

FERRIE-AIRPORTS & DOCUMENTS 750

DALLAS, TEX., FEB. 26 (AP)-THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD SAID IN TODAY'S EDITIONS THAT AN INVESTIGATOR FROM THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WAS IN DALLAS LAST MONTH TO FIND OUT WHETHER PILOT DAVID FERRIE WAS IN DALLAS WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

FERRIE, FOUND DEAD IN HIS APARTMENT WEDNESDAY, WAS IDENTIFIED BY NEW ORLEANS DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON AS A "KEY MAN" IN HIS PROBE OF THE ASSASSINATION.

FERRIE HAD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GARRISON BELIEVED HE WAS TO BE THE GETAWAY PILOT IN AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY HATCHED IN NEW ORLEANS THAT TOOK KENNEDY'S LIFE IN DALLAS NOV. 22, 1963.

THE WARREN COMMISSION SAID ~~THERE WAS NO~~ CONSPIRACY AND THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS THE WORK OF ONE MAN, LEE HARVEY OSWALD. cqd
R58

MEANWHILE, IN NEW ORLEANS, WWL-TV SAID TODAY IN A NEWSCAST IT HAD LEARNED TWO KEY GARRISON INVESTIGATORS WERE IN DALLAS OVER THE WEEKEND TO QUESTION A MAN WHO WAS ONCE A CUBAN EXILE LEADER IN NEW ORLEANS.

THE MAN WAS IDENTIFIED AS SERGIO ARCAACHIA, NOW A DALLAS RESIDENT.

BILL GERVITCH AND ANOTHER GARRISON INVESTIGATOR FLEW TO DALLAS IN GERVITCH'S PRIVATE PLANE, WWL-TV SAID, MET ARCAACHIA IN THE DALLAS POLICE STATION BUT ASKED HIM NO QUESTIONS WHEN HE REQUESTED THE INTERROGATION BE CONDUCTED IN THE PRESENCE OF DALLAS DETECTIVES.

ARCAACHIA, THE REPORT CONTINUED, SAID HE WAS BEING LEGALLY REPRESENTED BY ASST. DIST. ATTY. BILL ALEXANDER OF DALLAS, WHO WHEN QUESTIONED SAID HE HAD ONLY ADVISED ARCAACHIA OF HIS RIGHTS AFTER THE MAN HAD TOLD HIM GARRISON WAS "HOUNDING HIM" TO GO TO NEW ORLEANS FOR QUESTIONING.

THE NEW ORLEANS TV STATION SAID IT HAD CONFIRMED ITS INFORMATION FROM GARRISON.

IN A STORY FROM NEW ORLEANS THE WASHINGTON POST SAID THAT ON AUG. 30, 1961, TWO YOUNG MEN IN A CONVERTIBLE WERE STOPPED BY POLICE IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR THE NEW ORLEANS LAKE FRONT.

IN THE CAR, THE POST SAID, OFFICERS FOUND A FULLY LOADED .33 CALIBER PISTOL, A MAKEUP KIT WITH HUMAN HAIR, SEALING GUM AND SCISSORS.

BOTH BELONGED TO FERRIE, THE POST SAID, ADDING THAT ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN IN THE CAR SAID THEY WERE WAITING FOR HIM.

THE POST STORY SAID THE POLICE WERE SKEPTICAL. THE TWO YOUNG MEN LED THE OFFICERS, THE POST ACCOUNT SAID, TO A NEIGHBORHOOD HOME OCCUPIED BY SERGIO ARCAACHA SMITH, THE LOCAL (NEW ORLEANS) HEAD OF

A CUBAN LIBERATION GROUP, AND THAT ARCACHA'S WIFE SAID FERRIE HAD BEEN THERE EARLIER.

IN THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE AUG. 30, 1961 INCIDENT INVOLVING SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH'S HOME, THE POST REPORTED THAT THE NEW ORLEANS INTELLIGENCE DIVISION SAID SEVERAL MONTHS LATER THAT APPARENTLY THIS GROUP (THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY FRONT) WAS LEGITIMATE IN NATURE AND PRESUMABLY HAD THE UNOFFICIAL SANCTION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ALTHOUGH THAT COULD NOT BE DETERMINED IN NEW ORLEANS.

THE POST STORY ADDED THAT SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, HAD BEEN REMOVED AS NEW ORLEANS HEAD OF THE GROUP.

FERRIE'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE GROUP, IF ANY, REMAINS UNKNOWN, THE POST STORY ADDED.

Fred Lenz A MECHANIC AT WHITE ROCK AIRPORT IN DALLAS, SAID HE TOLD GARRISON'S INVESTIGATOR THAT HE RECALLED HAVING SEEN FERRIE IN DALLAS BUT ADDED THAT HE "COULDN'T BE SURE OF THE DATE."

ANOTHER MECHANIC AT THE SAME AIRPORT, BOBBY PIKE, SAID, "I THOUGHT AT THE TIME I WAS SHOWN A PICTURE OF FERRIE (BY THE INVESTIGATOR) THAT I HAD SEEN THE MAN. I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHEN OR WHERE, BUT IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME AGO."

NELSON KNIGHT, A STUDENT PILOT, TOLD THE TIMES HERALD HE ACCOMPANIED THE NEW ORLEANS INVESTIGATOR TO SEVERAL DALLAS AIRPORTS BECAUSE THE VISITOR DID NOT KNOW HIS WAY AROUND.

KNIGHT SAID THE INVESTIGATOR CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO EACH PERSON HE INTERVIEWED THAT HE HAD THREE PICTURES OF A MAN, AND THAT HE WAS "TRYING TO ESTABLISH IF THE MAN WAS IN DALLAS ON A CERTAIN DATE."

KNIGHT SAID THE DATES MENTIONED WERE NOV. 20-30, 1963.

EA53DN

KNIGHT SAID HE STAYED WITH THE NEW ORLEANS MAN AS A GUIDE. HE SAID THE MAN INTERVIEWED ABOUT 30 PERSONS AT AIRPORTS AND WAS "VERY THOROUGH," AND TOOK VARIOUS PICTURES OF THE DIFFERENT FIELDS.

KNIGHT ADDED THAT, OF THE PEOPLE QUESTIONED, ONLY PIKE AND LENZ INDICATED THAT THEY RECOGNIZED FERRIE FROM THE PICTURES.

"I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE," LENZ SAID. "YOU DON'T FORGET A FACE LIKE THAT."

FERRIE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN "ODD-LOOKING" MAN WHO WORE AN ILL-FITTING HAIRPIECE AND FALSE EYEBROWS AS A RESULT OF HAVING BEEN BURNED IN AN AIRFIELD EXPLOSION.

OFFICIALS AT REDBIRD, WHITE ROCK AND HIGHLAND PARK AIRPORTS CONFIRMED THAT THE NEW ORLEANS INVESTIGATOR HAD VISITED THEIR FIELDS IN LATE JANUARY AND QUESTIONED EMPLOYEES.

"HE REALLY WENT OVER THIS PLACE WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB," SAID WAYNE MCWHIRTER, MANAGER OF WHITE ROCK AIRPORT.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS DISCLOSED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE DALLAS BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS HAS DENIED ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC OF ROUTINE PUBLIC RECORDS CONCERNING THE DEATHS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, OSWALD, AND JACK RUBY. RUBY SHOT OSWALD TO DEATH NOV. 24, 1963, IN THE DALLAS POLICE STATION AND HIMSELF DIED OF CANCER IN DALLAS JAN. 3 OF THIS YEAR.

DR. J. E. PEAVY, STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER, SAID THAT THE RECORDS HAVE BEEN INACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC SINCE ABOUT A MONTH AFTER EACH MAN DIED. THE VITAL STATISTICS BUREAU COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

"IF A PERSON HAS A LEGITIMATE REASON, HE CAN SEE THE DOCUMENTS," PEAVY TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TODAY. "IT'S PRESUMED THAT NEWSMEN WOULD HAVE LEGITIMATE REASONS."

EA54DN

PEAVY ADDED THAT THE RECORDS OF KENNEDY, OSWALD AND RUBY ARE NOT HANDLED MUCH DIFFERENTLY FROM ALL SUCH RECORDS.

"NONE OF OUR RECORDS ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC," HE SAID. "A PERSON HAS TO SHOW CAUSE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE'S CHECKING ON."

BUT HE SAID THE RESTRICTIONS ON THESE THREE ARE TIGHTER THAN ON THE REST, "SO THAT THE UNSCRUPULOUS WON'T BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT THESE RECORDS FOR PERSONAL GAIN."

PEAVY SAID THE SECRET SERVICE ASKED HIM TO TIGHTEN THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE KENNEDY, OSWALD AND RUBY DOCUMENTS AFTER SEVERAL CERTIFIED COPIES WERE FOUND TO BE IN CIRCULATION.

"WE THINK IT'S JUST A MATTER OF GOOD TASTE," HE SAID.

PEAVY SAID THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ARE ON FILE IN AUSTIN, THE STATE CAPITAL, AND DUPLICATES ARE ON FILE IN THE DALLAS BRANCH OFFICE.

DALLAS CITY ATTY. ALEX BICKLEY SAID THE BAN PROHIBITS THE COPYING OF THE DOCUMENTS ON FILE IN DALLAS.

"THERE HAVE BEEN LETTERS, TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FROM FORTUNE HUNTERS, INVESTIGATORS AND THOSE LITTLE PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO MAKE A BUCK OFF HIS (PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S) DEATH," BICKLEY SAID.

THE TIMES HERALD SAID THE BAN IS BEING INTERPRETED BY CLERKS IN THE DALLAS OFFICE TO COVER PERSONS NOW DEAD BUT ONLY INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS OF THE ASSASSINATION.

PEAVY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS OFFICE HAD REQUESTED THAT ONLY THE DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO KENNEDY, OSWALD AND RUBY BE RESTRICTED.

HE CAUTIONED THAT, WHILE NEWSMEN AND OTHERS WITH LEGITIMATE REASONS COULD SEE THE RECORDS, "I DOUBT THAT WE WOULD RELEASE A CERTIFIED COPY WITHOUT A COURT ORDER."

(EDS: A52, START 5TH GRAF, READ IT:
FRED LENZ, A MECHANIC, ETC. (INSERTING NAME)).

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DALLAS--1ST ADD FERRIE-AIRPORTS A52-54DN: ORDER.

IN ANOTHER NEW ORLEANS DEVELOPMENT, JACK S. MARTIN, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, CLAIMED AN FBI REPORT CONCERNING HIM WAS INCORRECT.

MARTIN PROVIDED INFORMATION TO GARRISON'S OFFICE IN NOVEMBER 1963 WHICH LED TO GARRISON'S ARREST OF FERRIE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION. THE FBI QUESTIONED FERRIE AT THE TIME AND ALSO QUESTIONED MARTIN.

✓ WARREN COMMISSION DOCUMENTS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES QUOTE THE FBI AS SAYING MARTIN TOLD THEM ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN FERRIE AND OSWALD WAS A FIGMENT OF HIS IMAGINATION.

TODAY MARTIN CONTACTED NEW ORLEANS NEWS MEDIA AND SAID HE HAD NEVER TOLD EITHER FBI OR SECRET SERVICE AGENTS THAT HE MADE UP THE STORY.

MARTIN'S FIRST STORY--THE ONE HE NOW SAYS IS TRUE--WAS THAT FERRIE ASSOCIATED WITH OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS AND TRAINED OSWALD IN THE USE OF A RIFLE WITH A TELESCOPIC SIGHT.

MARTIN SAID TODAY THAT HE BELIEVES FERRIE MAY HAVE HYPNOTIZED OSWALD "BUT I CAN'T PROVE IT."

IN THE FBI REPORT IN THE WARREN COMMISSION, TWO AGENTS SAID MARTIN TOLD THEM "HE SUFFERS FROM TELEPHONITIS WHEN DRINKING AND THAT IT WAS DURING ONE OF HIS DRINKING SPREES THAT HE TELEPHONED ASST. DIST. ATTY. H. S. KOHLMAN AND TOLD HIM THIS FANTASTIC STORY ABOUT FERRIE BEING INVOLVED WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD."

✓ MARTIN SAID TODAY HE HAD BEEN WORKING FOR GARRISON ON THE RENEWED PROBE SINCE LATE LAST YEAR.

✓ NEWSMEN HAD TRIED EARLIER WITHOUT SUCCESS TO LOCATE MARTIN. HIS WIFE SAID HE WAS OUT OF TOWN AND SHE DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS. HE SAID TODAY HE HAD BEEN IN TEXAS.

✓ IN YET ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS LEARNED THAT GARRISON'S INVESTIGATORS WENT TO BATON ROUGE ^{Feb 25} SATURDAY AND QUESTIONED PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, 25, WHO HAD EARLIER TOLD NEWSMEN FERRIE TOLD HIM "WE WILL GET HIM (KENNEDY) AND IT WON'T BE LONG" ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION IN DALLAS.

RUSSO SAID TODAY HE HAD BEEN ADVISED NOT TO TALK FURTHER ABOUT THE CASE BY GARRISON'S MEN.

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