans, La., for the reason that Mr. Kohlman formerly shared the apartment with J. Philip Stein but that Kohlman recently married and moved from the apartment. The telephone number in question is TWInbrook 1-6703.

During the interview with Mr. Mitchell he stated that some

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time during the afternoon of Sunday 11-24-63 Jerry Stein answered the telephone in their apartment; that the person calling was endeavoring to contact Herman S. Kohlman, explaining to Stein that the reason he was trying to get in touch with Kohlman was that Kohlman had written a story about an individual known as "FARRY"; that "FARRY" was a hypnotist and had either taught or had something to do with Oswald being taught how to use rifles with telescopic lenses, also indicating that "FARRY" had a collection of rifles. The caller also informed Stein that "FARRY" had been in Dallas about two weeks prior to 11-24-63 and that "FARRY" had been corresponding with Oswald. According to Mr. Mitchell, the person making this telephone call said his name was "JACK" - no last name given.

Subsequent to the interview with Donald Mitchell, several attempts were made to contact Herman S. Kohlman.

At 11:00 p.m. on 11-24-63 a telephone call was received from J. Philip Stein. He said he did not know "Jack's" last name. He stated that the FBI had been investigating "FARRY" several weeks prior to 11-24-63; that "FARRY" is said to be an airplane pilot and allegedly has flown supplies to Cuba. Stein stated that "Jack" told him that "FARRY" was said to have been in Dallas several weeks previously; further, that "FARRY" is allegedly a homosexual. Stein stated that he was told by "Jack" that "FARRY" has been training some Civil Air Patrol boys in the use of foreign made arms and allegedly trained Oswald in the use of a rifle.

Stein stated that "FARRY" is said to be rather intelligent; that he allegedly has a PhD degree and is a hypnotist. He said that Herman S. Kohlman, a former newspaper reporter, had written a story about "FARRY" about two years ago and that the story had appeared in "The Times-Picayune", a New Orleans morning newspaper. Stein stated that, according to "Jack", "FARRY" is alleged to have been communicating with Oswald and that both were allegedly engaged in the same type of work. He said that "FARRY" was believed to be living in the Louisiana Avenue Parkway area, New Orleans.

At 11:10 p.m. on 11-24-63 reporting agent received a telephone call from Herman S. Kohlman. He said that he was an Assistant District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans and that he was calling from the District Attorney's office. It was apparent that Mr. Kohlman was reluctant to talk about "FARRY". He finally stated, however, that the District Attorney's office was conducting an investigation on their own with regard to "FARRY"; that "FARRY" is actually David Ferris (W; M; 52; 195; 5-11; wears a wig, having suffered loss of hair in blotches). He said that Ferris has a record at the New Orleans Police Dept. - Bureau of Identification;

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that he had been arrested several times and charged with moral offenses involving young boys. He said that Ferrie at one time lived on Atherton Drive in Metairie, La., a suburb of New Orleans. Mr. Kohlman stated that at the time of his telephone conversation with his office had ten Police Officers (investigators for the District Attorney's office) scouring the city for David Ferrie and that in the event Ferrie was picked up he would notify me. (No request was made of Mr. Kohlman that Ferrie be picked up and held for this Service).

At 12:35 a.m. on 11-25-63 Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman telephoned the reporting agent at his residence, at which time he advised that he had received information to the effect that David William Ferrie had left for Dallas on Friday 11-22-63 during the afternoon, travelling in a light blue Comet. He also advised that Ferrie reportedly had a plane and may still have it. He said that at the time of his telephone conversation with me Ferrie was allegedly on his way back to New Orleans.

Mr. Kohlman stated that it was his information that Harvey Lee Oswald was in Ferrie's Civil Air Patrol group in New Orleans some years ago; that Ferrie allegedly had a fraudulent charter and that the Civil Aeronautics Board checked on it.

When pressed for the full name of the informant thus far referred to only as "Jack", Mr. Kohlman stated that he was "just a fellow who worked around the Police Headquarters building" and that "Jack" did not want to become involved in this investigation and for that reason did not want his name mentioned in any way. Mr. Kohlman was informed that "Jack" would have to be interviewed in person by representatives of this Service.

During the late afternoon of 11-25-63 SAIC Rice received a telephone call from Herman S. Kohlman, advising that David Ferrie had been picked up by representatives of the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office and that he was being questioned in the District Attorney's office at that time. Mr. Kohlman informed SAIC Rice that Ferrie would shortly be brought to the First District Police Station, where he would be booked.

At approximately 7:00 p.m. on 11-25-63 SAIC Rice and reporting agent interviewed David William Ferrie (W; M; 46 - DOB 3-18-18 at Cleveland, Ohio; 5-11; 190; ruddy complexion; brown eyes; wears dark brown kinky wig with a reddish tint; false upper teeth; resides at 3330 Louisiana Avenue Parkway, New Orleans. Former address: 291 Atherton Drive, Metairie, La. Ferrie stated that he had lived at 17302 Laverne and at 6301 Pear Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio).

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David William Ferris stated that when he was employed by Eastern Air Lines he flew mostly to Houston, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Brownsville and various intermediate points; that he some times flew to New York via Atlanta and Washington.

Ferris insisted that he was in New Orleans on Thursday, November 21, 1963 and on Friday, November 22, 1963, until about 9:00 p.m. He said that he is positive that he was in New Orleans on the dates mentioned because he had been in Court in connection with a trial involving Carlos Marcello. He said that he departed New Orleans about 9:00 p.m. on 11-22-63 and drove to Houston and Galveston, Texas, with two companions, Alvin Beaubouef, about 19 or 20 years old, of 2427 Alvar St., New Orleans, and Melvin Coffey, about 26 to 28 years old, 618 N. Pierce St., New Orleans; that he was driving a 1961 blue Const 4-door Station Wagon with 1963 Louisiana license, having bought the car from Delta Mercury, Inc., 2201 Canal St., New Orleans, about three or four weeks previously - Charles Graham, Salesman.

*get info*

Ferris stated that he and his two companions mentioned above returned to New Orleans about 9:30 p.m. on 11-24-63; that he telephoned Attorney G. Wray Gill (by whom he is employed as an Investigator) several times; that at Gill's suggestion he left New Orleans about midnight that same date and drove to Hammond, La., where he stayed at the Holloway Smith Hall on Sycamore Street, at the Southeastern Louisiana College, where he has a friend, Thomas Compton, who does research in narcotics addiction under a Doctor Nichols, under a Federal grant. He said he left Hammond about 1:00 p.m. on 11-25-63 and arrived New Orleans about 3:00 p.m.; that immediately upon arriving at New Orleans he contacted Attorney Gill, who accompanied him to the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office, where he was wanted for questioning in connection with the Oswald case.

During the interview with Ferris by SAIC Rice and myself he stated that he had left New Orleans on 10-11-63 via Taca Air Lines for Guatemala and had returned via the same line, arriving New Orleans on 10-18-63. He stated that he again left New Orleans on 10-30-63 via Taca Air Lines for Guatemala, returning via the same route, arriving New Orleans on 11-1-63. Ferris indicated that he had made these trips to Guatemala for Attorney G. Wray Gill and that the trips involved some investigative work having to do with the Carlos Marcello case.

David William Ferris emphatically denied that he had been in Dallas for about the last eight to ten years.

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As the interview with David William Ferrie was about to end he stated that he had a very good idea who had reported him as having associated with Oswald, training him in the use of rifles with telescopic lenses, etc.; that he was firmly convinced that one Jack S. Martin, who resides at the corner of Esplanade Avenue and N. Prieur Street, had made this false report concerning him. He stated that Martin makes a practice of hanging around the offices of various attorneys, Court rooms, etc., and is well known locally for furnishing false leads to law enforcement officers, attorneys, etc.

Subsequent to our interview with Ferrie on the night of 11-25-63 he was interviewed by FBI Agents at the First District Police Station.

On 11-26-63 it was learned the FBI Agents had talked with Jack S. Martin, who admitted that he had been the informant with regard to David William Ferrie; that Martin had admitted to FBI Agents that the information which 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; that he remembered that Kohlman, a former newspaper reporter, had written an article or story about Ferrie a couple of years ago and that he pieced the whole thing together in his mind and had given it to Kohlman as facts.

On the night of 11-29-63 SAIC Rice and reporting agent interviewed Jack S. Martin at length in his small run-down apartment located at 1311 N. Prieur Street, New Orleans, which he shares with his wife and 6-year old son. 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 sprees that he telephoned Assistant District Attorney Norman S. Kohlman and told him this fantastic story about William David 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 rifles in Ferrie's home and also recalled that Kohlman had written an article on Ferrie and that Ferrie had been a Marine and had been with the Civil Air Patrol. Martin stated that after turning all these thoughts over in his mind, he had telephoned Norman S. Kohlman and told his story as though it was based on facts rather than on his imagination.

In view of the above, this phase of the investigation involving William David Ferrie will be considered closed.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

Case remains open at New Orleans pending submission of several additional reports covering investigation thus far conducted, after which the case will be closed here and investigation continued in accordance with Chief's instructions.

CR87620

Date November 27, 1963

FRANK CARACI, Co-owner, Club 500, 500 Bourbon Street, advised that he never met JACK LEON RUBY, but was aware of the fact that RUBY was in New Orleans looking for dancers in about June, 1963 at about the time JEANETTE CONFORTO was completing her engagement at the Sho-Bar Club on Bourbon Street.

CARACI recalled that one night, probably in June, he and NICK CARNO, his partner, were in his office when his night manager, CLEEVE DUGAS, came into the office and said there was a man who ran the Carousel Club in Dallas out in front who wanted to talk to CARACI about hiring some dancers. He told DUGAS to tell this man that he knew of no dancers available other than CONFORTO. He told DUGAS to tell this person to go to the Sho-Bar and talk to CONFORTO. CARACI stated that neither he nor CARNO met this individual and he had concluded that this individual actually was RUBY since he has read in the newspapers and heard on television that RUBY operated the Carousel Club. CARACI said he did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD and had never heard of him before the assassination of the President.

On 11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69

by SA THOMAS G. BOGGAN :dc Date dictated 11/27/63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 27, 1963

ALFRED PECORARO, 1205 North Rampart Street, student at Louisiana State University, New Orleans, advised that he is Publicity Chairman of the New Orleans Council for Peaceful Alternatives, and is a member of a Socialist Study Group in New Orleans which meets regularly at various locations throughout the city. He said the last meeting of the New Orleans Council for Peaceful Alternatives was in June of 1963. PECORARO advised among his acquaintances are WILLIAM EDWIN CLARK, LIONEL HAMPTON MITCHELL, JOHN D. BASS, BILL HOGAN, ROBERT HOFFMAN, and DAVE HOFFMAN. PECORARO described DAVE HOFFMAN as "apolitical." He said the others generally travelled in the same circle as does he (PECORARO). He noted that HOFFMAN last year was Editor of "The Reed," at Tulane University. He stated HOFFMAN resides on Decatur Street, New Orleans, in the area of Esplanade Avenue.

PECORARO advised he was certain that he had never attended a meeting of any group contemporarily with LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He examined OSWALD's photograph and stated that he could not say that he had ever seen this man in person.

PECORARO advised he most certainly had never attended any gathering where assassination of Presidents was discussed; that any group with which he is associated advocates peace, and that he would not sit through such discussions.

Subsequent to President KENNEDY's death, PECORARO had a discussion with LIONEL HAMPTON MITCHELL about OSWALD, and MITCHELL likewise stated that he had never seen OSWALD on any occasion in New Orleans.

11/27 at New Orleans, La. File # NO 80-60

by JOHN W. SMITH & KEVIN J. HARRIGAN/abd Date dictated 11/27/63

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CO 75 #2

Date November 29, 1963

JESSE R. CORE, III, 3022 St. Charles Avenue, stated that he was presently Director of the Jesse R. Core Public Relations Firm located in Room 211 International Trade Mart, 134 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, and added that he was also presently doing public relations political work for his client ROBERT F. KENNON, Candidate for Governor, State of Louisiana.

He stated that sometime during the middle of the month in September, 1963 when he was conferring with political associates at the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, he heard a rumor that someone was picketing the International Trade Mart and telephoned radio station WDSU to inquire if the Trade Mart was being picketed. He stated that he was informed that it had been reported that pickets were located at this mart and CORE added that he was aware that this mart had previously been picketed by extremist groups, the names of which groups he had never been made aware but explained that to his knowledge they were small groups of males but predominately females who picketed both City Hall and International House at New Orleans, as these buildings had displayed the United Nations Flag.

CORE stated that he immediately went over to this mart to "see what was going on" and noted at this location two persons who appeared to be handing out leaflets bearing the notation "Hands Off Cuba" and a name stamped "L. H. OSWALD, 4907 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana".

He stated that at this location he immediately conferred with a friend of his and Trade Mart Associate named JOHN ALICE, owner of John Alice & Company, Import Export Firm, International Trade Mart, 124 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated that ALICE showed him a handbill similar to the one described above and CORE added that he was so angered with the entire idea of someone passing out such handbills, that he immediately wadded the handbill up and threw it in the face of one person passing out such handbills. CORE stated in addition he cursed this individual and called him a Communist.

CORE explained that the person at whom he threw this handbill moved his head slightly and did not speak to him but gave him a "cold and icy" stare.

On 11-29/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-69 DALLAS 89-43  
by SA JAMES ROYCE PROCK /dc Date dictated 11/29/63



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CORE stated that on this occasion he did not know the name of this individual but explained that without any doubt this individual was directing the activities on this occasion at the Trade Mart and further explained that it was not until November 22, 1963 when LEE HARVEY OSWALD's picture appeared on television that he was aware that the individual who was passing out these handbills on this occasion was identical with LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He advised that neither prior to this occasion nor subsequent to it had he seen this individual with the obvious exception of seeing OSWALD's picture on television in connection with the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. He described OSWALD as approximately under 30, 5'8" tall, 150 pounds, appearing frail with his hair thinning in front and appearing dark but not black.

Shortly after the above described incident CORE stated he went to his office in the Trade Mart and while there received a telephone call from someone located at Radio Station WDSU who inquired of CORE if a cameraman had arrived at the Trade Mart and if pictures were being taken of the activity at this location. He stated that he informed the person who called from this station that while he was observing the activity at this location a photographer from this radio station was observed to be taking pictures.

CORE was furnished copies of approximately six photographs taken by Radio Station WDSU on this occasion and picked out an individual from among persons represented in these photographs as identical with the individual he saw at the Trade Mart during September, 1963 and added that this same individual was, in his opinion, identical with OSWALD.

CORE continued to examine the photographs referred to and picked out a white male described by CORE below as being an associate of OSWALD's on this occasion but added that he did not know the name of this individual.

=  
White  
Male  
6'1"  
175 pounds

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20 - 21  
Hair - brown  
Peculiarities - suntan.

CORE added that as he recalled only the two persons described were observed by him to pass out handbills on this occasion and he stated he saw no other person handing out these pamphlets.

From among the persons pictured in the photographs which CORE observed he identified the following named persons and added that these individuals were present on that occasion as spectators of the activity at the Trade Mart:

J. EHARA, identified by CORE as Japanese who operates an Import Export Firm named Kasuga & Co., Ltd. on the third floor of the International Trade Mart, 124 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana (telephone number 525-7841).

JOHN ALICE, Owner, John Alice & Co., Import Export Firm, International Trade Mart.

Mrs. ISAAC DELORES NEELEY named by CORE as his former secretary and presently associated with the New Orleans Press Group, New Orleans, Louisiana.

CORE stated that he possibly observed the activity at this mart for approximately 20 or 25 minutes at the time in question and added that since he thought this information might be useful to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he then telephoned that organization and reported the nature of the activity described above.

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DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE was interviewed at his residence, 3330 Louisiana Avenue Parkway and was advised of the identity of interviewing Agents. He was advised he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he did make could be used in a court of law and he had the right to the advice of an attorney..

FERRIE stated that at the time of the Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba, he was very embarrassed and concerned over the lack of air cover provided the Cubans who were engaged in the invasion and that he severely criticized President JOHN F. KENNEDY both in public and in private. He stated that he does not recall specifically what he said in making these criticisms and might have used an off-hand or colloquial expression "He ought to be shot" to express his feelings concerning the Cuban situation. He stated that he has never made any statement that President KENNEDY should be killed with the intention that this be done and has never at any time outlined or formulated any plans or made any statement as to how this could be done or who should do it.

FERRIE stated that when it came to serious discussions, when the question of impeachment of President KENNEDY arose he opposed any impeachment proceedings. FERRIE said that within one year prior to the first Russian Sputnik he recalls being quite critical of the U.S. Space Project and the Defense Program. He said he had also been critical of any president riding in an open car and had made the statement that anyone could hide in the bushes and shoot a president. FERRIE also advised that he has been accused of being a worshiper of President KENNEDY because he is a liberal and strongly believes in President KENNEDY's Civil Rights Program and Fiscal Program.

FERRIE stated he has never loaned his library card to LEE HARVEY OSWALD or any other person at any time and that his library card, to the best of his recollection has not been out of his possession since it was issued to him. He exhibited New Orleans Public Library card # M.L. 89437 bearing the stamped lettering N.R. - P.D. in the upper left hand corner. FERRIE said the letters N.R. mean non-resident,

On 11/27/63 at New Orleans, Louisiana File # NO 89-60

by SA'S ERNEST C. WALL, JR. &

11/27/63 Date dictated 11/27/63

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and the letters P.D. mean paid. He related that at the time he obtained this library card he was living in Metairie, Louisiana and had to pay for the issuance of the card. The library card shows it was issued in the name of Dr. DAVID FERRIE, 331 Atherton Drive, and expiration date is shown as March 13, 1963.

FERRIE stated he has no recollection of knowing or having met LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the Civil Air Patrol or in any business or social capacity.

FERRIE stated he has never owned a telescopic sight, a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight, has never used a weapon equipped with a telescopic sight and does not know how to use one. He also said he has never instructed LEE HARVEY OSWALD or anyone else in the use of American made or foreign made rifles or firearms.

FERRIE said that while in the Civil Air Patrol he assisted in firearms instruction at Civil Air Patrol Bivouacs for range safety only.

FERRIE claimed he has owned a Stinson 150 blue and white, single engine, four passenger monoplane, registration number 8293X and that this plane has not been airworthy since the license expired in the spring of 1962. FERRIE stated he has never flown LEE HARVEY OSWALD to Dallas, Texas or any other town in Texas at any time. He said that the only planes he would have access to would be rental planes.