

noticed the apartment seemed quiet. When he checked it later that morning, Oswald was gone.<sup>5</sup> *I think that card was mailed after he left.*

At the Lafayette Square substation, Oswald picked up his unemployment-compensation check and mailed a change-of-address card, postmarked at 11:00 A.M., listing Ruth Paine's address in Irving, Texas. At a Winn-Dixie on Magazine Street he cashed his \$33 check, and was then ready to leave his native New Orleans. At 12:20 P.M. he likely boarded a Continental Trailways bus, No. 5121, bound for Houston.<sup>6</sup> Late that night the telephone rang at the Houston home of Estelle and Horace Twiford. Estelle answered and it was Lee Oswald calling her husband.<sup>7</sup> Horace Twiford was the national committeeman of the Socialist Labor party for the state of Texas. On September 11, he had sent Oswald a copy of his organization's *Weekly People*, after being notified by the New York Labor party of Lee's request for literature. Twiford was not at home when Oswald called, but his wife wrote the message on some scrap paper. It indicated Oswald was a member of Fair Play for Cuba, that he had some ideas he wanted to discuss with her husband, and that he had only a few hours before he left for Mexico.<sup>8</sup>

Less than four hours later, at 2:35 A.M., Oswald boarded Continental Trailways bus No. 5133 in Houston and left for Laredo, Texas.<sup>9</sup> He was excited to begin the last leg of his trip, and he felt he had no reason to be secretive any longer since he would soon be in Cuba and permanently away from the U.S. The usually introverted Oswald was surprisingly talkative to other passengers, *swas so unsophisticated he thought a visa would be all he needed*

\*Although there were no eyewitnesses to Oswald's departure from New Orleans, bus 5121 is the only one that left New Orleans after Oswald had cashed his check that would get him to Houston that evening. Mrs. Twiford thought the call was a local one. Oswald's address book provides additional evidence he was in Houston. Twiford's name, address, and two telephone numbers were found in Oswald's book after the assassination. One was a disconnected number, which was still listed in the 1963 Houston phone book. The second number in his address book was Twiford's valid one for September 1963. It appears Oswald arrived in Houston, looked up the Twifords in the phone book, and wrote the number in his address book. Then, when he telephoned and discovered it was out of date, he had to call the operator for the new number, and also jotted the second one in his book (CE 18; CE 2335).

*check*

*He would need a visa of course  
still had no fare to get there*

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