

There are many aspects of the Odio matter which should be investigated. Many people named in relevant documents were not thoroughly questioned by the FBI or the Warren Commission. First, the activities of the three men who the Warren Report suggested were Odio's visitors should be closely examined; they should be asked to provide any relevant information.

One of these men, Loran Hall, came to the attention of the FBI on the day after the assassination, when it was reported that he had retrieved a pawned rifle; presumably the FBI's source suspected Hall of complicity in the death of Kennedy. It is not clear why the FBI then dropped the matter quickly and reported it to the Warren Commission inadequately and only after a long delay.

A friend of Sylvia Odio insisted that she had told her that anti-Castro Cubans in New Orleans had warned some Dallas Cubans before the assassination that Oswald was thought to be a double agent trying to infiltrate anti-Castro groups. Odio emphatically denied having said this.⁸⁸ Some of the New Orleans Cubans who had encountered Oswald, including Odio's uncle, were associated with the CIA-sponsored Cuban Revolutionary Council.

The most important new topic for investigation is the attempt to kill Castro which led to the arrest of Sylvia Odio's father. The degree of CIA sponsorship or knowledge of it must be determined.

The whole story of links between Cuban activities (pro- and anti-Castro), Oswald and the assassination is a complicated one. The most significant evidence might emerge from some of the clues that were too complex to attract the attention of the Warren Commission. The Odio incident and its ramifications (some of which were not known to the Commission) can properly be explored without a formal recognition of the overall inadequacies of the Commission's work. It is to be hoped that some members of the Commission staff will be willing to admit that their work was at least incomplete, and will endorse a reopening of the entire investigation.

⁸⁸ CD 1546, p. 179; CE 3147, p. 5.

Particularly relevant here are two examples of leads which were not obvious but which should have been checked out by the Commission (and should be checked out now). The first story involves a lawyer from the firm that in mid-1963 defended Chicago syndicate figure Sam Giancana against FBI harassment. (Giancana has been named as a Mafia leader who may have aided the CIA in spying against Castro.)⁸⁹ On the day after the assassination, this lawyer sent a telegram to Oswald offering his services if Oswald had not been able to obtain counsel. I am convinced that this gesture was made on proper civil-libertarian grounds, in response to the apparent violation of Oswald's rights in the absence of an attorney. The law firm involved had a good reputation for civil rights work. This lawyer should be given the chance to answer for the record any suspicions that might be raised by his firm's prior representation of Giancana.

The second story might turn out to be a new and valuable clue to the identity, purposes and organizational links of the men who visited Sylvia Odio. There was an anti-Castro Cuban in Dallas who apparently resembled Oswald so much that a gas station operator who saw him a few days before the assassination later told the FBI that he thought he had seen Oswald. The FBI was told by an informant that this man was "violently" anti-Kennedy; he denied that. He was the president of the Dallas branch of the anti-Castro organization which was headed by one of the principals in the attempt on Castro's life which had led to the arrest of Odio's parents. The Dallas group held meetings at 3126 Hollandale [Street]; the Warren Commission received but did not resolve an allegation reported to a Dallas Deputy Sheriff that Oswald had attended meetings of a Cuban group at "3128 Harlandale."⁹⁰ This man [Manuel Rodriguez Orcaherro—Eds] is named in several Warren Commission records, but as far as I know, the staff never took note of the apparent resemblance to Oswald, and never checked out the possibility that he had been the "Leon Oswald" who visited Sylvia Odio or that he had otherwise been involved in a conspiracy.

⁸⁹ NYT, Mar. 10, 1975, p. 1.

⁹⁰ 10H534.