

Editor  
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Dear Editor,

I have just seen a copy of your last September's story on the Philadelphia connection with the JFK assassination. As it relates to me it is outrageously wrong, so factually incorrect I have difficulty believing its purpose was not mischief-making.

I was not born in South Philadelphia and I never lived there. I never worked for the Philadelphia Record. (I used to read it as I went home from my work on a Wilmington morning paper.) I was never employed by the CIA and never said this or so many of the other statements attributed to me. All that garbled business about a Dallas case agent has to be incompetent fabrication in which even the function of a case agent in an intelligence agency is misrepresented.

It would be more accurate to describe my home as suburban to Southern Pennsylvania, which is about 10 miles away by air, than suburban Washington, which is more than 50 miles away.

Not only do I not commute to the National Archives - I don't recall being there in three years.

Mallowe seemed like a decent young man, as I recall him, but such grossly wrong writing is incredible. If his note-taking was sloppy it can't explain such totality of factual error so much of which is used so effectively by government agencies which keep and misuse files on those critical of them.

At the time I wondered why he did not send a copy, as he'd promised. Now I need not wonder.

There is probably nothing you can do to undo what through Mallowe you have done. So I write this merely to make a record.

He could not even get a simple number, my age, in print correctly.

The unpopularity of the work I do with the major media has led to some pretty miserable and inaccurate writing but I doubt any, even those pieces intendedly vicious, were any more inaccurate.

Perhaps you have heard from others he quoted and referred to. If you can provide any explanation I'd appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

could hardly believe the things that she was hearing. Bewildered, she listened as Marina Oswald claimed, after originally defending her husband, that she really thought he had killed Kennedy and that she'd figured as much as soon as she heard that the shots may have come from the Texas School Book Depository. Not only that, but, the young Russian wife blurted out—and this is when Ruth Paine says that she was totally dumbfounded—her husband had tried to assassinate a right-wing general just weeks before and had planned other assassinations as well. That certainly didn't seem to be the Lee Harvey Oswald she had come to know, sprawled on the living room floor in front of her TV.

But the inconsistencies and contradictions continued then as they would for the next 14 years. One of the strangest things occurred the afternoon after the assassination. Ruth Paine was back in her rancher in Irving, Texas, trying to calm down after the emotional shock that had suddenly plunged her into a world of cops and cameras and counter espionage.

There was a knock on her door and five policemen were standing there. They had come back to look for more evidence against Oswald. Ruth Paine claimed she was annoyed because she was a stickler for neat housekeeping and the cops had disrupted the house pretty thoroughly the day before.

But Ruth Paine just let them in, and instead of staying with them while they rummaged through her home this time, she abruptly left her house, saying that she had some marketing to do—allowing the cops free reign, unsupervised, for the rest of the afternoon.

It was during this search that the cops would later testify they came up with some of the most incriminating evidence, allegedly found in the Paine home and garage, against Lee Harvey Oswald: photographs of Oswald holding a gun, which he claimed were phony, and which Ruth Paine would later testify she had never even seen before.

However, by the time the case was closed and the investigators were finished with Ruth Paine, she too ended up contradicting her initial remarks and eventually testified that, yes, she was sure Lee Harvey Oswald could have and did kill President Kennedy. Today Ruth Paine still clings tenaciously to her latter contentions that Lee Harvey Oswald was the hit man.

After the Dallas nightmare, Ruth Paine bounced around the country, trying to straighten out her own life and

## SENATE INVESTIGATORS



Murston Schweiker

her deteriorating marital situation. In 1971 she settled back in Germantown where she got a job as principal of the Quaker Greene Street School. She stayed there until 1975 when she voluntarily resigned and relocated in Florida. But this past summer she was back in Germantown, visiting with friends and reluctantly discussing her relationship with the Oswalds.

In February 1976, the log of a secret FBI wiretap on Ruth Paine's phone was released through a Freedom of Information Suit instituted by an assassination investigator who would eventually go to work for Richard Sprague when Sprague turned his own attention to the JFK murder case.

That FBI log reads in part: "a confidential informant advised that the male voice (identified as Michael Paine) was heard to comment that he felt sure that Lee Harvey Oswald had killed the President, but did not feel that Oswald was responsible; and further stated, 'We both know who was responsible.'"

The mystery remains. Who and What was Lee Harvey Oswald? How had the Oswalds and the Paines and Baron De Mohrenschildt all crossed paths in Dallas? Was Oswald really one of the assassins despite his insistence of innocence and his charge of a frame-up? To whom was Michael Paine referring about bearing responsibility for the assassination?

If Ruth Paine, the Quaker lady from Germantown knows, she isn't saying.

### The Soldier of Fortune

The day after Jack Kennedy was murdered, the FBI continued its all-out nationwide search for possible accomplices even though Oswald was in custody, and the theory of a conspiracy had been officially discounted.

One of the very first people they questioned at his Miami home was 32-year-old Frank Sturgis, a stocky, swarthy anti-Communist soldier-of-fortune who had been a favorite subject for stories by his good friend, columnist Jack Anderson.

Sturgis would later tell assassination

investigator Michael Canfield: "I had FBI agents all over my house. . . . They told me I was one person they felt had the capabilities to do it. They said, 'Frank, if there's anybody capable of killing the President of the United States, you're the guy that can do it. . . .'"

On three subsequent occasions between November 1963 and May 1964, the FBI would again question Frank Sturgis about the Kennedy assassination and about Lee Harvey Oswald.

The FBI's return visits were prompted, in part, by several stories that appeared in a small Florida newspaper linking Sturgis to Oswald, the assassination and the violence-prone anti-Castro Cuban community in Miami. The FBI was impressed by the account since it had been written by a former partner and comrade-in-arms of Frank Sturgis.

But who was Frank Sturgis and why, 24 hours after Kennedy's assassination, did the FBI tell him they thought he was capable of killing the President?

Frank Sturgis was born Frank Fiorini. As Fiorini, he had been reared in Philadelphia, first on High Street and then later on Tulpehocken Street in Germantown.

Fiorini had attended Our Lady of the Rosary parochial school, Roosevelt Junior High and Germantown High, where he dropped out in 1942 to join the Marines and begin his free-booting life as a soldier-spy-saboteur for hire.

Over the years Fiorini changed his name to Sturgis, utilizing it as one of about ten aliases he adopted throughout his career. He may have changed his name to Sturgis, as he claimed, for family reasons; or, as some JFK assassination investigators conjecture, he may have adopted the name from a character in a spy novel written by E. Howard Hunt—a prolific novelist, and top-level CIA case officer whose portfolio was Cuba.

It's unclear just when Sturgis hooked up with Hunt but as soon as he did, the two men would mastermind much of the intrigue in the key Cuban area of convergence regarding the murder of Jack Kennedy—working for and against Castro in Cuba; working for and with the organized crime figures who had been thrown off that island, and who would continually attempt to get back on; and, finally, working with hundreds of CIA contract employees who were mixed up with both the Cuban exiles and the doomed Bay of Pigs invasion.

Years later, Senator Richard Schweiker's U. S. Senate sub-committee investigating all these events as