

December 7, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: JAMES L. ALCOCK, Assistant District Attorney

RE: EDWARD JULIUS GIRNUS, Prison #A-90428-A

EDWARD JULIUS GIRNUS was interviewed at the United State Penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 5, 1967. He was in that institution for a violation of the Dyer Act (interstate transportation of stolen vehicles). GIRNUS stated he owed the State of Virginia 28 years for various unspecified criminal violations.

As GIRNUS recalls, he was released from the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on January 11, 1963 -- his rap sheet indicates he was released on February 14, 1963. He was in that institution for interstate transportation of a forged instrument. Immediately upon his release, GIRNUS moved to Pasadena, Texas, which is just outside of Houston. Being on 21 month conditional release, he had to report to a federal parole officer every thirty days. While in Pasadena he used the name of EDWARD STARK.

Sometime in February or early March, 1963, GIRNUS made a trip to New Orleans. He was down here looking for some old friends. He stayed at a hotel one block off of Canal Street, on or near North Rampart Street. He did not find the persons he was looking for so he returned to Pasadena, Texas. While he stayed in Pasadena, he lived on South Randal Street. He couldn't recall the street number.

In March, 1963, GIRNUS moved to Waco, Texas. While there he lived with a woman, not his wife, at 1806 Independence Avenue.

Sometime in March or April, 1963, GIRNUS moved to Dallas, Texas. He was still with the woman he met in Waco, and he stayed at the St. George Hotel. The St. George is on Elm Street two blocks from the Records building. At this time he was using the name EDWARD STARK almost exclusively. During this period GIRNUS was charged with embezzlement from a gunsmith who owned two gun shops in Dallas. (GIRNUS' rap sheet shows an embezzlement charge was nolle prossed in Dallas on May 18, 1964). Also during this stay in Dallas, GIRNUS, using the name of STARK, frequented the Theatre lounge, Circus lounge and the Diamond Horseshoe lounge. JACK RUBY allegedly owned one of these lounges.

GIRNUS associated with some of the strippers from these clubs. Most of these girls stayed at the Blue Bonnet Hotel on Commerce Street. Through his association with these people and these clubs, GIRNUS met a friend of JACK RUBY's who was interested in buying guns. This man, who GIRNUS would not identify, was associated with a rabid right-wing group who had access to large amounts of money. GIRNUS also met a man from New Orleans through this group who was interested in purchasing guns. As a result of a conversation with the man from New Orleans, GIRNUS moved to Leesville, Louisiana. GIRNUS would not identify this man from

GIRNUS went to Leesville in a pickup truck he had purchased in Oak Cliff using the name of RITTNER. RITTNER is supposed to be an engineer from New Orleans. GIRNUS had somehow gotten his identification papers.

GIRNUS arrived in Leesville sometime in early April, 1963. He moved in with a woman who owned a bar and gambling joint by the name of Marie's Hideaway. The woman's first name was MARIE. While in Leesville, GIRNUS became associated with an organization known as the Democratic Club. The membership of the club consisted of both military and civilian personnel. The organization used a private club named the Ponderosa for their functions.

At this time, GIRNUS was buying and selling guns. He bought most of his guns from some military men he had met at the club. During this time he shot a sergeant, but paid \$800 and no charges were pressed. The sergeant's name was FOWLER and after the shooting he was transferred to Fort Sam Houston in Texas. GIRNUS made several trips to New Orleans with the guns and ammunition. He thought the guns were ending up ultimately in Central America.

On one of these trips to New Orleans in May or June, 1963, GIRNUS met CLAY SHAW. On this particular trip GIRNUS, using the name of EDWARD STARK, stayed at a big hotel which had a street-level garage facing Chartres Street. The garage was at the back of the hotel and it was near the Alpine Restaurant and Bar. GIRNUS met SHAW in the Alpine Restaurant and Bar. He was introduced to SHAW by a man who owns an apartment house on Exchange Alley or Place. This apartment building has a courtyard. The man who owns it is a homosexual. He is short, fat, wears glasses, bald and everytime GIRNUS saw him he was wearing bermuda shorts and sometimes he would be walking a dog.

When GIRNUS met SHAW on this occasion, he was with a group of people. A man who owned a bar in the Quarter by the name of MAXIE WOOD or WOODS was in the group. Also, there was a woman who was either presently WOOD(S) wife or ex-wife. She also owned a bar. A New Orleans Police Sergeant who owned a cafe or bar was also present. The police officer was heavy set with brown hair. He did not wear glasses.

SHAW spoke to GIRNUS a little while, and during the conversation invited GIRNUS (STARK) to his home in Hammond, Louisiana. GIRNUS felt that everyone in the group knew of his gun running activities.

About 8 or 9 days after this initial meeting with SHAW, GIRNUS returned to New Orleans from Leesville. He stayed at a motel on the Airline Highway, but he cannot remember its name. He went to a bar in the Quarter -- the one the woman at the Alpine bar owned -- and met a man who he deemed to be the manager. He and this man (name and description unknown) went by car to an office in a building in the central business district near Sears Roebuck.

SHAW was in the office and they started talking about guns. SHAW allegedly knew some people who wanted to buy some guns. SHAW made a telephone call, and sometime thereafter two men came to the office. One of the men was LEE HARVEY OSWALD. OSWALD was introduced by SHAW to GIRNUS as LEE. GIRNUS cannot remember the name of the man who came in with OSWALD. He was well dressed in a business suit, 5'11" tall, 210 pounds, and he had dark black hair. OSWALD was wearing khaki pants and a white shirt. This meeting took place sometime before noon, however, GIRNUS cannot remember the

This conversation centered principally on Central and South America -- the best way to get there and the general living conditions. GIRNUS, who said he had traveled quite a bit in Central America, told OSWALD what he knew about these countries. Suddenly, at this point in the interview, GIRNUS told me he did not want to give me any more details. He said the institution (penitentiary) bugged him, and he did not want to talk any further lest he get himself into a storm. (He was obviously committing crimes in this area, and was fearful of prosecution). He said he did not realize I would be taking down everything he said. He told me he would have someone in Atlanta send me a picture of two people. One of the persons in the picture was LEE OSWALD. He said the picture was taken in Mexico. Additionally, he was sending me an FAA flight plan which would be self explanatory and helpful in our investigation. FERRIE allegedly had something to do with the flight recorded on the flight plan.

I assured him we were only interested in facts that aided us in our investigation, but he still refused to go on with a fact-detailing interview. So I put my pad away, and engaged him in general conversation about the prison. During this conversation I was able to elicit a few more facts.

The last time GIRNUS saw OSWALD was when he drove him to Catulla, Texas. This trip took place sometime in September, 1963. While in Catulla, GIRNUS introduced OSWALD to a friend of his who was an ex-Mexican army man. OSWALD and GIRNUS' friend went into Mexico through Laredo, Texas. Their trip had something to do with getting OSWALD a passport.

GIRNUS attended several parties where SHAW was present. At least one of these took place in Hammond, Louisiana. GIRNUS thought it was SHAW's home, but he was not sure of this. OSWALD was at this particular party which took place in a large colonial brick house which had a big yard all around it.

Though GIRNUS terminated this particular interview abruptly and at a crucial time, I feel he will talk to me further.