

interest in rifles and had taught Oswald to shoot with a telescopic sight, and that the two had plotted the Kennedy assassination.

Ferrie's alleged role in the "plot" was to fly the getaway plane for Oswald. A licensed pilot—he formerly was employed by Eastern Air Lines—Ferrie owned his own blue and white Stinson 150 monoplane, and according to the Martin story, as related by the FBI, he was supposed to fly to Dallas to pick up Oswald and take him out of the country — probably to Cuba.

INTEREST PERKS UP

Kohlman's and the FBI's interest naturally perked up when Ferrie could not be found in New Orleans the night of Nov. 22.

Apparently unaware that he was being sought, Ferrie and two young male companions decided the previous afternoon—a couple of hours after Kennedy was shot—to drive in Ferrie's 1961 blue Comet station wagon to Houston and Galveston.

The trio registered at the Ala Motel in Houston at 4:30 a. m., Nov. 23. At 11 p. m., they reached Galveston and registered at the Driftwood Motel. At Houston, they apparently had some discussions over the possibility of purchasing an ice skating rink, and they combined that business with a goose-hunting expedition.

While in Houston, Ferrie made four long distance calls to New Orleans — including calls to radio stations WSHO and WDSU. The purpose of the calls was not explained in the report.

Ferrie and his companions returned to New Orleans at 9:30 p. m. on Nov. 24. Ferrie was by this time apparently aware that the district attorney's office wanted to interrogate him, because he phoned attorney G. W. Gill, for whom he did some investigating work, and was advised, again according to the FBI, to leave New Orleans.

Ferrie left about midnight, driving to Hammond, La., alone.

Smith Hall at Southeastern Louisiana College.

FERRIE QUIZZED, BOOKED

But the next day he returned to New Orleans and, accompanied by Gill, appeared at the district attorney's office, where he was questioned before being booked at the First Precinct station.

In separate oral and written statements to the FBI — and, apparently the district attorney's office, although those records aren't available here — Ferrie denied that he had ever known Oswald.

Kohlman later commented to the FBI agent that Ferrie and Oswald must have known each other because they had served together in the civil air patrol and that, in the words of the FBI report, "it appeared (to Kohlman) that he (Ferrie) had lied when he denied knowing Oswald."

The FBI report added:

Ferrie said that to the best of his knowledge, Oswald had

never served in his civil air patrol unit, and that he himself had been involved with it only a short time. Any firearms instruction there, he said, was only in firearms safety and only involved advanced cadets. Most of the cadets brought their own rifles, mostly .22 calibre, and none was equipped with a telescopic sight.

HYPNOTISM 'STUDENT'

He said that his plane had not been airworthy since 1962, (although a later FBI check of the Civil Aeronautics Licensing Office at Oklahoma City showed the plane had a valid registration in 1963) and that he had not set foot in Dallas in "eight or ten years."

He admitted that he was "a student" of hypnosis, but denied suggestions that he had hypnotized Oswald and instructed him to assassinate the President through post-

hypnotic suggestion (as Ferrie's accuser had charged).

Post-hypnotic suggestion, Ferrie contended, "wouldn't last long enough" without a series of repeated suggestions to enable an individual to commit a crime, especially one involving a series of discretionary judgments."

Ferrie likewise denied that he had ever met performer Bill De Mar, who was doing a mind-reading act at Jack Ruby's Dallas nightclub the week of the assassination. Ferrie said he didn't know Ruby either.

He said he had never flown Oswald to Cuba, Dallas or anywhere else.

In following up the Ferrie lead, the FBI and Secret Service interviewed more than a dozen persons whose names had come up, including the alleged informant Martin.

MARTIN DISAVOWS

On questioning by the FBI, Martin disavowed entirely his story. "Martin admitted to the FBI agents that the information which he had furnished assistant district attorney Kohlman was a figment of his imagination

and that he had made up the story after reading the newspapers and watching tele-

vision," the Secret Service related.

Martin, it added, "remembered that Kohlman, a former newspaper reporter, had

written an article or story about Ferrie a couple of years ago and that he pieced the whole thing together in his mind and had given it to Kohlman as facts."

The report said Martin admitted that he "suffered from telephonitis" when he was drunk.

"In view of the above," the report concluded, "this phase

of the investigation involving David William Ferrie will be considered closed."

The Ferrie matter would be

closed entirely, it added, as soon as a few loose ends were tied up by the New Orleans agents. There is no indication in the documents whether those loose ends were ever brought together, but presumably they were.

In Washington, the FBI, which took over from the Secret Service all the later investigation activities, has no plans to reactivate its files, but it is watching the New Orleans district attorney's office with interest.

Martin Gave 'Lead' Kohlman Reports

Assistant District Attorney Herman S. Kohlman said Thursday night that Jack S. Martin had given him "a lead into the possible connection between Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie shortly after the President's assassination in Dallas.

Kohlman, a former police reporter for The Times-Picayune, said Martin "talked to me because I had been a reporter before joining the DA's office" and because he had written news stories about Ferrie.

Asked if Martin had ever told him that Ferrie had Oswald had known each other, Kohlman pointed out that District Attorney Jim Garrison has said that no one on his staff is to make statements to the press concerning the investigation of an assassination plot here.

"I had known Martin and what he gave me was merely a lead. I didn't base any investi-

gation on just what he told me," added Kohlman.

Asked if a check of the local Civil Air Patrol wing indicated that Ferrie, who was active in the CAP, and Oswald had known each other through a CAP squadron, the assistant district attorney replied: "I don't want to get into that."

He said he wouldn't base anything on information from only one informant, and that he had made other phone calls to determine if there was any basis to Martin's statements. Kohlman would not elaborate on his find-