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remember. They found beer cans in a trash can in MACS 9 and there was a drastic investigation, so ~~there~~<sup>is</sup> an indication of a difference between stateside and overseas. ~~and~~ Oswald was typical, very typical, of the outfit he had just left overseas.

Mr. Jenner. So that it is your impression, you would say, I gather, that as of that particular time when you first knew him that he was still carrying some of his experience personal attention-wise from what he had experienced overseas?

Mr. Thornley. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. And he was still following the habits he had acquired overseas?

Mr. Thornley. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. Did you think it went beyond that, this unkemptness or this sloppiness?

Mr. Thornley. It did go beyond that, because he seemed to be a person who would go out of his way to get into trouble, get some officer or staff sergeant mad at him. He would make wise remarks. He had a general bitter attitude toward the Corps. He used to pull his hat down over his eyes so he wouldn't have to look at anything around him and go walking around very Beetle Bailey style.

Mr. Jenner. What is Beetle Bailey?

Mr. Thornley. Beetle Bailey is a comic strip character who walks around with his hat over his eyes very much as Oswald did.

Mr. Jenner. You want to keep in mind, Mr. Thornley, I am an

must have been --perhaps, in fact, he took USAFI courses, United States Armed Forces Institute courses, or something along that line, because he was one who gave the impression of having some education, <sup>just</sup> certainly.

Mr. Jenner. Do you have an impression of his intellect?

Mr. Thornley. Yes, I think he was --

Mr. Jenner. I am speaking in the abstract,

Mr. Thornley. I think he was extremely intelligent, with what information he had at hand he could always do very well <sup>just</sup> ~~well~~ and in an argument he was quick. He was quick to answer, and it was not a matter of just grabbing at something. It was a matter of coming back with a fairly precise answer to your question or to your objection to his argument.

Mr. Jenner. I take it then it was your impression -- I will change my question because I don't want to ask a leading question here.

What was your impression as to whether his learning in the sense we are talking about now, was superficial or was he able to master that which he read, and engage in personal self-critique of that which he read, <sup>discover</sup> its weaknesses, and <sup>apprehend</sup> its major thrust?

Mr. Thornley. Well, I would say as I have said before, he certainly understood what he read. How much he had read, I don't know, but I do know that when he got on a subject in which he was interested, he showed a grasp of it. This is true

about the Soviet Union he would challenge it on the grounds that we were probably propagandized in this country and we had no knowledge of what was going on over there.

Mr. Jenner. Did he purport to know what was going on over there?

Mr. Thornley. No.

Mr. Jenner. Did he show any interest in what was going on over there?

Mr. Thornley. He definitely showed interest.

Mr. Jenner. Give us some examples and tell us.

Mr. Thornley. I would say he took an agnostical approach to this. ~~He didn't seem to know~~ <sup>IT SEEMED</sup> that he didn't know whether to believe what he read in his <sup>(KWT)</sup> newspaper, not that he used those exact words, <sup>(KWT)</sup> or what he heard in this country. He took the attitude that "Well, they may be right and we may be right but I suspect they are right." <sub>RUSSIAN</sub>

This, of course, once again, I always got the impression in any of these discussions that part of his slight bias toward the communist way of life was an act of rebellion against the present circumstances.

Mr. Jenner. Do you think that bias, if any, was a mild bias?

Mr. Thornley. I thought so at the time.

Mr. Jenner. Did you have any impression at any time that he was interested from an objective standpoint; that he might like to experience by way of personal investigation what

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all to him for awhile, ~~and~~ Then he turned to me and said something about the stupidity of the parade, of the whole circumstance right at the moment, how angry it made him, and I said, I believe my words were, "Well, comes the revolution you will change all that."

At which time he looked at me like a betrayed Caesar and screamed, screamed definitely, "Not you, too, Thornley."

And I remember his voice cracked as he said this. He was definitely disturbed at what I had said, ~~and~~ I didn't really think I had said that much, ~~and~~ He put his hands in his pockets, ~~and~~ pulled his hat down over his eyes and walked away and went over and sat down some place else alone, ~~and~~ I thought, well, you know, forget about it, and I never said anything to him again and he never said anything to me again.

Mr. Jenner. You mean you never spoke to each other from that time on?

Mr. Thornley. No. And shortly thereafter I left the outfit for overseas. I don't recall that we were ever in a situation where we would have spoken, but I know we never spoke after that. And this happened with many people, this reaction of Oswald's, ~~and~~ therefore he had few friends. He never seemed to have anyone friend for a long length of time, one acquaintance. He seemed to guard against developing real close friendships.

Mr. Jenner. Did you ever -- excuse me, you recall being interviewed by an agent of the FBI?

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and I stopped thinking about it.

Mr. Jenner. You mean a nut in the sense of an extremist, not an organized thinker.

Mr. Thornley. I didn't think about that enough to classify it. I just thought, "something <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ wrong with him, maybe something is bugging him today, maybe he is crazy, I don't know what, but I just wasn't at that moment -- it wasn't that important to me, I didn't feel much better than he did that morning, I am sure, so I just shrugged it off.

Later, I did reflect on it, and that, combined with his general habits in relation to his superiors, and to the other men in the outfit, caused me to decide that he had a definite tendency toward irrationality at times, <sup>and</sup> an emotional instability.

Once again right away, I didn't know exactly what was the cause of this. A couple of years later I had good reason to think about it some more, at which time I noticed --

Mr. Jenner. Now when <sup>please?</sup> before the assassination?

Mr. Thornley. Yes. While working on <sup>my work</sup> The Idle Warriors.

Mr. Jenner. About when was this?

Mr. Thornley. From the time he went to the Soviet Union until February of 1962.

Mr. Jenner. You learned that he had gone to the Soviet Union?

Mr. Thornley. Yes, I was stationed at his former outfit, <sup>at</sup> Marine Air Control Squadron 1, at the time he went to the Soviet

Union.

Mr. Jenner. Where were you then stationed?

Mr. Thornley. That is where I was at the time.

Mr. Jenner. ~~What~~ what country?

Mr. Thornley. At Atsugi, Japan.

Mr. Jenner. I see.

And you learned about it through what source?

Mr. Thornley. The Stars and Stripes, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> the military newspaper in the Far East. It was on page 3, I believe, a little article about Lee Harvey Oswald having appeared in the American Embassy in Moscow, having plopped down his passport and requested Soviet citizenship.

My first reaction was "Good Lord, what is going on here." And afterwards, I, of course -- it began to occur to me, <sup>his</sup> interest in communism, and I started kicking myself, thinking, <sup>well,</sup> you know, <sup>just</sup> just for so misjudging a person. I just --

Mr. Jenner. Misjudging? What respect, please.

Mr. Thornley. As far as his sincerity <sup>WENT</sup> ~~meant~~ <sup>CWS</sup>. I did not ever think he was so interested in communism to go to all the trouble to go to the Soviet Union and certainly to jeopardize his citizenship, and so forth.

This was a great surprise to me. And right away I began to try to figure out the mechanism of his thinking.

Mr. Jenner. I see.

Keep going and tell me what your rationalization and

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thinking was at that time.

Mr. Thornley. And what caused him to do this.

This gets us back to the emotional instability and why did it occur. I do believe, to begin with, Oswald, how long he had acquired the idea I don't know, but I think in his mind it was almost a certainty that the world would end up under a totalitarian government <sup>or</sup> under totalitarian governments. (KUR)

I think he accepted Orwell's premise in this that there was no fighting it. That sooner or later you were going to have to love Big Brother and I think this was the central, I think this was the central thing that disturbed him and caused many of his other reactions.

I think he wanted to be on the winning side for one thing, and, therefore, the great interest in communism. I think he wanted -- I think he felt he was under a totalitarian system while in the Marine Corps, and, therefore, the extreme reactions when someone would call him a Communist, I think he had a persecution complex, and I think he strove to maintain it. I could not go so far as to say why. Perhaps it was necessary to his self-esteem in some way, <sup>or</sup> ~~and~~ this was and is the general conclusion I now have as to his general motivations, his over-all motivations, insofar as he has tended to be emotionally unstable.

Mr. Jenner, do you think he was emotionally unstable?

Mr. Thornley. I think so.

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~~that~~ he looked upon, not only Marxists make this mistake, but he looked upon history as God. He looked upon the eyes of future people as some kind of tribunal, ~~and~~ he wanted to be on the winning side so that ten thousand years from now people would look in the history books and say, "Well, this man was ahead of his time." ~~This man was~~ that man was -- he wanted to be looked back upon with honor by future generations. It was, I think, a substitute, in his case, for traditional religion.

The eyes of the future became what to another man would be the eyes of God, <sup>OR</sup> ~~perhaps~~ <sup>LWT</sup> to yet another man the eyes of his own conscience.

Mr. Jenner. So it wasn't in the prosaic sense of merely wanting to be on the "winning side."

Mr. Thornley. No.

Mr. Jenner. When things developed --

Mr. Thornley. No, I don't think he expected things to develop within his lifetime. I am sure that he didn't. He just wanted to be on the winning side for all eternity.

Mr. Jenner. ~~and~~ you had the impression that that was in terms of selflessness? That he thought also in terms that Lee Harvey Oswald would be associated with this forward thinking?

Mr. Thornley. Right. He was concerned with his image in history and I do think that is why he chose once again, once again why he chose the particular method he chose and did it in the way he did. It got him in the newspapers. It did broadcast his

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name out. I think he probably expected the Russians to accept him ~~or~~ <sup>WTS</sup> a much higher <sup>WTS</sup> in a much higher capacity than they did.

I think he <sup>WTS</sup> expected them to, in his own dreams, to invite him to take a position in their government, possibly as a technician, and I think he then felt that he could go out into the world, into the Communist world and distinguish himself and work his way up into the Party, perhaps.

He was definitely --

Mr. Jenner. : <sup>Did</sup> ~~it~~ it have to be the Communist world or could it be any world that he saw projected into the future?

Mr. Thornley. Definitely.

Mr. Jenner. And as you put it this, in your opinion, had become a religion with him.

Mr. Thornley. Much more than he himself realized even though he called it his religion.

Mr. Jenner. Did you have the impression there was a personal selflessness, that is a -- I will put it in terms of disregard or rather this way -- that as far as his physical person was concerned, he wasn't concerned about life in the sense that <sup>wanted to</sup> he ~~was~~ continue to maintain life in his body?

Mr. Thornley. No. I think he wanted physically <sup>ly</sup> happiness. I think this is why he didn't do something like just join the Communist Party. I believe he felt that was dangerous.

I think he wanted to live comfortably. But I think if it came to a choice between the two, or to put it this way, <sup>WTS</sup> More relevant <sup>WTS</sup>

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to events that developed later, I think if it became to his mind impossible for him to have this degree of physical comfort that he expected or sought, I think he would then throw himself entirely <sup>CP</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>WUT</sup> other thing he also wanted, which was the image in history.

I don't think that --- I think he wanted both if he could have them. If he didn't, <sup>WUT</sup> he wanted to die with the knowledge <sup>WUT</sup> that, or with the idea ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> he was somebody.

Mr. Jenner. Did you have the impression at any time that he, in turn, embraced a realization that <sup>he was lacking in</sup> ~~his~~ ability to accomplish the former, that is, personal comfort and status, <sup>that is,</sup> that he felt that there was a lack of ability, capacity, training, education on his part?

Mr. Thornley. When I knew him, I don't think he had the vaguest thought in that direction. I do definitely, of course, based solely upon what I have read in the newspapers, think he came to that moment, after returning to the United States from the Soviet Union, I think he was getting panicky.

Mr. Jenner. In our discussion you can see it is important to me to obtain your thinking, uninfluenced to the extent you can do it <sup>by subsequent events.</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>NET</sup> of course complete lack of influence is possible, -- but I am seeking your views ~~first~~ <sup>as to</sup> your state of mind prior to November 22.

Mr. Thornley. All right.

I would say that prior to November 22, I felt that he had

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from the Times my folks sent me. Said when he had left for the Soviet Union he had said such and such: <sup>this</sup> quote.

Mr. Jenner. You said you did not expect him to become disillusioned with Soviet Russia. Was it your impression at any time, take the several stages, that he had a conviction with respect to any form of political philosophy or government?

Mr. Thornley. Well, he did definitely always before and after have a Marxist bias.

From anything that has come to me, that has never -- I have never reason -- never had reason to doubt that.

Mr. Jenner. That you think was a conviction?

Mr. Thornley. I think that was an ~~irrevocable~~ <sup>irrevocable</sup> conviction, you might say.

Mr. Jenner <sup>you do not</sup> ~~do you~~ think it was ~~not~~ merely a theoretical concept which he used for argumentation?

Mr. Thornley. Let me put it this way. I think you could sit down and argue with him for a number of years in a great marathon argument and have piles of facts and I don't think you could ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~changed~~ <sup>changed</sup> his mind on that unless you knew why he believed it in the first place.

I certainly don't. ~~I~~ <sup>I</sup> don't think with any kind of formal argument you could have shaken that conviction.

And that is why I say ~~irrevocable~~ <sup>irrevocable</sup>. It was just -- never getting ~~back~~ <sup>back</sup> to looking at things from any other way once he had become a Marxist, whenever that was.

him by either Mr. Stuckey or one of the other participants?

Mr. Thornley. That is exactly what he was talking about at the time. I happened to be standing in the television station in New Orleans and he was saying, and I just got a snatch of it, I was passing through the room or something, and he was saying, "Well, there are many Marxist countries in the world today."

Mr. Jenner. This was by way of his answering a question as to what <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ the distinction between Marxism and communism?

Mr. Thornley. Yes, he was saying there are many non-communist Marxist countries in the world today and he was ~~definitely~~ making a distinction between Marxism and communism.

Mr. Jenner. But all he did was to cite the countries. He didn't attempt to make the distinction.

Mr. Thornley. It was only a snatch of it.

Mr. Jenner. That was a fair representation of his utterances during those two radio broadcasts and one television broadcast.

You mentioned also that you had a feeling on his part that he was laboring under a persecution complex?

Mr. Thornley. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. That was ~~based~~ <sup>(based alone on)</sup> not necessarily ~~first~~ <sup>but</sup> the incident you relate that occurred on that Saturday morning?

Were there other incidents?

Mr. Thornley. Yes, there were ~~many~~ <sup>(many)</sup> comments on his ~~part~~ <sup>(part)</sup> about the walls having ears, about, I think, he felt the Marine Corps kept a pretty close watch on him because of his "subversive"

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activities, and, for that reason, in fact, I think he sought to keep himself convinced that he was being watched and being pushed a little harder than anyone else.

I don't think he was consciously, perhaps not consciously, aware of the fact that he went out of his way to get into trouble. I think it was kind of necessary to him to believe that he was being picked on. It wasn't anything extreme. I wouldn't go so far as to call it, call him a paranoid, but a definite tendency there <sup>was</sup> in that direction I think.

Mr. Jenner. Would you put it in terms that he had the feeling that he was being unjustifiably put upon?

Mr. Thornley. Oh, always, yes. He was, in fact, you almost got the feeling that he was -- this was happening because of his defense. I mean he was always speaking of the injustices which had been perpetuated against him.

Mr. Jenner. Of ~~his~~ injustices as to him personally, different from the treatment of others about him?

Mr. Thornley. To him personally, yes. Well, and it was the fact that he had lost his clearance, and had gone out of his way to get <sup>IN</sup> ~~into~~ to some degree of trouble, <sup>that</sup> ~~he~~ went on to support this. For example, we would stand at muster in the morning, and Sergeant Spar would call the roll and he would say "Oswald" and Oswald would step out of the ranks and he would send him off to mow the lawn or something.

Oswald did get special treatment. As I say, he had brought

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it on himself but he made the most of it, too, as far as using it as a means of getting or attempting to get sympathy.

Mr. Jenner. Well, what was the sergeant's name?

Mr. Thornley. Sergeant Spar.

Mr. Jenner. Spar, in using his name, I don't wish to, I am not suggesting anything personal as to Sergeant Spar, but I am going to use ~~him~~ <sup>faceless</sup> him as a Marine Sergeant.

Mr. Thornley. ~~That would be~~ <sup>AND WAS</sup> a very good one.

Mr. Jenner. You Marines, at least some of you, I assume, as had GI's and others, you buttered up sergeants, too, didn't you, in order to avoid being assigned too often to disagreeable tasks.

Mr. Thornley. No, you didn't have to. So long as you kept in line and obeyed orders, you didn't have to -- you weren't assigned any disagreeable task in the kind of outfit I was in because there weren't that many ~~disagreeable tasks~~ <sup>WAS</sup>

When there was a disagreeable task <sup>TO</sup> ~~to~~ be done, it was assigned to somebody who had stepped out of line and there were <sup>WAS</sup> always enough people who had stepped out of line and ~~there~~ <sup>IT</sup> was no problem to find them.

In fact, the problem was to find enough disagreeable tasks to go around. The only exception to this would be <sup>few things</sup> ~~overseas~~; a typhoon would hit sometimes and then everybody would have to go out and we would have to all, much to our dismay, <sup>WIDE WAS</sup> ~~wait~~ around at two o'clock in the morning and tear down tents and so on and so

forth.

Mr. Jenner. That was a thing that was common to all of you.

Mr. Thornley. Yes.

Mr. Jenner. It was not a disagreeable task in the sense we are talking about.

Mr. Thornley. Right, and that was never necessary to have to butter up that I can ever think of to a superior of any kind in order to get exempted from anything.

Mr. Jenner. Well, do you think Oswald was aware that all he had to be was more tractable to the customs and practices of the Marine Corps in which he was then living and he would not be assigned more often than others disagreeable tasks?

Mr. Thornley. Well, that is hard to say. I don't know whether he was aware of that or not. I am not sure whether he permitted himself to be aware of it. Maybe he was aware of it and maybe he couldn't help. <sup>HE</sup> He had compulsions to do these things. Maybe he thought it was worth it and maybe he didn't feel that he was being treated unjustly at all. Maybe he just wanted everybody to think he felt he was being treated unjustly, if you follow me.

Mr. Jenner. I do.

Mr. Thornley. It could have been any of these things. This -- I think it would take a good psychiatrist to find out which.

Mr. Jenner. You also used the expression that he strove to

Mr. Jenner. Did you have the feeling he was impulsive?

Mr. Thornley. Oh, definitely.

Mr. Jenner. He acted on the spur of the moment?

Mr. Thornley. He was spontaneous, very much so. This was -  
I had this impression the whole time I knew him.

Mr. Jenner. You did have the impression and I think you have mentioned it several times, that he had an exaggerated, either mild or otherwise, self-esteem.

Mr. Thornley. No, I didn't mention that that I recall. I did say that I think maintaining the persecution complex was necessary for his self-esteem and he was concerned very much with his image in history but I don't think in the sense of being secure about his self-esteem, I don't think he was either conceited for example, egotistical or just plain confident.

I don't think -- I don't have any reason to believe that he in his own eyes, had any reason to be proud of himself beyond the average, at most.

Mr. Jenner. I wasn't thinking of self-esteem in that sense and I didn't gather from your remark that you were thinking of it in that sense either, but rather in the sense of self-esteem in his own eyes, not in the sense of accomplishment or egoism.

Mr. Thornley. Now, I don't know. Self-esteem in ones own eyes, it seems to me, would have to be justified by some means. Some people justify it by means of their attraction to



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to the opposite sex or by means of their standing in some country club. I think Oswald justified it by means of his recalcitrance, kind of a reverse self-esteem.

By means of his unwillingness to do what he was ordered, for example.

Mr. Jenner. Did you have the feeling that he <sup>sought</sup> ~~thought~~ the esteem of others, not necessarily his officers, but the esteem of somebody or some group or some persons about him and in his life --

Mr. Thornley. I think he wanted this <sup>very</sup> much but I don't think he knew how to go about getting it. He wanted it, and yet he certainly didn't -- I think he would have felt he was cheating himself if he had offered them anything in exchange for it. He wanted it but he wanted it to come to him for no reason. He didn't want to have to earn it. I got that impression. That is a very mild impression.

Mr. Jenner. We are dealing in a very delicate field here and I am pressing you very severely.

Mr. Thornley. These are sometimes very gray, thin lines we have to distinguish between. <sup>(We are probing for motivation.)</sup> We are probing for motivation.

Mr. Jenner. Did you ever discuss with him the matter of education?

Mr. Thornley. No.

Mr. Jenner. ~~for~~ his own <sup>of</sup> education in the abstract, <sup>of</sup> the need

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what about his quarters, his barracks, did you have occasion to observe them?

Mr. Thornley. I don't think I was ever in his barracks. I do recall having been told that he had Russian books and that is all I -- that is the only connection I can make now in my mind with his quarters. I don't think I ever saw them.

Mr. Jenner. You already have given us something of his view of the United States Marine Corps.

Would you give us a summary of that? Give us your impression of his views with respect to the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Thornley. Well, definitely the Marine Corps was not what he had expected it to be when he joined. Also he felt that the officers and the staff NCOs at the Marine Corps were incompetent to give him orders.

Mr. Jenner. Incompetent in what sense, they were below him intellectually?

Mr. Thornley. They were below him intellectually, ~~who were~~ <sup>OTHER</sup> -- and for various reasons in each case, too.

Maybe this officer was ignorant, as was brought out about foreign affairs, in Oswald's mind, knew less than Oswald did about it. I don't hold with the stand that Oswald would study up on foreign affairs simply in order to bait the officer, I think it just happened to be that Oswald would see that the officer was basing his foreign affairs maybe on Time Magazine when Oswald