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He failed to pay Mrs. Garner the September rent of \$65. He intended to save the money for his trip to Mexico. Marina started to worry that once she returned with Ruth Paine to Texas, she might not see him again. She begged to be taken along to Mexico, but he said it was impossible because of her pregnancy. He promised to summon her once he was settled in Cuba.

On September 7, Castro appeared at a Brazilian embassy reception in Havana and submitted to a rare informal interview with Associated Press correspondent Daniel Harker. Castro was unusually outspoken, saying, "Kennedy is a cretin . . . the Batista of his times . . . the most opportunistic American President of all time."⁷⁸ Castro denounced recent U.S. attacks on Cuba and then threatened, "We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. U.S. leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe."⁷⁹ Castro, aware of the CIA attempts to assassinate him, had used a reporter to warn Kennedy that two could play such a dangerous game. Oswald, an avid newspaper reader, almost certainly saw the article. * Propaganda conjecture, with other things as also

Oswald visited the Mexican consulate in New Orleans on Tuesday, September 17. He filled out an application for a tourist card, listing himself as a photographer with an office at 640 Rampart Street.⁸⁰ For a fee of 50¢, he was issued a tourist card, No. 24085, which allowed him to stay fifteen days in Mexico.^{81**}

if it was legal to import. Gillin suggested his visitor check with the city's police chemist. After the man left the office, Gillin never again had contact with him, but over the assassination weekend of November 22, 1963, Gillin identified his visitor as Lee Oswald. Since the CIA was experimenting with LSD during the early 1960s, the incident might be evidence of an intelligence link to Oswald. The problem is with Gillin's identification, which has been offered as evidence of another eyewitness account of Oswald's suspicious behavior. "I was then, and still am now, legally blind," Gillin told the author. "I could never have been sure of the identification of Oswald under oath." Gillin had only identified Oswald from the sound of his voice over the television.

*The interview was prominently covered in the New Orleans Times-Picayune on September 9, under a three-column headline on page 7.

**The man who was issued tourist card No. 24084, the one directly before Oswald's, was William Gaudet, a newspaper editor. Until 1961, he was a

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