

Lonnie Hudkins Interview 9/1/74 CONFIDENTIAL HW 9/2/74

Wife Accompanied by wife Mary and son Lon Jr arrived about lunch time and stayed through supper, until dark. (He doesn't drive, Mary dislikes night driving, they'll return.) They live in Belair, where he covers Harford Cty Md York Pa for Balt. News-American.

We taped about 2:45, with gaps where he asked I turn the machine off. These were infrequently places where he did not want me to record sources, more often personal comments, as on the Hobbyn (Oveta brains, runs paper; Bill nice person better at his horse-raising, married to daughter Stallings of What Price Glory, etc)

There are some things we discussed by phone that we did not go into or mentioned only briefly.

These is not full. Notes mostly on what might not be taped because we spoke before and after and taped not at all during dinner and afterward or while he was reading those pages of the 1/27/74 transcript and the relevant appended documents I showed him. No time for all.

Of my writing he knows II only. Only disagreement he believes LHO was a shooter.

He was CIA while reporter. Says very common. Says CIA has 100,000 working for it, mostly part-time, inside U.S. Most city rooms have someone from or reporting to CIA. Details his break on tape, reasons. Lon Whitten was full-time CIA before reporter or went there from Hearst, forgot which. They remain friends. His work seem to be mostly South America. He mentioned Castro, Jagan assassination plots and involvement with a Haitian who had been shot to which he got clandestine access in hospital and offered asylum.

Knew General Cabell well (administrator, not real spook), Dulles but not well, and others like superspook Noel (retired, living in Mexico and hating Agency).

He knew Dallas and Houston officials well but more personal relationship than one would expect as norm even for south. Close to Decker, more to Sweatt, helped Walther get job. Gerald Hill reporter - good one - before cop. Many other, including Wde's office natural, Close to Hosty. Sometimes these close carpooled.

The paper LHO had that he lifted for Hosty's protection was the size of a sugar cigarette paper. It had the number of Hosty's private car and home phones.

Close to Vince Drizin, FBI, who begged him to ease off on case.

Brown and a other agent saw Mrs. Oswald Sr. at Ft. Worth.

One point at which he wanted tape off is when we were discussing Castro assassination. I had said Anderson also had him steers. But he rambled and we didn't get to what he could have said of this. We rambled such.

Says other assassination plots, believes conspiracy and more than one successful. Different plots rather than different teams. First to have been Atlanta, then Houston. Atlanta month earlier, Ruth Paine's car's license (brown wagon) recorded Houston, says.

Wesley Buell Frazier's divorce - I didn't know he'd been married - Marina correspondent. Papers secret. Confirms Aynsworth's story that he "had the use of 'arina" for a month. Prevalent situation.

Castro assassination plot of which he was part scratched when the man who was supposed to do it told him I can do it but I'll get killed and I don't want to get killed.

Jagan plot changed when the word came down that objectives would be accomplished another way. (He apparently knew nothing of the AFL-CIA Lovett/Ronald operations.) McCord had already gone to Guyana and established an insurance business as a cover. The deal was long enough for it to make money. Other time he knew McCord was 11/22/74 when he went to Dallas to help Al Hunt leave. Says not to DC, which Paul had told me. Confirms rest Paul's story. Never knew Hunt but believes both capable murder, esp. McCord, whose farright belief is that strong, that sincere. Doubts Hunt was Dulles's ghost on basis Dulles the better writer and books better than Hunt's writing.

Impressions most pressure on Seth Kantor, apparently only over reporting seeing Ruby at hospital. I told him Kantor now chicken but not retracting and he attributed to pressures, glad to know not backing down, believes Kantor told truth.

He and Kantor were flashed in by Fritz for interview, brief, with LHO. His story he asked LHO why he killed JFK and he said he didn't know it happened. Why did he kill Tippitt? Who's Tippitt? If Kantor not with him then they spoke to LHO as he walked down hall. And it would then have been Goulden.

Can understand how LHO was so cool.

Say he told mother he was into something real deep.

Didn't buy my saying one explanation coolness expectation government would take care of his and his needs.

Tried to remember name ACLU lawyer, didn't, never finished that story.

Fritz from New Mexico with reputation of being great, wild-west shot but vision so poor he had to hold papers almost at eyes to read.

Henry ^{Wade} has files other than at office. So does Sweatt, who is keeping them as inheritance for his son. Sweatt was married twice before the wife who killed herself over JFK assassination, twice since.

Paul has some of Lonnie's files. Lonnie has box or boxes. Has been robbed.

Fern belief FBI covered everything up, lied and began juggling all of them immediately.

Lonnie made up the reason given for Ruby's shooting Oswald and fed it to Howard who fed it to Ruby, to save Jackie the agony of a trial.

Knew Judge Joe Brown well. Tape complete on this and Kilgallen, who he says was used by Hoover to leak report LHO not FBI. Brown uneducated. Sarah Hughes asked him to join a law class she was teaching. He said he couldn't qualify because so little education. She said he would but he lasted only couple months before he quit. "As for JP and rose because he was liked. Not bright. Took a joke. Lonnie read.

Brown told him Kilgallen pretty lady, that he slapped her thigh, she his. He had asked others besides Lonnie before seeing her, including Wade. All said she had JHM connection.

Sheridan approach to him through daughter - why that way unexplained - on narcotics only and (as I recall) 1967.

Says FBI never interviewed him on this after Baltimore. Think he said they did see him but on another matter.

Because as soon as they said anything the FBI would be speaking to them, Hudkins, Alexander, Goulden and Sweatt arranged a conference call for which they made up number he wasn't sure of. (Not the six-digit number which he does recall.) They then discussed this by prearrangement by phone. With half-hour little red-headed FBI agent sitting at his desk on pretext trying to pump him on this.

Comment: I had told him that it is I who had Kevin and Haurahan call him when Naworski was appointed special prosecutor. He told me he had started to give right number when he caught himself after giving three digits. My recollection of the report that came back to me is that the reporter remembers the first three correctly and made a comment about others. Not necessarily inconsistent but the kind of thing he'd have said if anyone had told him what had been said on my phone.

His course was Houston, not Dallas.

His comment on the official story is why one agency for LHO. Apparently FBI, CIA. Can't understand how CIA was so cool about it.

When he read Goulden FBI reports, as Mary also did, they both said some not true. (He says Goulden has changed, apparently politically and apparently to liberal.) Neither he nor Goulden would have used the other as an unidentified source on such a story. However, there were other reporters who did make stories up, including direct quotes.

Tapes begin with his account of interviewing Perry Russos in insane asylum Baton Rouge with young woman whose name he can't recall. Right after assassination itself. Accurate description Russo. Says they then spoke of Ferris and LHO, not for first time after Garrison. When I told him I had always had doubts about Russo and knew of the disappearance of WDSU footage and that there was another with LHO besides Steele his reactions was interesting. I mentioned no station name and no people, although I

had Jesse Cox in mind. He immediately spoke of 6-footers, which is what Cox is not but what he told me of the "third man." We discussed missing evidence, footage, and Hudkins said not to hide other man but agent in film. Don't know basis. Now there were two TV stations that had film, WFLA, on N. Rampart, and WISN, on Royal in Quarter. It does have a unique characteristic, a courtyard, Hudkins spoke of a radio station with a courtyard. It happens that LHO was on a WISN radio show first, before TV show, if there was TV show. Don't remember.

He and another reporter from his paper went to "Atom House, not apparently for that purpose only and then saw Russo, woman. When I asked him could the identification have been above him, Jackson, he said yes. He added nothing when I told him of interviewing a man who had said Sunday night after it that he had spent evening with assassin.

Howard was an old friend, before he was Ruby's lawyer.

Hudkins got to see Ruby after arrest. May he asked him why he did not shoot night lineup. Quotes Ruby as saying what he does not believe, that he didn't want to hit any "old friend." Most reporters knew him. Says he was then standing next to Ruby. He was unclear whether this was Friday or Saturday night. He and other apparently got to speak to LHO first time he was taken to "Ritz" office.

Says the man shown in Ochs Exhibit 1 (Ex 237) is in the pictures of the Friday night lineup-room "press conference."

One of informants in six-man Dallas CP cell now a judge. Verifies Paul R. on all but two being informants but adds one was Wade's man that there was a story in which he figured and Henry asked him not to use because if he did it would blow. Says he didn't and was now a judge and a good one.

Describes himself as Noel portage. Says Noel pulled many CIA murders.

Spoke to Arnold Lewis Howard afternoon 11/22 and says he gave identically same story he later gave. He could have picked this up from WFLA, including details of how was he holding rifle (like parade rest) and not near window but back from it. Also his statement to wife of all the Secret Service protection. Says Daddy Walthers' wife standing next to the Howlands.

Knows Percy Foreman well.

Couldn't then on News. They joined in covering up some goofs to save people's jobs. One when Bennett or Becker told them that if they used a story on some Walthers foulup he'd be fired. Not if they didn't.

Note on Wade's files above wrong. FBI took them and never returned them.

Walthers also at theater. "It is he who wrestled LHO down. Bruise on LHO's head from theater seat. All account to him use same words, "This is it." He apparently has no concerns about how Hill and Agnewirth could be at same easy right places so fast and alone, nobody else duplicating.

Tape has bit I don't recall reasonable mention man whose name he couldn't remember now British consul in NYC. Apparently in Dallas then and knows something. Perhaps British intelligence man earlier? (Stories about how they pulled tricks on French reporter.)

GIA contacts heavy on report. He singled this out.

Knows there were FBI reports on Russo. Apparently saw.

Mary appeared uneasy at first but gradually relaxed. Lon Jr. said nothing except when father, rather reading transcript, which he later read. In first let offensive. Mary sometimes remembered details, names people Louis didn't. They appear also to have been in Denver for a while.

Agnewirth closest to Alexander.

Hudkins et close to Brown Mrs. Brown asked him to keep judge from eating fried potatoes when they lunched together. Dietary reasons, illness known. Brown told Hudkins he knew he was about to die. Describes him, "Bobby Jr as fine human being, not bright.

He told me over phone that daughter 28. Henry told Lil 22. Mary 16 when they married. Louis now 49. Hair thin, white.

Describes Mexican with LHO other than as Andrews did in hair. Says he was in loft with LHO, wearing upper floors WFLA. Says others say they saw rifle stick out, fire. Interviewed large black woman who was splashed apparent with JNL's brain but possibly from spray from his ed shot. Saw concrete scar at underpass (Fague shot) and says meant low trajectory. (Dark very well to me. I saw curbstome. Have to mean small calibre.)

While there are discrepancies, he without doubt is talking about what he knows and can't be improvising as he goes. Bill may have misheard Haughter's age or perhaps there is second daughter, Son 26. Accountant with small paper of his own on side.

He did not say, I did not ask why CIA would use him on assassinations. He did say he had seen FBI reports which show Lane, Kunstler, Shirley Martin, whose first name we did not remember, actual Communist agents, i.e., working for Moscow. He knew or said what shows he knew much about Shirley, who he says not dead. (Not far right he is strongly anti-Communist.) He says he had lived Hawaii earlier, one of children "drek." Then husband much older man who had private plane and flew Bonnie in it. Believes Father Huber story.

He saw Tippit corpse. Large part, head missing, large chest wounds. Says authorities believed there were bullets they didn't find.

Like Tippit, who he knew well. Describes not as dumb cop.

Reville-Hoagy story: Mann does not believe Reville revisions, believes more likely to have been something like you are surprised whom your own stoolies does it. Like Butler saying he was glad JFK killed but sorry it had to be in Dallas. (Says Fritz had no use for Butler and would have never trusted him to give basement all-clear.)

Has Oswald in Oak Cliff Cuban parties, apparently one is particular Wednesday nights.

Seems to believe firmly that Lovelady was "second Oswald." More places than Dallas. USSR hangout for leftwingers whose employment records altered. (Inconsistent with what I know of ownership, management.) Distinguishes between similarity appearances in real life and pictures. Note's widow's-peak hairline.

Knew without my telling him that Fainess told FBI about him as soon as possible. Has Oswald and Michael close associates, exaggerated red record on Michael and the largest group of USSR agents anywhere in Bell Helicopter, one other area plant but no reason for it.

Says he did work (for government) on Rosenberg case.

No identifications CIA personnel except Noel. These discussions are among times recorder off his request.

He did return to Dallas after leaving. He is oil expert, still contributes articles on it.

From his descriptions there would seem to have been rather heavy federal interests in or centering in and involving Dallas. Esp. Intelligence.

Chiles-Jagger-o-Stovall former told him that with all the top-secretwork they did for the government, including ARJ, MKO could have made off with what he described as half the nation's secrets. There for three months after check. So much wanted offset film easiest way to wrap imperfect film around body. Searches never included bodies.

Seems to identify Leroy Hall. Knew Seymour (volunteered nothing more) as former Annapolis man. Described as from California, which is correct but could have come from SW II. Does not know Howard, no reaction to descriptions.

Knew man, did not say how.

Comment on Garrison roughly he jumped to the wrong conclusion. No reaction to deBrueys. Did not know Will May Griffin (FBI agent tr. from H.O. to Dallas.)

Bill says that it was her impression from the about 50% she heard of our conversation that while Marie seemed to be speaking freely he was not completely straightforward, not saying all he could have.

4. 2 graf 2 she says the quote of MKO is "Who got killed?"