

Conversations with Lonnie Hudkins, 2/15/75 p.m. (90 minutes plus) HW 2/16/76

Lonnie and Mary were to have come tomorrow. Mary has the flux, Lonnie doesn't drive, so they can't. He is now on the desk. He was to have phoned today, from the office, but after the paper went to bed last night he phoned, was interrupted, and phoned back.

We rambled over much. He said differently about Goulden's Washingtonian piece. Not what he had, "I got some stuff on Joe's article" but that he couldn't understand it and hadn't read it. He understands that Goulden gets \$35,000 advances on his books and thus is well off. Could not understand omissions on Tommy the Cork in Superlawyers, all dealing with CIA connections.

Lonnie says he also worked for FBI, in Denver, in Mine Mill and Smelter case that really was. What else he said of it conforms to my recollections. It was a famous case of that time.

Further conversation of his understanding of the unpublished fact of the assassination. Includes Ruby as long-time FBI flunk, going back to Rubenstein in Chicago; that the Mrs. Walthers not called as a witness was Buddy's wife; that Buddy believe a shot came from behind the picket fence and that shooter hid in a car trunk, etc.

When I asked him about CIA and publishing he said he knew McKay was a CIA publisher because they tried to arrange for McKay to get Lonnie to do three different books. He met with both McKays but did not know of Isaac Don Levine and Howard Gady connections.

On domestic operations he says he knows one man still in it and he hears from him every couple of months. Not recently.

There was to have been an assassination attempt in Atlanta but JFK did not go there and LHO left rifle there. Not exactly the same as the Hal Suit story the FBI reports on which I have. That involved pistol as I recall.

Wants us to do a bothsides book. We each give our version. I told him I have none but we'll talk about it and perhaps tape conversations.

He and O.D. Wilson both tried to check Russo story out, spoke to doctors, etc. Negative.

Given what I told him about Aynesworth and Helan, they could have been doing CIA job in Shaw case. Says Aynesworth was CIA and probably still is.

Believes Ruby not always rational at time he shot Oswald. Will discuss the meaning of the note it all began with a contract for \$250,000 but not over phone. Ruby not gay, not both ways, muff-diver, 69er. Source his girls. Lonnie and another used to watch "try-outs." Believes Seth Kantor's account seeing Ruby at hospital. They all knew Ruby well. (Here as elsewhere when he repeated what we had discussed earlier he seems to have been consistent. Except on Goulden piece.)

Claims he made up "defense" for Howard, that Ruby just could not bear for Jackie to suffer. I think he said this is in his original notes, which he still has. Defense to have been temporary insanity.

Redsumed 2/17- Another staffer or editor Houston Post, Friedland^{9F}, son wealthy parents who allegedly owned the opposite side of the block from NY museum, often disappeared for long periods without job problem. (Museum Modern Art?) Said to be CIA and to have been in on Cuba invasions, sense individual forays.