

MARCH 1982
PENTHOUSE

11 WCH 159+
BRINGUIER
FIRST TOLD
HIM ABOUT
OSWALD

10 WCH 39-
BRINGUIER'S
ACCOUNT

REF.:
H+T,
P.207

Lee Harvey Oswald

In the eighteen years since I interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans—the only taped Oswald interview ever made public—I've not made one public comment about how other writers have referred to that episode. I've always felt that the public record on my contacts with Oswald—the fact that I sought him out in New Orleans on August 17, 1963, to appear on my WDSU (then an NBC affiliate) radio program, "Latin Listening Post," in spite of criticism that I would be allowing a "Communist" to "propagandize" the right-wing New Orleans public—was extensive enough to prevent distortion by other writers, historians, or special-interest groups.

That's why I almost burst my appendix laughing at your piece by Warren Hinckle and William W. Turner, "The Mystery of 544 Camp St." (October 1981), as excerpted from their book *The Fish Is Red*, published by Harper & Row. On your page 180, Hinckle and Turner write, "... Manuel Gil set up the famous debate between Oswald and [Carlos] Bringuier, in which Oswald declared ... 'I am a Marxist.'" Sorry, friends, but Oswald was my media discovery, and I arranged the WDSU debate after the station manager refused to run the full length of the thirty-seven-minute August 17 tape (which I had had to boil down to fit my five-minute slot) and instead suggested I set up a debate with "anti-Castro people" on the panel. It was in answer to my question on that debate "Are you a Marxist?" that Oswald made his admission.

I hesitate to drag out the whole barrel of details leading up to my Oswald contacts, including the self-serving ones, but I will if this kind of trash history keeps popping up. For the record the only "name" reporters ever to interview Oswald before the assassination were Patricia Johnson (then Patricia McMillan), who talked to him for a North American Newspaper Alliance story when he attempted to give up his Ameri-

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FEEDBACK

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can citizenship in Moscow in 1959, and, humbly, myself, a Latin political-affairs columnist in the early 1960s for the *New Orleans States-Item*, the only reporter ever to win two awards for public-affairs reporting from the American Political Science Association.

I have no theory on who killed JFK, since Mr. Oswald did not inform me of his future plans at the time of the interview and debate —William K. Stuckey, Dallas, Tex.

From "Marina and Lee," by Priscilla Johnson McMillan, pp. 352-3:

Meanwhile, Stuckey had decided to do some checking on Oswald. That same Monday [August 19, 1963], he made the entire thirty-seven minute tape available to the local FBI office, where the stenographer pool made a transcript, then returned the tape to Stuckey along with a copy of the transcript. [Footnote: 11H165 and Stuckey letter of April 16, 1976 to McMillan] While he was talking to an FBI source over the telephone that day, Stuckey, as he remembers it, was put through to the chief or deputy chief of the New Orleans bureau, and this man read aloud to him over the phone portions of Oswald's FBI file, including the facts that he had been to Russia, tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship, stayed there nearly three years, and married a Russian woman. Stuckey went to the FBI office and was permitted to examine the file, as well as newspaper clippings from Moscow [sic!] at the time of Oswald's defection.

[Footnote, p. 494:] Letter from Stuckey to the author, January 24, 1976. The FBI's contact with Stuckey at this stage, while alluded to in Stuckey's testimony, does not appear in FBI reports on its surveillance of Oswald in New Orleans as published in the twenty-six Warren Commission volumes. Warren Commission Exhibit No. 826, a report filed by Special Agent Milton Kaack in October 1963, which summarizes most of Oswald's political activities in New Orleans, states erroneously that Stuckey's first contact with the FBI on the subject of Oswald did not occur until August 30, 1963. It is possible that Kaack's superior did not tell him of the contact with Stuckey, and thus it failed to appear in the file on Oswald in New Orleans.

From William Stuckey's testimony, 11H167-8:

During that day, Wednesday, August 21, one of my news sources called me up and said, "I hear you are going to have Oswald on Carte Blanche." I said, "Yes, that is right." He said, "We have some information about Mr. Oswald, the fact that he lived in Russia for 3 years." ...

... and this individual who called me and gave me this information [about Oswald living in Russia] gave me dates of Washington newspaper clippings that I could check, which were stories about his leaving for Russia, or rather his appearance in Moscow in 1959.

From FBI Item 54K, SAC memo for the file, 8/21/63 (by SAC Maynor):

"On 8/21/63 at approximately 10:00 a.m., Bill Stuckey ... telephonically advised ..." [As if Stuckey placed the call.]

"Stuckey stated his call was for the purpose of determining if the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had been cited as a subversive organization." [Sure!! Maynor said he "could not furnish" an answer, and referred him to the Justice Department.]

"Prior to terminating the conversation, Stuckey mentioned" that Oswald would be on the Carte Blanche program, and "thought that possibly I [Maynor] might like to hear this program." [Quite different from Stuckey's version, that his source had heard Oswald would be on. I am inclined to trust Stuckey's version.]

"Stuckey also volunteered" that he would make the 32-minute tape of his interview with Oswald on 8/20 available to the FBI. [Odd; Stuckey's version is that he had turned over the tape and gotten an FBI-produced transcript two days earlier.]

"The above information was telephonically furnished SA Kaack to whom captioned case is assigned." [So much for the explanation in McMillan's footnote!]

QUESTIONS RAISED BY THIS MATERIAL:

The FBI's relationship with Oswald. [I guess by now it is no surprise that the FBI would take action to expose someone they don't like, but if that had come out in 1963 some people might have been upset. Incidentally, this suggests that Maynor did not have any reason to believe Oswald was an FBI informant, doesn't it?]

The FBI's relationship with the press. [I wonder if Stuckey is embarrassed by this?]

Inaccurate internal FBI reporting. [This could be important. Why did Maynor write a memo like that?]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (100-16601)

DATE: 8/21/63

FROM : SAC

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
IS - R

On 8/21/63 at approximately 10:00 a.m., BILL STUCKEY, who was formerly with one of the New Orleans newspapers, telephonically advised he is no longer with the newspaper but is now connected with the Ross Agency, which is an advertising concern, telephone 529-2274, and also has a Latin American program on WDSU radio.

He advised that within the recent past he had interviewed LEE HARVEY OSWALD and has a 32 minute tape of his interview with OSWALD. He said this interview took place on the night of 8/20/63 and was in connection with OSWALD's claim that he is an officer in the local Fair Play for Cuba Committee. STUCKEY stated that as the FBI was probably aware, OSWALD was recently arrested by the NOPD.

STUCKEY stated his call was for the purpose of determining if the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had been cited as a subversive organization.

I advised STUCKEY I could not furnish him an answer to this question and suggested he contact the Internal Security Section of the U. S. Department of Justice.

STUCKEY stated he appreciated this information and that he would probably call.

Prior to terminating the conversation, STUCKEY mentioned at 6:05 p.m., 8/21/63, OSWALD will appear on a radio program over WDSU which will last for approximately 30 minutes and that this program will be a debate type program. STUCKEY stated he tentatively has Mr. BUTLER of the South American Alliance lined up to talk with OSWALD.

Information Council of the Americas

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FBI - NEW ORLEANS	

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PLH ITEM # 1000

X. g. ... 20-25 ... 11/15/77 ... Serial 13.

STUCKEY said this is the carte blanche program and thought that possibly I might like to hear this program.

STUCKEY also volunteered that if the FBI is interested in listening to the 32 minute tape mentioned above, that STUCKEY would make same available.

The above information was telephonically furnished SA KAACK to whom captioned case is assigned.