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sociates. Ferrie was a self-ordained ultra-orthodox Catholic bishop and an amateur hypnotist and cancer researcher.⁸⁶ This self-proclaimed fighter pilot and soldier of fortune was eccentric but brilliant. He suffered from alopecia totalis, a rare disease that left him totally hairless. He wore a badly fitted red wig and sometimes glued on tufts of synthetic fabric for eyebrows.⁸⁷ Banister, former agent-in-charge of the Chicago FBI office and then deputy police chief of New Orleans, established his own detective agency in 1958.⁸⁸ He was an obsessive crusader against Communism and belonged to several radical right-wing groups, including the John Birch Society and the paramilitary Minutemen. He even published his own virulently racist journal, *The Intelligence Digest*.⁸⁹

Many claim Banister was possibly the middleman linking the CIA and the mafia in a plot to kill the President. But the only Oswald-Banister connection is 544 Camp Street. Most ignore that the FBI and Secret Service conducted an extensive investigation in December 1963 to determine whether Oswald was ever at 544 Camp. None of the building's five tenants, or the janitor who lived there, recalled ever seeing Oswald visit there, much less rent an office as a tenant.⁹⁰ None ever heard of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee or saw any propaganda from the organization. Sam Newman, the building's owner, personally rented all office space and was adamant he never met or saw Oswald, never rented space to anyone from the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and indeed did not rent any of 544 Camp's three empty offices during the summer of 1963.⁹¹ A militant anti-Castro organization, the Cuban Revolutionary Council, had rented an office at 544 Camp but had moved out more than a year before Oswald arrived in New Orleans.⁹² Such testimony seemed to settle the issue, and allowed the Warren Commission to conclude "investigation has indicated that neither the Fair Play for Cuba Committee nor Lee Harvey Oswald ever maintained an office at that address."⁹³

The House Select Committee on Assassinations, however, reexamined the issue in the late 1970s.* Two witnesses now told the

*The investigator on the 544 Camp Street issue, as well as the question of any Oswald relationship to either Guy Banister or David Ferrie, was Gaeton Fonzi. Fonzi seems an unusual choice for an inquiry that claimed to be impartial. Like *Bad* a U.A. published a virulent, sick & ugly book in which he says that racism is communism.

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was "cool" or required a burning fireplace. The registrar of voters, Henry Palmer, felt very strongly that the visit was the "first week of October, possibly around the 6th or 7th."¹²⁹ Oswald was in Dallas then.

In their testimony at the Shaw trial, and in subsequent statements, all the witnesses described a black Cadillac entering the town. Summers says that "everyone agrees" the car was a black Cadillac.¹³⁰ In his statement to Garrison's investigators, Corey Collins, the local CORE chairman, said it was a big, black, expensive-looking car, with four doors, and not more than two years old.¹³¹ Edward McGehee described it as an old, dark-colored, beat-up car, probably a Nash or Kaiser, but probably not a station wagon.¹³²

Since the Garrison trial, the witnesses have consistently described only three men—Oswald, Ferrie, and Shaw—in the car. However, originally, they were not nearly as certain on the number of people, much less their identifications. Corey Collins said the driver of the car (whom he later identified as Clay Shaw) was about forty-five years old and wore a light hat that prevented Collins from seeing his hair.¹³³ John Manchester, the town marshal, said the driver did not have a hat and his hair was gray.¹³⁴ Henry Clark, a local resident, said the man had no hat and "looked like a movie star."¹³⁵ McGehee, who claimed Oswald sat in his barber chair staring at a photo of Martin Luther King at a Communist training school, said a young woman may have been the driver.¹³⁶

McGehee also said that only Oswald and the young woman were in the car, with a baby bassinet in the rear seat.¹³⁷ Andrew Dunn said there were four men and that one of them was Estes Morgan, a local resident. "I knew Estes Morgan personally," said Dunn.¹³⁸ At the Garrison trial, Dunn described only three men and omitted Morgan.¹³⁹ Town marshal John Manchester said there were only two men in the car and that about that time he also saw Estes Morgan, whom he knew well, in the voter-registra-

*McGehee's testimony is so different from any of the others' that some critics suggest Oswald visited the barber shop on a different day than when he appeared in the voter registration line. Postulating a second Oswald car trip, especially since he did not drive, compounds the critics' problems, since Marina testified he was in New Orleans every day during August and September.

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tion line.¹⁴⁰ the Garrison the other he he saw Ferr from photos directions (night."¹⁴⁴ B she spotted plying for a dropped th hospital en wald, but search of tl or had been Registrars the most p said that v interviewe identificat at the nar address."¹⁴¹ statement in Octobe voter-regi very cons Estes Mo viewed b Oswald p told him tor from name. In Morgan months. tration eyebrow had a si him." Y Clay Sh None

with his thought processes as well as his sex life. He claimed that strangers had hypnotized him some fifty or sixty times "against my will," and because "new police techniques" allowed the conspirators to enter his house disguised as his relatives, he had fingerprinted his daughter when she returned from school to ensure it was she. Garrison had been aware of Spiesel's past but put him on the stand over his staff's objection.¹⁰⁹

Yet as the case against Shaw collapsed, Garrison increasingly concentrated on what appeared to be a second prosecution, one against the Warren Report and its conclusion of a lone assassin. Although they were not relevant in determining Shaw's guilt or innocence, he called Marina Oswald, Bethesda pathologist Pierre Finck, and witnesses from Dealey Plaza. He successfully subpoenaed the Zapruder film and showed it ten times to the Shaw jury.* A court had rejected his attempt to have the autopsy X rays and photos released.**

Late in the evening of Saturday, March 1, two years to the day since Shaw's arrest, the jury retired for deliberations. It returned forty-five minutes later with an acquittal on its first ballot.***

For Shaw, whose life was devastated by the charges of having conspired to kill the President of the United States, it appeared he was finally free of the district attorney. Yet two days later, Garrison arrested Shaw for perjury, claiming that when Shaw testified he did not know Ferrie or Oswald, he had lied. It took another two years of legal fighting before a federal court, on June 7, 1971, finally issued a permanent injunction against Garrison from prosecuting Shaw, on the grounds that the charges had been

*The conspiracy critics working with Garrison made copies of the Zapruder film, and bootleg versions soon flooded the "research" community.

**During 1968, attorney general Ramsey Clark, one of the few federal officials who openly criticized Garrison's investigation and tactics, had convened a panel of forensic pathologists to review the medical evidence to offset Garrison's complaint that he was not able to obtain the autopsy X rays and photographs. The Clark Panel, as it was known, confirmed the medical conclusions of the Warren Commission, but its findings were largely lost in the coverage of the events in New Orleans.

***A juror later said they would have returned in twenty minutes, but several of them had to go to the bathroom.

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The Union Leader

NEW HAMPSHIRE
SUNDAY NEWS

NACKEY SCRIPPS LOEB
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

September 8, 1993

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Weisberg
c/o Hood College
400 Rosemont Ave.
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Weisberg:

I recently received a letter from Dennis MacDonald of St. Anselm College who attended the recent Convocation at Hood College where you were honored. He said that in speaking to you, you mentioned how much my late husband had helped in getting your books published. I do indeed remember his association with you in years past and how much he admired your thoroughness and dedication in bringing the true facts to the public. I know that Bill would be pleased with your success and very proud to know that you had been honored for your contribution. I wanted to personally write you and congratulate you as I know Bill would have done if he were here.

Now I see that your work is far from over since a great deal more information on the Kennedy assassination has been released. I don't know if there is anything more there of value. I leave that to the experts such as you to pursue.

Once again congratulations. I liked the quote, "my work is important if it teaches future generations to pay attention", and that indeed sums up what you have done.

Sincerely,


Mrs. William Loeb

NSL:Mrs. J. MacDougall