

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Nathaniel E. Kossack
First Assistant
Criminal Division
Department of Justice

Tully:

Here are the clippings on Norton's interviews in Canada. We understand the papers did not believe the stories but printed them largely because Norton had been scheduled to appear for pay on a radio program. We can find no record on any of the names involved and have never had any association with them.

L. R. Houston
Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

CIA _____
(DATE)

21 August 1967

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129-11*

AMERICAN. 'NOWHERE ELSE TO GO' COVER

Fantastic Tale Links C

By JOHN TAYLOR

A link between Lee Harvey Oswald, Clay Shaw, David Ferrie and the Central Intelligence Agency is claimed by a man now in Vancouver.

Donald P. Norton, 35, told The Sun he encountered all three while he was on the payroll of the CIA, the U.S. espionage agency.

Norton has been interviewed here and in New Orleans by officials of New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison.

Garrison, whose investigation has been questioned by many sources, alleged a conspiracy between Shaw and Oswald in the assassination of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy.

Ferrie, a pilot, was a key figure in the Garrison investi-

gation until his death in February of this year.

Norton first came to see The Sun, July 2. Since then many details of Norton's story have been confirmed. But the authenticity of his central claims defy verification by normal newspaper investigation.

Oswald, killed by night club owner Jack Ruby shortly after the Kennedy assassination, has been named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of Kennedy, who died in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Norton is a native of Columbus, Ga., who until late last year operated his own record promotion and production company in Albany, Ga.

Norton told The Sun that Ferrie was his contact man in Atlanta in 1959 on a CIA

assignment to carry about \$150,000 into Havana, Cuba.

He believes the money was intended to assist the revolutionary activities of Fidel Castro.

He said he knew Ferrie at that time as Hugh Pharris.

"This man, known to me as Hugh Pharris, was my contact at the Atlanta Municipal Airport — or Candler Field Airport at that time.

"He, in fact, delivered to me the case which contained the money I was to take into the CIA contact in Havana," said Norton.

"That is my first meeting and only personal meeting with the man known to me as Hugh Pharris, later proved to be none other than David Ferrie."

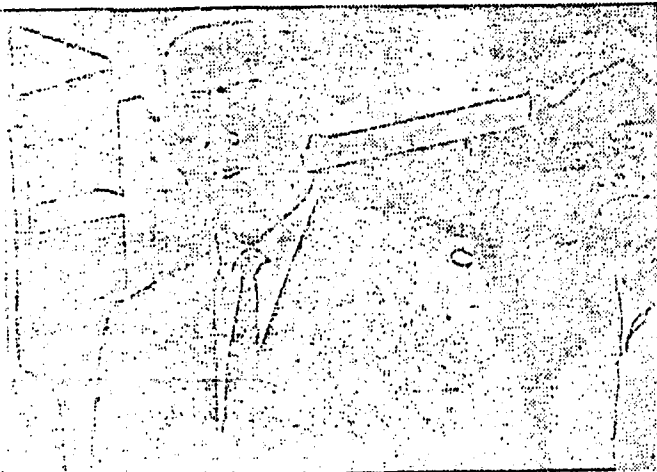
He saw Ferrie again in 1960, but did not speak to him.



NORTON, INVESTIGATOR

HERE TO TELL

A With Oswald, Clay Shaw



LEGATOR WARD, 'BODYGUARD' BEING... CIA Halls probed

Norton said he met Shaw for the first time in Alabama in August, 1962, on a CIA assignment to Monterrey, Mexico, and a year later in a night club in Albany.

He said that in the 1962 meeting, Shaw was with a man who gave him an attache case containing about \$50,000 to be delivered to a "Harvey Lee" in Monterrey in exchange for another case containing some documents.

"During the publicity of the John F. Kennedy assassination, when the man known as Harvey Lee Oswald was revealed to the public as the supposed assassin, I almost immediately recognized him as being the same Harvey Lee whom I had met in September, 1962, in Monterrey, Mexico, where to him I delivered money.

"I believe this was for a revolutionary-type activity against Castro.

"This was a CIA assignment at the time."

Norton said his instructions were to make his way to Calgary, Alberta, and make himself known publicly. He would then be contacted and was to turn over the case with the documents.

"I was to deliver this attache case to a certain well-known oil company employee. In fact, he was a geological surveyor of a U.S. company, who was residing in Canada.

"My instructions were to get established in Calgary and I did by becoming very prominent on local television

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Ex-Agent' Links Oswald to CIA

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and playing for one of the well-known restaurants in Calgary. The man (whom Norton has refused to identify) contacted me.
"After the contact was made, I continued playing and then I very abruptly left Calgary without even telling some dear friends that I had made."

(Norton's activities in Calgary, apart from his CIA dealings, have been largely confirmed by The Sun.)

Norton said he was in Calgary for a period of about eight weeks until about November, 1962 (This period was confirmed by one man, but others said he was there much longer, possibly eight months.)

Norton, when he contacted The Sun, asked that he be placed in touch with Garrison. This was done July 9, the day after he came to The Sun, and Garrison agreed to send one of his top men to Vancouver to interview Norton.

He was chief deputy assistant district attorney Charles Ward, who arrived in Vancouver July 12 and interviewed Norton the same day. He was accompanied by an assistant.

On July 15, Norton, Ward, and a Burnaby man, Lou Reisig, accompanying Norton as a bodyguard, went to New Orleans for questioning.

Norton and Reisig returned to Vancouver July 20.

His Story 'Plausible'

Norton and Reisig said Norton had been questioned at length by Garrison and his evidence was placed on tape.

Officials in Garrison's office later told The Sun by telephone that Norton's evidence confirmed some they already had and gave them possible new leads.

They termed Norton's story "plausible" but they were cautious and said that their original in Quebec, as he repeated it to them, has been confirmed.

They did not know whether Norton would be taken to testify at the Shaw conspiracy trial.

Norton said he began work for the CIA in 1961.

He said he was in Calgary for a period of about eight weeks until about November, 1962.

similar blackmail techniques cannot be employed by Communist agents.

Norton said he speaks the language of the homosexual and his being a musician gets him into places and into positions to listen to people and see people which most men would find impossible.

'When It Was To Advantage'

Norton was asked bluntly if he was homosexual. He said he was homosexual when it was to his advantage to be so.

He said his work with the CIA was intermittent and for one period he was not used for about 18 months.

Normally, he operated as a promoter of artists in the recording business, and travelled extensively through the south on his business. He also played organ and piano, and sold organs. He composed pop music.

Norton said he came to Vancouver because he has no place else to go.

He claims he probably would still be working for the CIA, were it not for Garrison's current investigation.

Norton says that in mid-November, 1966, he was notified that he was to go to Freeport, Grand Bahamas, on an assignment.

"When I came back to Miami, I called my contact and I was told that something was happening in New Orleans, and that I should take a long, quiet vacation."

Norton said he then spent seven months criss-crossing the United States, to Hawaii, back and forth into Canada, until he made a last bus trip across Canada to Vancouver, arriving here July 9.

"I came to Canada for one reason — to see if I could find a place to settle down and find just an everyday normal life and get out of the world that I've been involved in."

He said he has "occasional" contacts with people who have died in recent months — like Ferris — about whom the CIA denied knowledge.

"I know better than that," he said.

Norton said, "people he knows who can link Oswald and Ferris to the CIA were convinced if they could find out they can't report for me."

Third Army area, and through this job, at various private functions.

"I was seeing and hearing quite a lot for just another guy on the street.

"Drunk generals and high officials in the United States government, senators and congressmen do a lot of talking when they are under the influence of alcohol."

He said he contacted a friend in the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the military police at Ft. Benning about this.

This man and another man spoke to him about two weeks later about doing "a little bit of listening during my job to, well, honestly, to . . . they were interested in finding out who were definitely homosexual in the higher echelons in this large army base.

"I did not exactly refuse and when I told them in so many words, 'no,' well they started reading off a little of my past about the indiscretion that I made right after being in the United States Air Force."

(Norton said in 1952, he was sentenced to six months for embezzlement of about \$30 from the First National Bank of Columbus. He said he took the money because he felt the bank owed it to him in wages and had refused to give it to him.)

First Job 'Witchhunt'

"I was assured promptly that my working days could be numbered unless I did go along with them, and since they also offered \$500 a month salary, I decided to take it.

"And my first job for the CIA was to go witch-hunting, as we commonly called it, to find out who were indeed the homosexuals amongst the officers and men at Ft. Benning and at other large military installations in the Third Army area.

Norton said on special assignments, he was given additional funds — all of it tax free. He said the Cuban assignment involving Ferris brought roughly \$5,000, the Mexico one with Oswald, roughly \$2,500.

Norton says he knows six people, besides himself, who can link Oswald and Ferris to the CIA, but refused to name them.

"I did know David Ferris and Lee Oswald to be employees of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the CIA can deny it all they like," he said.

Norton said much of his work with the CIA involved identifying homosexuals.

His theory is that the CIA uses the information to blackmail people into working for it, or to ensure that

to," he said. Norton's story is hard to believe, but he relates it in great detail, without contradicting himself.

Tells Truth, Say References

He is highly emotional and produces, one after another, promotional ideas.

He has provided The Sun with a list of references, some of which have been contacted.

Substantially, they believe, he tells the truth, but colors it.

One man said bluntly: "Yes, he tells the truth. He can be believed."

All agree he is an excellent organist with popular tunes. He did not sponge and did not leave a trail of bad debts.

Norton has nothing to prove he was a CIA man — operatives like him are not given identification and are told the CIA will not substantiate anything they say.

He believes attempts will be made to discredit his story on grounds he is a homosexual or mentally unbalanced.

Norton on Thursday was given a lie detector test by another Vancouver news media negotiating for his story. He was told the test was inconclusive because of his highly nervous condition. The media refused to deal with him on grounds of the test.

Norton says he has not told his whole story, and has refused to do so.

He said he has given names to Garrison which he has not given to The Sun.

Laborer Reisz, the man Norton said acted as a body-guard in the trip to New Orleans to be interviewed by Garrison, said he met Norton July 4 on a bus from the B.C.

Reisz said the interview was witnessed by four New Orleans policemen and two lawyers.

"They knew Norton was telling the truth because only somebody telling the truth could have told them this.

"All the evidence he had confirmed what they already knew, and he gave them further evidence in addition.

"I think Norton is truthful, but I think he fears for his life," Reisz said.

American in B.C.

CIA Link Repeated

VANCOUVER (CP) — A link "I believe this was for a Monterey in Calgary. Alvin T. Norton said he spent seven months in Harvey (Dewey) as a dummy-type assignment where he made himself known months cross-country the CIA. Clay saw David Ferris and against Castro. This was a CIA policy. He was then contacted and Canada and finally arrived in Vancouver in 1961 for assignment."

Norton is claimed by an American law firm in Vancouver to have made his way from Toronto to Norton 25, and in an interview Saturday he provided all these while he was on the payroll of the CIA.

Norton said he came to see The Sun July 3, says the newspaper. "Since then many details of Norton's story have been confirmed. But the authenticity of the central claims needs verification by normal newspaper investigation."

MUSICIAN

Lee Harvey Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the lone assassin of President Kennedy in November 1963. Clay Snow, a New Orleans businessman, has been accused by a grand jury, on charges of conspiring to kill the president following an investigation by district attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans.

David Ferris, also died in February of this year, was a central figure in Garrison's investigation. Mr. Garrison claims the assassination resulted from a complex conspiracy involving para-military groups linked with the CIA and dissident Cuban exiles.

Norton, a musician and a native of Columbus, Ga., told The Sun that Ferris, a pilot, was his contact man in 1961 on a CIA assignment to carry about \$100,000 into Havana, Cuba.

MEXICAN

He said the money was to be used to support the revolutionary activities of Fidel Castro. He knew Ferris as Hugh Pharris.

"This man, known to me as Hugh Pharris, delivered to me the case which contained the money I was to take to the CIA contact in Havana," Norton said.

Norton said he met Shaw in Alameda in August 1962, before a CIA assignment to Monterey, Mexico.

OSWALD

He said Shaw was with a man who gave him an attaché case, containing about \$20,000 to be delivered to a "Harvey Lee" in Monterey in exchange for another case containing documents.

During the publicity of the investigation when the man known as Lee Oswald was revealed to the public, T. Cloutier immediately contacted him and asked him about Harvey Lee. Cloutier is now in the custody of the FBI and the money.