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GARRISON WITNESS (250)

NEW ORLEANS (AP)-DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON TODAY SUBPOENED KERRY WENDELL THORNLEY, DESCRIBED AS A MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATE OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, TO TESTIFY IN HIS PROBE OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THE REQUEST FOR THE SUBPOENA SAID THORNLEY, FORMERLY OF NEW ORLEANS AND NOW OF (72650 FIRST ST. SOUTH) TAMPA, FLA., WAS QUESTIONED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION "FOR 33 PAGES" CONCERNING HIS MARINE CORPS LIFE WITH OSWALD, BUT DID NOT QUESTION HIM ABOUT KNOWING OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1963. GARRISON'S OFFICE SAID IT WANTED TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS CONTACTS WITH OSWALD DURING 1963.

THE WARREN COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN. IT ALSO DESCRIBED THORNLEY AS HIS CLOSEST FRIEND WHILE IN THE MARINE CORPS.

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GARRISON WITNESS INSERT 100

~~NEW ORLEANS, GARRISON WITNESS B1 INSERT AFTER 3RD GRAF: CORPS.~~

REACHED AT HIS TAMPA HOME BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, THORNLEY SAID HE KNEW OSWALD ABOUT THREE MONTHS WHEN BOTH WERE STATIONED IN EL TORO, CALIF., WITH MARINE AIR PATROL SQUADRON NO. 9.

BUT HE SAID THE FRIENDSHIP ENDED WHEN THEY HAD A SHORT ARGUMENT ONE DAY OVER A PARADE STARTING TIME.

THORNLEY SAID OSWALD WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT A DELAY IN THE STARTING TIME AND "I TOLD HIM WAIT UNTIL THE REVOLUTION AND WE'LL FIX THAT."

THORNLEY QUOTED OSWALD, WHO HE SAID WAS THE TARGET OF CONSTANT KIDDING ABOUT HIS POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, AS REPLYING, "NOT YOU, TOO, THORNLEY."

"EVERYBODY IN THE OUTFIT PUT HIM DOWN AS A COMMUNIST AND AN ATHEIST," THORNLEY SAID OF OSWALD.

THORNLEY, A THIN, BLONDE MAN OF 29, SAID HE WROTE AN UNPUBLISHED BOOK PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION TITLED "IDLE WARRIORS" IN WHICH HE MENTIONED OSWALD AS ONE OF A NUMBER OF DISENCHANTED MILITARY MEN WHO HAD FLED THE U.S.

AS FOR OSWALD BEING HIS FRIEND, HE SAID, "I MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED HIS BEST BUDDY, BUT I DON'T THINK HE HAD ANY CLOSE FRIENDS." (IN THE SERVICE).

~~THE SUBPOENA 3RD GRAF~~

THE SUBPOENA 4TH GRAF B1  
JK539PES JAN 9 NM

↓ THE SUBPOENA IS FOR AN APPEARANCE BEFORE THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY ON FEB. 8-9.

GARRISON'S OFFICE SAID IT HAD ESTABLISHED THAT THORNLEY WAS SEEN WITH OSWALD IN THE FRENCH QUARTER AND ELSEWHERE HERE BEFORE OSWALD'S FINAL DEPARTURE FROM NEW ORLEANS IN SEPTEMBER 1963.

GARRISON'S OFFICE ADDED THAT THE "FREQUENCY" OF OSWALD'S CONTACTS WITH THORNLEY HERE INDICATED THE LATTER MIGHT HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER ASSOCIATIONS OSWALD HAD IN THIS PERIOD.

THE SUBPOENA GRANTS THORNLEY IMMUNITY FROM ARREST FOR ANY PAST OFFENSES DURING HIS STAY TO ANSWER IT.

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