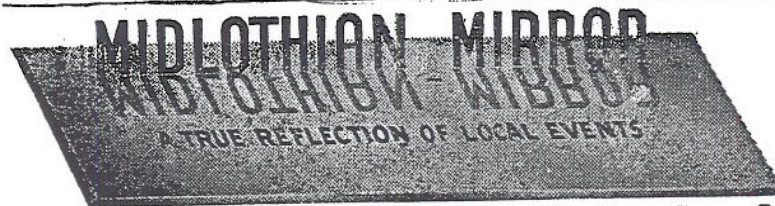


28 January 1967

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FORGIVE MY GRIEF

VOL. II

By PENN JONES, JR and SHIRLEY MARTIN

(First of two parts for installment no. 3)

FALSIES OF THE FBI

There are documents now on record in the National Archives which definitely prove J. Edgar Hoover personally submitted false evidence to the Warren Commission in attempting to refute the evidence of two key witnesses. Mrs. Sylvia Odio and her sister had sworn to President Johnson's Commission on the assassination that Lee Oswald, accompanied by two Latins, had come to her home in Dallas on the 26th or 27th of September, 1963, seeking her aid in organizational work to overthrow Castro. Lee Oswald had been introduced to

her as Leon Oswald. Because of their conversation, she stated she knew these three men were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. (1)

Sylvia Odio attended the original organization meeting of anti-Castro JURE in Puerto Rico in 1961 and had been active in anti-Castro work. Her father was one of the organizers of JURE, having served with Castro in the mountains but opposed him when he discovered Castro was a Communist.

On September 21, 1964, J. Edgar Hoover wrote and had hand carried the letter to the President's Commission which read as follows:

"Reference is made to your letter dated August 28, 1964, dealing with the claim of Sylvia Odio that Lee Harvey Oswald and two other individuals visited at her apartment in Dallas, Texas, on September 26 or 27, 1963. Sylvia Odio in testifying before the Commission stated that the man believed by her to be Lee Harvey Oswald was introduced to her as 'Leon Oswald'. . . .

. . . On September 16, 1964, we located one Loran Eugene Hall at Johnsondale,

California. Hall has been identified as a participant in numerous anti-Castro activities. He advised that in September, 1963, he was at Dallas, Texas, soliciting aid in connection with an anti-Castro cause. He recalled meeting a Cuban woman, Mrs. Odio, who lived in a garden-type apartment at 1080 Magellan Circle, Dallas, Texas. He said that at the time of his visit he was accompanied by Lawrence Howard, a Mexican-American from East Los Angeles and William Seymour from Arizona. He denied that Lee Harvey Oswald was with him during his visit to Mrs. Odio's apartment in September, 1963.

Hall stated that William Seymour is similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald and that Seymour speaks only a few words of Spanish. In connection with the revelations of Hall, you will note that the name Loran Hall bears some phonetic resemblance to the name Leon Oswald . . . " (2)

Based on this letter, the President's Commission

innocently reported to posterity:

"... On September 16, 1964, the FBI located Loran Eugene Hall in Johnsondale, Calif. Hall has been identified as a participant in numerous anti-Castro activities. He told the FBI that in September of 1963 he was in Dallas, soliciting aid in connection with anti-Castro activities. He said he had visited Mrs. Odio. He was accompanied by Lawrence Howard, a Mexican-American from East Los Angeles and one William Seymour from Arizona. He stated that Seymour is similar in appearance to Lee

Harvey Oswald; he speaks only a few words of Spanish, as Mrs. Odio had testified one of the men who visited her did" (3)

Bear in mind that the letter from J. Edgar Hoover was dated and carried to the Commission on the 21st day of September, 1964. The Commission report on the assassination was completed and released on the 27th of September, 1964, some six days later.

Yet, on September 20, 1964, the day before Hoover's letter was prepared, the FBI had in its possession a later report wherein Loran Eugene Hall stated unequivocally that he had had no contact with Mrs. Sylvia Odio. (4) In addition, William Seymour, one of the men mentioned in the Hoover letter of the 21st as having been with Hall in Dallas, stated to the FBI that Sylvia Odio was unknown to him. This statement was made to the FBI on September 18, 1964. (5)

Also, on September 21st, the FBI had in its possession a statement, dated the day before, from Lawrence John Howard, the third member of the Hall group, stating that he had had no contact with a Cuban woman named Odio at an apartment in Dallas when he accompanied Hall and Seymour to Dallas in September, 1963. (6)

One must ask the questions: Why did Hoover omit these statements from his letter of the 21st and what motives guided Hoover in choosing to disregard these statements in preparing his report to the Commission?

Quietly reposing in the National Archives is an FBI agent's report which says:

"... During a second interview on September 20, 1964, (Loran Eugene) HALL stated

that during his visit in Dallas in September, 1963, he was accompanied by LAWRENCE HOWARD and a Cuban whom he knew as 'WAHITO', and was not accompanied at that time by WILLIAM SEYMOUR. He also said he recalled no contact with ODIO.

Upon interview at Los Angeles, California on September 20, 1964, LAWRENCE JOHN HOWARD advised that he accompanied HALL to Dallas, Texas in September, 1963, with a Cuban refugee named CELLIOS ALBAS who was also known by the name 'QUARITO'. HOWARD recalled no contact with a Cuban woman named ODIO at an apartment on Magellan Circle in Dallas.

WILLIAM SEYMOUR of Phoenix, Arizona, during interview on September 18, 1964, stated he and LAWRENCE HALL were in Dallas, Texas in October, 1963, rather than September, 1963, and SYLVIA ODIO was unknown to him.

Review of record of Beach Welding and Supplies Company, Miami Beach, Florida, on September 22, 1964, confirmed WILLIAM SEYMOUR'S employment with that company throughout the period September 5 to October 10, 1963.

On September 24, 1964, CELIO SERGIO CASGRO ALBA, employed at the South Florida Sugar Company, Belle Glade, Florida, stated he had traveled with LORAN HALL and LAWRENCE HOWARD from California to Dallas, Texas, to Miami, Florida in September, 1963, but he had not met any person at Dallas named ODIO, nor had he heard the name ODIO

mentioned by HALL or HOWARD in Dallas . . ."

(7)

Since all FBI agents working on the assassination were under strict orders to furnish all evidence gathered immediately to J. Edgar Hoover, it is reasonable to assume that on the 21st of September, 1964, Hoover knew the contents of his letter of the 21st were false.

The letter of the 21st was purposely furnished to the Commission to refute and destroy the evidence of Mrs. Odio and her sister. The evidence of the two witnesses, unless destroyed, would raise

a serious question of conspiracy and possibly two conspirators of the right wing element working with Oswald. It would also completely demolish the hour by hour timetable of Oswald's lone movements during the latter part of September and early October from New Orleans to Mexico. The FBI had furnished this timetable to the investigation body and it also was accepted and made a part of the report.

After Hoover's letter of the 21st containing the false information was submitted to the Commission, he had six days before the Commission made its report on the 27th in which to make the correction. This he chose not to do. He chose instead to quietly slip the refuting document into the National Archives under the date of October 2, 1964, which was some five days after the Commission report had been released under full coverage from all the news media of the United States. The October 2nd document refuting the key testimony lay quietly and unnoticed in the National Archives. (8)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Box 22
Haysville, Kansas
January 15, 1967

Penn Jones, Jr.

Midlothian Mirror

Dear Penn:

I subscribe to a number of periodicals and have done considerable research on the Kennedy assassination and I would like to state here and now that the two editorials in the January 5 edition of your paper are among the best I have ever read.

The people of Midlothian should be mighty proud to have a man like you in their midst. Indeed, the people of Texas, as well as our entire nation, owe you a debt of gratitude for your tireless efforts in the pursuit of the investigation of the death of our late beloved President.

Although four hundred miles separate us, I want you to know that my thoughts are always with you, and if there is anything . . . anything at all . . . that I can do to help, just pick up the phone and let me know.

Very truly yours,
Don Blaine