

making the trip, and therefore that no evil purpose existed, at least initially, for their joint venture.

(28) The day of their departure for New Orleans, Ray took Stein, his sister, Rita, and their cousin Marie Martin to Wallace campaign headquarters on Lankershim Boulevard. Contrary to Ray's assertions, the three Stein relatives were unanimous in their statements that Ray initiated the trip to campaign headquarters. (29) Charles recalled that Ray offered to pay for the expenses on the trip if all three would agree to sign up with the Wallace campaign, and added that he agreed readily. In light of Stein's clearly apolitical nature, and the total absence of any other evidence linking Stein and the AIP, his denial of involvement in the original decision to visit AIP headquarters was entirely credible.

(29) After completing their visit to AIP headquarters, Ray drove Rita and Marie back to 5656 Franklin Avenue and dropped them off. Ray and Stein then drove to Ray's residence on Serrano Street and stopped very briefly to pick up mail. Stein did not enter the apartment then or at any other time.

(30) Stein recalled that Ray was definitely going to New Orleans for reasons of his own and that he was not making the trip merely to accommodate Rita. Ray mentioned that he was going to see more than one person—either engineers or contractors. While Ray gave no specific address for the meeting (other than a reference to Chartres Street, which Stein cannot recall precisely), Ray's description of the area brought to Stein's mind a specific location containing warehouses and railroad tracks. (27) Stein felt that Ray's reference to the meeting place in New Orleans reflected a certain familiarity with the city.

(31) Stein thought that Ray may have told him that he called New Orleans, in advance, to let them know when he would arrive. (22) This call was made after Ray pulled off the road outside of Houston, Texas. Stein recalled a liquor store and a candy store in the vicinity. Stein was never close enough to Ray to observe the number he dialed, or the amount of money he may have used, or to hear the conversation. He stated that he observed Ray make phone calls on only one or two occasions and that the calls never lasted more than 5 or 10 minutes. In his testimony during committee hearings, Ray admitted making one call to his brother, Jerry, while en route to New Orleans. (23)

(32) Stein also stated, several times during his initial interview, that he recalled Ray mentioning the name Raoul. Stein was confronted, during this initial interview, with an FBI interview which reflected his statement that the person he [Ray] was going to see—[had] an Italian-sounding name—a well-known name in New Orleans.

(24) Stein agreed that Raoul was not Italian sounding, and stated that perhaps he was dodging the FBI's questions. (33) Because of the clear significance of this portion of Stein's interview, Stein was asked again about this matter during his testimony under oath before the committee in April 1978. At that time he was also confronted with a February 13, 1969, FBI interview in which he had been asked specifically whether Ray had mentioned a Raoul at any time during their relationship. Stein's response, as summarized in the FBI interview: "Stein said he had never heard Ray mention anyone by the name of Raoul during his contacts with Ray." (25)

Stein's testimony on the subject, given under oath, became far less certain:

STAFF CORNSER. This is the first time you testified about this matter under oath. I am asking you, is it your testimony now despite what you told the Bureau, despite your explicit denial to the Bureau—is it your testimony today that Ray, in fact, mentioned the name Raoul?

MR. STEIN. I think that he did. If I can remember, I think he did. I don't know.

STAFF CORNSER. So your memory now is not as precise as it once was on that issue?

MR. STEIN. It was not even precise back then.

(34) In several interviews with the FBI during the months immediately after the assassination, many covering the New Orleans trip in great detail, Stein never indicated that Ray had mentioned Raoul. There is a similar absence of this detail in his interviews with the press, and in all of reporter Louis Lomax' articles on the New Orleans trip [written with the assistance of Stein shortly after the assassination]. In February 1969, as is indicated above, he specifically denied to the Bureau that Ray had mentioned the name Raoul. Finally, after initially informing the committee investigators of the incident in January, his recollection became notably uncertain when pressed on the matter under oath.

(35) Against this background, and considering the fact that Stein was in contact with individuals attempting to put together a film documentary on the King assassination in January 1975, and who later attempted to sell information to the committee for a substantial sum of money,* Stein's alleged recollection of Ray's mention of Raoul on the New Orleans trip was prompted, it may be concluded, not by a specific factual occurrence, but rather by the passing chance of financial gain. It would be difficult to credit Stein's testimony on this matter.

(36) Ray stayed in New Orleans for 2 days. After his early afternoon arrival with Stein, they made two quick stops at the homes of two of Stein's relatives, to drop off some belongings that Marie Martin had sent east, and then to reach the residence where Stein himself would be staying. Ray then asked for suggestions on a place to stay in the same general area of the city. He gave no indication of the amount of money he was willing to spend. The Provincial Morel was suggested, to the best of Stein's current recollection, by one of his relatives. After agreeing on the Provincial, Stein and Ray proceeded to the motel, Stein waited outside in the alley while Ray registered. Ray then brought Stein back to his relatives, and departed with the Mustang. (26)

(37) In light of the consistency between the stories of Ray and Stein, and the absence of countervailing evidence, the Provincial Morel was probably not selected by Ray prior to his arrival. Thus, any business that Ray may have planned prior to his arrival in New

*This information was later turned over to the committee pursuant to a congressional subpoena. It consisted of taped interviews with Stein and Marie Martin and was generally a repetition of information already provided to the FBI or the committee.

Orleans did not involve the motel. This does not preclude the possibility that Ray met with associates at the motel at some later time.

(38) Sometime later the first day, Stein took a walk with his son, Charles Stein, Jr. They covered approximately 2 miles and passed by the "merchandise mart" and the Trade Mart building. Later that afternoon, Ray told Stein that he (Ray) had been drinking beer, and had seen Stein walking on Canal Street.

(39) Ray's failure to call Stein over to join him at the bar on Canal Street suggested to Stein the possibility that Ray was with someone at the time. Ray told Huse that he met "Raoul" in "Le Bunny Lounge," on the day of his arrival in New Orleans: "Le Bunny Lounge" is, in fact, on Canal Street, and thus could have been the bar where Ray was drinking his beer.* Because Stein did not see Ray he could not tell the committee whether Ray was alone or with another. Stein had no knowledge of "Le Bunny Lounge," and could recall no mention of this establishment by Ray. (27)

(40) The next day (December 13) sometime during the morning, Ray came to Stein's sister's (Marie Lee's) home. Ray told Stein that he had finished his business and was ready to return to Los Angeles. The fact that Ray was prepared to return to California so quickly would indicate, of course, a prompt completion of his business in New Orleans. Moreover, it would seem to rule out the possibility that Ray came to New Orleans to enjoy the French Quarter or a change of scenery. Rather, he appears to have had some specific and relatively simple task to accomplish.

(41) In fact, Stein and Ray did not depart until the next day. Stein's recollection is quite clear that this was his idea, not Ray's. Stein was apparently able to convince Ray that the weather precluded an immediate departure: after a phone call to unidentified authorities for weather information, Ray agreed to postpone their departure by 1 day. (28)

(42) Stein emphatically denied two other possible reasons for Ray's New Orleans trip, both of which had been received by the committee from Charles DeCarvelho—a close, New Orleans friend of Stein's. (29) First, DeCarvelho told the committee that Stein had told him (DeCarvelho) in 1967 that Galt came to New Orleans to campaign for Wallace's Presidential bid in Mississippi and Alabama, to distribute campaign materials, and to solicit campaign funds. Second, DeCarvelho said Stein had indicated a plan to introduce Ray to some of his friends, including Papa Joe Conforto. Stein denied making either statement to DeCarvelho. Stein admitted that he knew Joe Conforto, but stated that he would never have introduced Ray to him; moreover, he did not recall seeing Joe Conforto himself while in New Orleans. (30)

(43) Finally, Stein specifically denied, under oath, involvement with Ray in "illegal or criminal activity" generally, or in the manufacture, purchase or sale of narcotic or non-narcotic drugs. Similarly,

*While the committee rejected Ray's "Raoul" story, it noted the high likelihood that the story was intended to conceal contact with one or both of his brothers. Ray's reference to a meeting with "Raoul" at "Le Bunny Lounge" may well be another instance in which he is disguising such contact.

he denied involvement with Ray in any type of legitimate joint venture during the trip.

(44) In light of several factors, including (a) the major differences between the characters and personalities of Stein and Ray; (b) the strong evidence that Ray and Stein met the day before the New Orleans trip; (c) Stein's emphatic and specific denials, under oath, of criminal activity with Ray; (d) an extensive field investigation in both New Orleans and Los Angeles which included extensive questioning often under oath, of associates and relatives of Charles Stein; (37) it appears that Stein's involvement with James Earl Ray both on the New Orleans trip, and otherwise, was innocent and unrelated in any way to the assassination of Martin Luther King.

(45) Stein's testimony did provide several indications of conspiracy, or at least association, between Ray and another in New Orleans:

- (a) Ray had a "purpose" for the trip in Stein's mind;
- (b) Ray described a meeting place in New Orleans where he would contact his associate(s);
- (c) Stein recalled one or two telephone calls en route to New Orleans, and thinks now Ray may have been calling New Orleans to let his associate(s) know when he would arrive;*
- (d) the circumstances surrounding Ray's sighting of Stein on Canal Street on the first day (December 17) indicated he was with someone at the time; and
- (e) Ray completed his business in New Orleans rapidly, and was ready to return to Los Angeles the morning of December 18.

(46) It may be concluded, therefore, that Ray met with someone in New Orleans on prearranged business. Stein, however, provided no information to indicate that the business was necessarily connected to the assassination.**

INVESTIGATION AT THE PROVINCIAL MOTEL

(47) During its investigation in New Orleans, the FBI determined that Ray registered at the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, for the nights of Sunday and Monday, December 17-18, 1967. Due to the clear indications of a meeting in New Orleans, the committee investigated the possibility that the Provincial was the meeting place.

(48) On May 7, 1968, the FBI's New Orleans Field Office circulated to 18 other field offices a list of all guests who were registered at the Provincial Motel (32) between December 17-19, 1968, the dates of Ray's registration. The list contained 25 names. Each field office was directed to locate and interview the individuals for any knowledge they might have pertaining to Ray. Of these 25 individuals, only 19 were located and interviewed by the FBI by the end of May 1968; no one interviewed had any information to assist the FBI's investigation.

*Stein could provide no specific details or recollections to corroborate his intriguing speculation on the purpose of the call.

**The committee developed significant evidence indicating a meeting between Ray and one or both brothers in New Orleans. This is detailed in section IIB of the Dan Martin Luther King report.

(49) In the November 26, 1968 issue of *Look* magazine, an article by William Bradford Huie detailed Ray's travels prior to the assassination. In this article, Huie described Ray's stay at the Provincial Motel. In response to this information, the Bureau requested the New Orleans field office to reinvestigate the motel's registrants. (33) Pursuant to this directive, photostatic copies of the motel records were incorporated into a report dated November 27, 1968. (34)

(50) In reviewing these investigative files, the committee determined that there were actually 63 guests registered at the Provincial at the same time as Ray, as opposed to the 25 registrants originally investigated by the Bureau in April and May. In late November 1968, the FBI dispatched to the pertinent field offices the additional 38 names of guests. No positive information was received from these leads.

(51) Records of the Provincial Motel indicated that Ray, using the alias "Galt," occupied room 126 for the nights of December 11-13. (35) Galt's registration card also indicated that only one person occupied room 126 during the pertinent period and that Galt checked out prior to 1 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 1967. (36) The FBI interviewed Bryan DuPepe, the owner of the Provincial Motel, in April 1968. (37) DuPepe advised the Bureau that he had no record of unusual activity in room 126 on the dates of Ray's occupancy. The FBI determined that Ray made no long distance phone calls from room 126; the Bureau was unable to make the determination regarding local calls since the log for calls made prior to April 4, 1968 had been destroyed. (38) The committee interviewed DuPepe on February 14, 1978. He advised the staff members that room 126 was, at the time of Ray's occupancy, the least desirable in the motel, since it was split-level, with the bath and bedroom on different floors. He recalled that the room probably was rented at a rate of \$14 a day and that if more than one person were to occupy room 126 they would find the accommodations very uncomfortable. (39)

(52) The most intriguing information concerning Ray's stay at the Provincial Motel was developed in the testimony of Anthony Charles DeCarvalho. (40) His information presented the committee with evidence of a meeting at the Provincial Motel. Because of the importance of such a revelation and the fact that DeCarvalho's statements alluding to a meeting were at variance with all other accounts (including his own interviews with the FBI in 1968) DeCarvalho's testimony was taken under oath in a field deposition.

(53) DeCarvalho, a close acquaintance of Charles Stein, was employed as a cab driver in New Orleans in December 1967. In his statement to the committee, he stated that he arrived at the home of Stein's mother, Clovina Olonzo, shortly after Stein and Ray's arrival there on Sunday, December 17. After being introduced to Ray as "Eric Galt," DeCarvalho recalled that Ray asked DeCarvalho to drive him to the French Quarter, stating, "There is somewhere I got to go."

(41) DeCarvalho recalled that Ray specifically requested that he drive him to the Provincial Motel. According to his testimony, DeCarvalho quoted Ray as saying, "I want you to drive me there and wait for me. I will be about 5 or 10 minutes." (42)

(54) After arriving at the Provincial, Ray got out of the car and DeCarvalho turned the car around in the motel's courtyard. While DeCarvalho was making this maneuver he noticed Ray walking along

the balcony of the second story of the motel. (43) "He was looking around for a number, you know, like—like trying to locate a number."

(44) DeCarvalho did not see Ray knock on any doors or enter any room. (45) He recalled that Ray had taken an attaché case with him when he left the car, which he brought back with him when he returned. Although he could not be certain, DeCarvalho was under the impression that Ray went to the Provincial Motel to meet someone.

Mr. DeCarvalho. I believe he told me he was meeting somebody.

STAFF COUNSEL. Are you speculating?

Mr. DeCarvalho. No, no. I have a pretty good idea that—that what he told me, that he wanted—he was going to be but a few minutes. (46)

(55) Ray returned to the car approximately 7 minutes later. DeCarvalho asked, "Did you meet your friend?" to which Ray replied, "Yeah, yeah, everything is all right." (47) After leaving the Provincial, Ray and DeCarvalho drove around New Orleans for approximately 20 minutes. DeCarvalho then dropped Ray off at the home of Clovina Olonzo, Charles Stein's mother.

(56) DeCarvalho's testimony was unique in its suggestion of a meeting between Ray and an associate at the Provincial. Further, he was a sincere witness with no ascertainable motive to fabricate his statement. Nevertheless, the committee's investigation revealed no evidence to corroborate his testimony.

(57) According to Stein, he drove Ray to the Provincial for Ray's initial registration. A trip with Stein to the Provincial did not necessarily preclude another trip by Ray and DeCarvalho, but it did make this second trip appear less plausible. According to Stein, the two men drove back to the Olonzo home after Ray registered, and Ray departed only to return shortly thereafter. (48) It is possible that in that interim period, Ray arranged to meet an associate at the Provincial Motel; returned to the Olonzo residence and persuaded DeCarvalho to drive him back to the motel. What is left unexplained in this scenario is why Ray needed DeCarvalho to drive him to the motel. He and Stein had been there shortly before. The Provincial Motel and the Olonzo home are in the same neighborhood, and it is unlikely that Ray would have needed DeCarvalho's assistance in finding the motel. It was also improbable that Ray would deliberately involve DeCarvalho as a possible witness to a clandestine meeting at the Provincial.

(58) It was also significant that Stein was unaware of Ray's and DeCarvalho's trip to the motel. In his interview, Stein stated that he knew of no time during Ray's first day in New Orleans that Ray and DeCarvalho drove around together. (49) Stein and DeCarvalho saw each other during the next 2 days and, according to DeCarvalho, discussed Ray and his purpose for traveling to New Orleans; it is unusual that DeCarvalho did not tell Stein of his visit with Ray to the Provincial.

(59) The most significant problem with DeCarvalho's statement, however, was its inconsistency with prior statements to the FBI. FBI interviews of DeCarvalho contained no references to the Provincial Motel visit, a fact which would have been significant in their attempt to determine the purpose of Ray's trip. The committee considered two possible explanations for this discrepancy. Either DeCarvalho did not