

XIII. 544 CAMP STREET AND RELATED EVENTS

(460) On August 9, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested on Canal Street in New Orleans and charged with disturbing the peace. (1) The arrest was the result of a confrontation with anti-Castro Cuban exile Carlos Bringuier and two of his associates, Miguel Cruz and Celso Hernandez. (2) Oswald was handing out pro-Castro leaflets (3) when Bringuier, Hernandez and Cruz approached him. (4) When Hernandez tried to take the leaflets from Oswald, a shouting match began; (5) the New Orleans police then intervened, arresting all four individuals. (6)

(461) Samples of Oswald's literature were confiscated by the police. (7) One of the pamphlets bore the hand-stamped imprint of an address for the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee—of which Oswald was the president and only member in New Orleans—as "544 Camp Street, New Orleans, La." (8)

(462) This pamphlet was among the materials turned over by the New Orleans police department to the Secret Service following the assassination. (9) The Secret Service and the FBI then set out to investigate the 544 Camp Street address. (10) These agencies established several facts:

(463) The address had been stamped with a home printing kit in the same manner Oswald had stamped other literature with his alias "A. J. Hidell" or "L. H. Oswald," (11) indicating it was by Oswald's own hand that the 544 Camp Street address was printed on the pamphlet.

(464) It was learned also that Oswald had written to the national president of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, Vincent T. Lee, on August 1, 1963, 8 days before his arrest. (12) In the letter, Oswald mentioned he had rented an office for his local FPCC chapter, but was told to vacate after 3 days because the building was to be re-modeled. (13)

(465) The FBI and the Secret Service investigation apparently focused on whether or not Oswald actually had rented an office at the 544 Camp Street address. (14)

(466) In interviews with the FBI and the Secret Service, the building owner, Sam Newman, denied renting an office to Oswald. (15) Others renting office space at 544 Camp Street were questioned, but none recalled seeing Oswald at the Newman Building or elsewhere in New Orleans. (16)

(467) During the course of that investigation, however, the Secret Service received information that an office in the Newman Building had been rented to the Cuban Revolutionary Council from October 1961 through February 1962. (17) Leaders of the CRC were contacted and asked if they had any association with or knowledge of Oswald or the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. (18) The Cubans said they had none because they had vacated the building 15 months prior to Oswald's appearance in New Orleans. (19)

(468) The investigation of a possible connection between Oswald and the 544 Camp Street address was closed. (20) The Warren Commission findings concurred with the Secret Service report that no additional evidence had been found to indicate Oswald ever maintained an office at the 544 Camp Street address. (21)

(469) The committee investigated the possibility of a connection between Oswald and 544 Camp Street and developed evidence pointing to a different result.

(470) The committee learned that the Newman Building occupied the corner lot facing Lafayette Square. On one side its address was 544 Camp Street. (22) Its other entrance was addressed 531 Lafayette Street. (23) It was a three-story granite structure owned and operated by Sam Newman as a rental income property for commercial offices. (24)

(471) The committee interviewed Sam Newman and other witnesses to obtain a complete list of the occupants of the building for the period from May 1963, when Oswald arrived in New Orleans, to September 1963, when he departed.

(472) Newman told the committee he had great difficulty renting space in the building. (25) Consequently, there were few tenants there in the summer of 1963. The Camp Street address was the main entrance to offices for two workers' associations: the Hotel, Motel, and Restaurant Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America. (26) It was also the entrance that led to the quarters of the building's janitor, James Arthus. (27) There was only one office at the Lafayette Street address, that of Guy Banister Associates, a private investigative firm. (28) The offices once rented by the Cuban Revolutionary Council at 544 Camp Street still lay empty. (29) "Maneuso's," a small coffee shop, was located on the ground floor with its own entrance onto the corner of Camp and Lafayette Streets. (30)

(473) The committee located and interviewed individuals associated with these organizations. Whenever possible, the committee obtained relevant records from the organizations to check for any link to Oswald or persons implicated in the assassination investigation. The committee investigation produced no evidence of any connection between Oswald and any person or organizations occupying the Newman Building in 1963, except for that involving Guy Banister's private detective agency.

(474) Before discussion of the investigation of the Banister office, this material sets forth the results of the investigation into the other occupants of 544 Camp Street.

(475) The Hotel, Motel, and Restaurant Employees Union is known today as the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders' Union (International). (31) Although the committee was unable to locate personnel who had worked in the office at 544 Camp Street and had been interviewed by the Secret Service following the assassination, the committee did obtain a "master" membership list from the union. (32) The lists contained names of members for the years 1962 through 1964 that were studied for names of associates of Oswald or others of interest in the investigation. Among the names appearing on the list as a member from October 30, 1962, "through April 1963" was Kerry

Thornley, (33) who had been an acquaintance of Oswald's for "3 or 4 months" in 1959 when both were stationed at the El Toro Marine Corps base in Santa Ana, Calif. (34) Later, Thornley learned of Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union from newspaper accounts. (35) Thornley found the story so interesting that he set out to write a novel based on Oswald's defection. (36)

(476) Nevertheless, the committee's investigation of Kerry Thornley uncovered nothing of significance in the appearance of Thornley's name on the list of members of the union. As reflected in the union's records, Thornley dropped his membership after April 1963. (37) Thornley had left New Orleans to travel to California and Mexico and did not return to New Orleans until August 1963, (38) leaving little overlap of time in which Oswald and Thornley could have possibly come in contact.

(477) Thornley firmly denied contact with Oswald at 544 Camp Street in New Orleans or at any time since his Marine Corps days. (39) His statements have been corroborated and no evidence has been found to contradict him.

(478) The committee also located and interviewed George S. Gay, present president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Employees of America. (40) Gay has been president of the union since 1960 (41) and confirmed for the committee that the union's office was located in the Newman Building in 1963. (42) While Gay reiterated what he had told Secret Service agents, that he did not recall ever seeing Oswald in the building, (43) he told the committee he was not in the office very much due to frequent business trips. (44) He said he did not mingle with the other tenants in the building. (45) Gay believed the union's secretary at the time, Mrs. Eugenia Donnelly, would have more information about others in the Newman Building. (46) Subsequent attempts to locate Donnelly proved futile and she was believed deceased. (47) Unfortunately, she was not questioned by investigating officials following the assassination of President Kennedy.

(479) Jack Mancuso, owner of Mancuso's Coffee Shop located on the ground floor of the Newman Building, was interviewed by committee investigators and questioned about his customers. (48) Mancuso recalled that Guy Banister and his associates Jack Martin and David Ferrie were "steady" customers, but Mancuso could not personally recall ever having seen Oswald. (49) Mancuso was not interviewed by FBI or Secret Service agents following the assassination. (50)

(480) James Arthus was interviewed by Secret Service agents immediately following the assassination. (51) He told the agents that an unknown man had attempted to rent an office at 544 Camp Street, but that he had discouraged him. (52) Arthus could not describe the man and recommended the agents speak with "Mrs. Downing," presumed to be Mrs. Donnelly, since she had also seen the man and could possibly provide a description of him. (53) As pointed out above, Mrs. Donnelly was not interviewed by either the Secret Service or the FBI on this matter. The committee learned that Arthus died in 1967. (54)

(481) The FBI and the Secret Service apparently failed to question all the occupants of 544 Camp Street, including a witness who may have had information about a man who had attempted to rent space

there. While the FBI did speak to Guy Banister, there is no indication from the report of that interview that Banister was asked any questions about Oswald. Instead, he was asked about Serigo Arcacha Smith and the Cuban Revolutionary Council. (55)

(482) The overall investigation of the 544 Camp Street issue at the time of the assassination was not thorough. It is not surprising, then, that significant links were never discovered during the original investigation. The committee concentrated on an investigation of the activities and individuals in and around the office of Guy Banister, since this was the area of the least investigation in the days following the assassination. Various resources were consulted by the committee for information regarding Banister and his colleagues. These included: original documents from Banister's office collected during the 1967-69 investigation into the Kennedy assassination by the New Orleans District Attorney; investigative reports of the district attorney's office dating from that investigation; materials amassed during the 1961-63 investigation of David Ferrie by Federal Aviation Administration officials including transcripts of Ferrie's grievance hearings; information obtained from Aaron Kohn of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans; and information obtained from reviews of relevant files of the FBI, Secret Service, DOD and CIA. In addition, the committee interviewed several surviving witnesses, many of whom had worked for or with Guy Banister.

(483) According to one of Banister's own biographical sketches dated March 1964, he was born in a log cabin in rural Louisiana in 1901, the eldest of 7 children. (56) He started his career in criminal justice with the police department of Monroe, La. (57) In 1934, he became a special agent for the agency of the Department of Justice that was soon to be named the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (58) Banister served in the FBI for 20 years, 17 of those years as special agent in charge. (59) He retired in 1954 to become assistant superintendent for the New Orleans Police Department and was assigned the task of investigating police corruption. (60) After a falling out with the mayor of New Orleans, allegedly over Banister's attempt to have the mayor indicted on charges of "malfeasance, etc.", Banister quit public service and formed his own private detective agency, Guy Banister Associates, Inc. (61)

(484) According to FBI files reviewed by committee staff, Banister also became excessively active in anti-Communist activities after his separation from the FBI and testified before various investigating bodies about the dangers of communism. (62) The CIA file on Guy Banister indicated the agency considered in September 1960 using Guy Banister Associates for the collection of foreign intelligence, but ultimately decided against it (63), for several reasons. (64) Early in 1961, Banister helped draw up a charter for the Friends of Democratic Cuba, an organization set up as the fundraising arm of Sergio Arcacha Smith's branch of the Cuban Revolutionary Council. (65) Banister described his work for the Council:

Our work was primarily to gather food and clothing for the refugees. However because of my being known in con-

nection with that, [and] my background being known with Arcacha Smith and others, I have had high-ranking Cuban refugees in my office asking me how to go underground, and I gave them diagrams for that. I have talked to military and political leaders from the various provinces of Cuba that have slipped out and slipped back. (66)

(485) The FBI files also indicate Banister was performing another service for the Cuban exile group. He ran background investigations on those Cuban students on the campus of Louisiana State University who wished to be members of Arcacha Smith's anti-Castro group, ferreting out any pro-Castro sympathizers who might be among them. (67) Banister also talked Sam Newman into leasing 544 Camp Street to the Cuban Revolutionary Council. (68)

(486) It was probably a result of such anti-Castro activities that Banister became acquainted with David Ferrie. Ferrie, an Eastern Airlines pilot, was also extremely active in Sergio Arcacha Smith's anti-Castro group. (69) Ferrie shared Banister's anti-Communist and anti-Castro fervor. (70)

(487) Both Ferrie and Banister were implicated in a raid in late 1961 against a munitions depot in Houma, La., in which various weapons, grenades and ammunition were stolen. (71) Banister's role may have been limited to storing the materiel which was reportedly seen stacked in Banister's back room by several witnesses. (72) Others who actually participated in the raid, include Andrew Blackmon, a Ferrie associate and former Civil Air Patrol cadet, and Sergio Arcacha Smith. (73)

(488) In February 1962, Ferrie requested Banister's assistance in fighting his recent dismissal from Eastern Airlines. (74) Banister investigated the case for Ferrie's defense to charges brought by the airline and local New Orleans police of crimes against nature and extortion. (75) In exchange, Ferrie provided Banister research services, such as analysis of autopsy reports. (76) Banister worked with Ferrie's lawyer, G. Wray Gill, on this matter until its culmination in Ferrie's hearing before the Airline Pilot's grievance board in the summer of 1963. (77) Banister testified on Ferrie's behalf during those hearings. (78) According to the statements of witnesses in the fall of 1963, Ferrie and Banister worked together again with G. Wray Gill for the defense of New Orleans organized crime head Carlos Marcello on a deportation case. (79) Little is known of Banister's exact contribution to that investigation which ended in acquittal on the day and at almost the precise hour that President Kennedy was shot. (80)

(489) The long-standing relationship of Ferrie and Banister is significant since Ferrie became a suspect in the Kennedy assassination soon after it had occurred. (81) The information to the district attorney's office that had put the spotlight on Ferrie had emanated from Banister associate, Jack Martin. (82) As detailed elsewhere in this staff report, although Ferrie was cleared of suspicion in the assassination during the original investigation, the committee found evidence of a possible association between Ferrie and Oswald.

(490) Although Banister was questioned by the FBI following the assassination in regard to the activities of the CRC at 544 Camp Street,

the FBI and the Secret Service failed to discover the significance of Banister's connection to 544 Camp Street; Banister's close association with a suspect in the assassination, David Ferrie; and Banister's close association with Ferrie's accuser, Jack Martin—all of which raised the question of what, if anything, was Banister's relationship to Lee Harvey Oswald.

(491) Witnesses interviewed by the committee indicate Banister was aware of Oswald and his Fair Play for Cuba Committee before the assassination. Banister's brother, Ross Banister, who is employed by the Louisiana State Police, told the committee that his brother had mentioned seeing Oswald hand out Fair Play for Cuba literature on one occasion. (83) Ross Banister theorized Oswald had used the 544 Camp Street address on his literature to embarrass Guy. (84) Ross Banister did confirm Guy's interest in the assassination and Oswald, but knew of no direct association between Oswald and Banister.

(492) Ivan E. "Bill" Nitschke, a friend and business associate and former FBI agent, (85) corroborates that Banister was cognizant of Oswald's leaflet distributing. Nitschke was deposed by the committee in July 1978. (86) He testified that he had known Banister when they were both in the FBI and for a short time worked for Banister in the office in the Newman Building. (87)

(493) Nitschke said he never saw Lee Harvey Oswald at 544 Camp Street and does not know if Banister ever met Oswald. (88) Nevertheless, Nitschke recalls that Banister became "interested in Oswald" during the summer of 1963 when Oswald had been distributing handbills. (89) Nitschke recalls Banister had some of these handbills in his office or made reference to them. (90) From the context of the conversation, however, he was not pleased. (91)

(494) Delphine Roberts, Banister's long-time friend and secretary, stated to the committee that Banister had become extremely angry with James Arthus and Sam Newman over Oswald's use of the 544 Camp Street address on his handbills. (92)

(495) The committee questioned Sam Newman regarding Roberts' allegation. Newman could not recall ever seeing Oswald or renting space to him. (93) He did recall, however, asking a young man who was in the office once used by the Cuban Revolutionary Council to leave. (94) Newman did not think this person was Oswald. (95) Newman theorized that if Oswald was using the 544 Camp Street address and had any link to the building, it would have been through a connection to the Cuban Revolutionary Council or Banister's office. (96)

(496) The committee questioned other individuals once affiliated with Guy Banister, including: Joseph Newbrough and Vernon Gerdes, investigators who had worked with Banister in 1963; (97) Mary Helen Brengel, one of two secretaries in Banister's office from approximately June 1963 to December 1963; (98) Louise Decker, a secretary in Banister's office for the period from October 1961 to January 1962; (99) Joseph Oster, one time partner of Banister's who set up his own private detective agency, Southern Research, in 1958; (100) and Carlos Quiroga, the Cuban exile who visited Oswald at his home on approximately August 16, 1963, endeavoring to learn more about the FPCC. (101) Quiroga told the committee he frequently visited Banister's office and Mancuso's coffee shop in the company of Sergio Arcacha Smith and

David Ferrie when all were heavily involved in Cuban exile activities. (102) Yet this would have been in 1961 and 1962. (103) None of these individuals recalled seeing Oswald at 544 Camp Street. Several witnesses recommended the committee speak with Jack Martin or Delphine Roberts since they were in most contact with Banister. (104)

(497) Martin and Roberts have both been interviewed by the committee on several occasions. Roberts, who initially refused to speak with the committee staff, told the committee she was very active in anti-Communist activities in the early 1960's. (105) She said she worked with Banister as a volunteer typing correspondence, making files and clipping newspapers because Banister was working for what Roberts believed in. (106) Roberts claimed Banister had an extensive file on Communists and fellow travelers, including one on Lee Harvey Oswald, which was kept out of the original files because Banister "never got around to assigning a number to it." (107) Roberts did not remember what was in the file other than that it contained general information on Oswald such as newspaper clippings. (108) Roberts also related the incident described previously in this section in which Banister became angry over Oswald's use of the Camp Street address. (109) Roberts gave the committee her version of an incident that took place late in the evening on the day of the assassination. She said Jack Martin came into the office and approached the area of the office where the files were kept, when Banister walked in. (110) Banister accused Martin of stealing several files and hiding them in his coat. (111) When Martin protested, Banister pulled out his gun and struck Martin on the head, causing him to bleed. (112) Both men then went into Banister's private office and continued their discussion beyond Roberts' earshot. (113)

(498) During another interview, Roberts told the committee that Oswald came into the office seeking employment and sometime later brought Marina in with him. (114) Contrary to her statements in the initial interview, that she had never seen Oswald, she stated that she saw Oswald come into Banister's office on several occasions. (115) Because of such contradictions in Roberts' statements to the committee and lack of independent corroboration of many of her statements, the reliability of her statements could not be determined.

(499) A New Orleans police complaint filed by Jack Martin on November 22, 1963, corroborated Roberts' story insofar as it established Banister's assault against Jack Martin with the pistol. (116) According to the report, Martin and Banister had been drinking at a bar neighboring the Newman Building, then visited the Banister's office and became involved in various discussions about "personal and political subjects." (117) They then began to argue about unauthorized long-distance telephone calls which Banister accused Martin of making from the office. (118) The discussion became more heated and Banister pulled out a 357 magnum revolver and hit Martin on the head four or five times with the butt of the gun. (119) When Martin began to bleed, Banister stopped hitting him and Martin went to the restroom to clean up. (120) Banister told Martin to watch himself and be careful. (121) Martin then went to Charity Hospital for treatment, returned home and called the police to file the report. (122) Martin refused to press charges as Banister was "like a father" to him. (123)

(500) Martin was questioned by the committee regarding the incident and for information about Banister's office. Martin told the committee he is a part-time investigator and writer, as he was in the early 1960's. (124) Martin was one of the members of Banister's investigative "pool" and was frequently in and out of Banister's office. (125) Martin told the committee that on November 22, 1963, he was having drinks with Banister at a local bar and they got into an argument. (126) They went to Banister's office and, in the heat of the quarrel, Banister said something to which Martin replied, "What are you going to do—kill me like you all did Kennedy?" (127) Banister drew his pistol and beat Martin in the head. (128) Martin believed Banister would have killed him but for the intervention of Banister's secretary, who pleaded with Banister not to shoot Martin. (129)

(501) It was the day after this incident that Martin related his suspicions about David Ferrie to the New Orleans district attorney's office. (130) Martin had at one time been a close associate of Ferrie. (131) Ferrie told the FBI he met Martin in the fall of 1961, probably not long after Ferrie had met Banister. (132) Martin apparently shared Ferrie's interest in obtaining a position with an ecclesiastical order, although Ferrie insisted he became involved with these religious orders only to assist Martin in a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare investigation into the sale of phony certificates of ordination and consecration. (132) Ferrie said he and Martin had a falling out when he put Martin out of attorney G. Wray Gill's office in June 1963, because Gill did not want Martin "hanging around the office." (134) Gill said Ferrie and Martin had been "close friends" until they got involved in an "ecclesiastical deal wherein Martin was supposed to represent a large territory of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of North America." (135) Martin held Ferrie responsible for not getting the job and has "slandered Ferrie at every opportunity." (136) (502) Martin has also told the committee he saw Lee Harvey Oswald with Ferrie in Guy Banister's office in 1963. (137) Nevertheless, in light of Martin's previous contradictory statements to authorities shortly after the assassination in which Martin made no such allegation about having seen Oswald. (138) It may be argued that credence should not be placed in Martin's statements to the committee.

(503) The committee sought to trace Banister's office files that had been reportedly scattered to various individuals or agencies soon after Banister's death in June 1964.

(504) Mary Banister Wilson, Guy Banister's widow, told the committee she had not retained any of the files but had given many away to various organizations. (139) Mrs. Wilson said she sold some of Banister's files to the Louisiana State police in a transaction involving Russell Willie of the State police. (140) She said another portion of the file was given to Aaron Kohn of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission. (141) The committee learned several books from Banister's collection went to Banister's associate, Kent Courtney. (142) The rest of Banister's "extensive" library of books was donated to the Louisiana State University Library. (143)

(505) Russell Willie and Joseph Cambre of the Louisiana State Police confirmed for the committee that they purchased from Mary Banister in late 1964 a five-drawer file containing file folders belonging

to the late Guy Banister. (144) The "half-filled" file cabinet contained 10 large manila folders, each subject titled and numbered. (145) One of the folders contained a group of 3" by 5" index cards. (146) The index cards contained numbers and subject headings corresponding to the file folders in the cabinet. (147) Not all the files listed in the index were among those files given to the Louisiana State Police; most of the files obtained by the State police dealt with Communist groups and subversive organizations, according to State Police Officer Cambre. (148) Cambre recalled that although Lee Harvey Oswald's name was not included among the main subjects of the files, Oswald's name was included among the main subjects of the file on the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. (149) Cambre had read the FPCC file and found news clippings and a transcript of a radio program in which Oswald had participated, presumably a transcript of the August 21, 1963, debate between Oswald and Carlos Bringuier on WDSU radio. (150) Unfortunately, this file was routinely destroyed in keeping with the requirements of the Privacy Act. (151)

(506) Aaron Kohn, managing director of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, acknowledged that he received files from Mary Banister Wilson after Guy Banister's death. (152) The files received by Kohn dealt with an investigation of corruption within the New Orleans Police Department, which Banister had conducted while he was assistant superintendent of police in New Orleans in the mid-1950's. (153)

(507) While the committee was unable to trace or recover all of Banister's files, a partial index of the files was made available by Jim Garrison, former district attorney of Orleans Parish, La. (154) Garrison had sent investigators to the Louisiana State Police intelligence section in 1967 during his investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. (155) The index did not include the name of Lee Harvey Oswald or the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. (156)

(508) Thus, the committee could find no documentary proof that Banister had a file on Lee Harvey Oswald nor could the committee find credible witnesses who ever saw Lee Harvey Oswald and Guy Banister together. There are indications, however, that Banister at least knew of Oswald's leafletting activities and probably maintained a file on him. As for Jack Martin's reasons for calling attention to Ferrie as a suspect in the assassination, they may not have been based on personal knowledge—Martin never claimed such information—but his action seems to have been based on sincere concerns and some legitimate suspicions. Consequently, it is not possible to determine definitely the reasons for Banister's assault on Martin the night of the assassination, specifically, whether it had anything to do with Martin's suspicions of Ferrie.

(509) The primary import of the 544 Camp Street address must be analyzed within the context of evidence of a Ferrie-Oswald link. Unfortunately, the precise nature of their relationship may never be known.

(510) As can be seen by the committee investigation into Ferrie's associations and activities throughout his life and especially during the summer of 1963, there are several factors which explain why Ferrie and Oswald could have become closely associated, as improbable as this may seem:

(511) A. Both men spent considerable time in the same locale: Ferrie frequently visited the office of Guy Banister in the building at 544 Camp Street;* Oswald worked only one block away and had used 544 Camp Street as the address of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Additionally, the testimony of a number of witnesses from Clinton, La., placing Oswald and Ferrie together in early September 1963, may be credible. Evidence also exists to support the belief that a Ferrie colleague, Guy Banister, knew Oswald's pro-Castro leafletting.

(512) B. Both men had similar, fervent interest in political topics, especially the Cuban question. Although Ferrie stood firmly on the anti-Castro side of the issue and Oswald was involved in pro-Castro activities, this alone would not rule out the possibility of an Oswald-Ferrie association.

(513) Oswald, on at least one occasion, made a friendly overture to a known anti-Castro activist, Carlos Bringuier, the New Orleans delegate to the Student Revolutionary Directorate (DRE) and even offered Bringuier assistance in military training of Cuban exiles. The Oswald-Ferrie association may have begun in the same manner.

(514) C. Significant to the argument that Oswald and Ferrie were associated in 1963 is evidence of prior association in 1955 when Ferrie was captain of a Civil Air Patrol squadron and Oswald a young cadet. This pupil-teacher relationship could have greatly facilitated their reacquaintance and Ferrie's noted ability to influence others could have been used with Oswald.

(515) D. Ferrie's experience with the underground activities of the Cuban exile movement and as a private investigator for Carlos Marcello and Guy Banister might have made him a good candidate to participate in a conspiracy plot. He may not have known what was to be the outcome of his actions, but once the assassination had been successfully completed and his own name cleared, Ferrie would have had no reason to reveal his knowledge of the plot. Further, fear for his life may have prevented him from doing so.

(516) While it could not be definitely determined whether Ferrie had any contact with Oswald after Oswald left New Orleans on September 24, 1963, until the day of the assassination only 2 months later, the possible Oswald-Ferrie relationship is a significant Oswald association.

Submitted by:

GAETON J. FONZI
Investigator.
PATRICIA M. ORR
Researcher.

*Strangely, although Ferrie seemed to be straightforward during his interviews with FBI agents in discussing his opposition to Kennedy, his conflict with Jack Martin, his involvement in the Marcello case, et cetera, Ferrie denied outright that he had ever known "of the Cuban Revolutionary Front maintaining an office at 544 Camp Street, nor does he have any knowledge of Sergio Arcacha Smith maintaining an office at that address during the time he was head of the organization and later after he was replaced." (157) This is clearly in contradiction to the accounts of the witnesses on this subject.

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- (2) *Ibid.*
- (3) Hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964), vol. XXVI, CE-2966 A and B (hereinafter cited as Warren Commission Hearings).
- (4) Warren Report, p. 728; Deposition of Carlos Bringuier, May 12, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, pp. 126-129 (J. F. K. Document 009084).
- (5) *Ibid.*
- (6) Warren Report, p. 826.
- (7) *Ibid.*
- (8) XXVI, Warren Commission Hearings, p. 30, CE-3120, Pamphlet, "The Crime Against Cuba." Corliss Lamont.
- (9) *Ibid.*, vol. XXVI, p. 11, CE-3119, Secret Service Report, Nov. 30, 1963, CO-2-34,030.
- (10) *Ibid.*; FBI teletype, FOIA materials, 62-109060-1668, Nov. 26, 1963, pp. 1-3.
- (11) XXVI, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-2966 A and B.
- (12) *Ibid.*, vol. XX, Lee DE-7.
- (13) *Ibid.*
- (14) Warren Report, p. 408; XXII, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-1414; FBI teletype, FOIA materials, 62-109060-1668, Nov. 26, 1963, pp. 1-3.
- (15) *Ibid.*; XXII, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-1414.
- (16) *Ibid.*
- (17) *Ibid.*
- (18) *Ibid.*
- (19) *Ibid.*
- (20) *Ibid.*; FBI teletype, FOIA materials, 62-109060-1668, Nov. 26, 1963, pp. 1-3.
- (21) Warren Report, pp. 292 and 408.
- (22) Deposition of Sam Newman, Nov. 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 21 (J. F. K. Document 014020).
- (23) *Ibid.*
- (24) *Id.* at p. 5.
- (25) *Id.* at p. 22.
- (26) XXII, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-1414, Secret Service Report, CO-2-34,030, pp. 4-5.
- (27) See ref. 22.
- (28) *Id.* at pp. 9, 21.
- (29) *Id.* at pp. 23-24.
- (30) *Id.* at p. 13.
- (31) Outside Contact Report with Attachment, Mrs. Anna Stewart, Apr. 11, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 007364).
- (32) *Ibid.*, attachments: Rosters through October 1962, April 1963 and March 1964.
- (33) *Ibid.*, roster through October 1962, p. 14 (first list); roster through April 1963, p. 16 (second list).
- (34) FBI teletype, FOIA material, 62-109060-1668, Nov. 26, 1963, p. 9.
- (35) Kerry Thornley affidavit, Jan. 8, 1976, p. 1, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 012740). (Note: This statement, while rambling and confusing, remains consistent on the major point that Thornley had no contact with Oswald after service in the Marines.)
- (36) *Ibid.*: see also testimony of Kerry Thornley, May 18, 1964, XI, Warren Commission Hearings, pp. 96-97.
- (37) Outside Contact Report. Mrs. Anna Stewart, Apr. 11, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, attachment roster through March 1964 (J. F. K. Document 007364).
- (38) FBI teletype, FOIA material, 62-109060-1668, Nov. 26, 1963, p. 9.
- (39) *Ibid.*; Secret Service Report, Dec. 2, 1963, CO-2-34,030 (J. F. K. Document 003675); Thornley testimony, XI, Warren Commission Hearings, 110.
- (40) Outside Contact Report. George S. Gay, Jan. 13, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 005191).

- (41) XXII, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-1414, Secret Service Report, CO-2-34,030, Dec. 9, 1963, p. 5.
- (42) Outside Contact Report, George C. Gay, Jan. 13, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 005191).
- (43) Ibid.; XXII, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-1414, Secret Service Report, CO-2-34,030, Dec. 9, 1963, p. 5.
- (44) See ref. 42.
- (45) Ibid.
- (46) Ibid.
- (47) Outside Contact Report, George S. Gay, re: Eugenia Donnelly, June 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J.F.K. Document 009115).
- (48) Outside Contact Report, Jack Mancuso, Jan. 26, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 014120).
- (49) Ibid.
- (50) Ibid.
- (51) XXVI, Warren Commission Hearings, CE-3119, Secret Service Report, Nov. 30, 1963, CO-2-34,030, p. 15.
- (52) Ibid.
- (53) Ibid.
- (54) Outside Contact Report, re: James Arthus, June 1, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 009047).
- (55) FBI Teletype, FOIA material, 62-109060-2668, Nov. 26, 1963, p. 2.
- (56) Material received from files of New Orleans district attorney's office pertaining to investigation and trial of Clay Shaw, 1967-69, attachment D, section 5, regarding Guy Banister, "Biographical Sketch" (J. F. K. Document 007271).
- (57) Ibid.
- (58) Ibid.
- (59) Ibid.
- (60) Ibid.: FAA materials. Systems Board of Adjustments Grievance Hearing of David Ferrie, testimony of Guy Banister, Aug. 5, 1963, p. 828 (J. F. K. Document No. 014904).
- (61) See ref. 56.
- (62) Staff review of FBI files for Guy Banister, Oct. 28, 1978, pp. 1-2.
- (63) CIA document.
- (64) Staff review of FBI files for Guy Banister, Oct. 28, 1978, pp. 1-2. (Note: Coincidentally, Gerard F. Tujague, owner of Gerard F. Tujague, Inc. Forwarding Co., who had employed Oswald as a messenger from November 1955 to January 1956, was also a member and officer (vice-president) of Friends of Democratic Cuba (see FBI teletype, 62-109060-1668, Jan. 26, 1963, p. 5).)
- (65) Ibid.
- (66) See ref. 60, p. 828.
- (67) Staff review of FBI files for Guy Banister, Oct. 28, 1978, pp. 1-2.
- (68) Deposition of Sam Newman, Nov. 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 22 (J. F. K. Document No. 014020).
- (69) Staff report, "Anti-Castro Activist and Organizations and Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans," Appendix to the Hearings before the Select Committee on Assassinations, House of Representatives, 95th Congress, 2d session (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1979), vol. X, par. 419ff (hereinafter the Anti-Castro Cuban staff report).
- (70) Ibid., pars. 402 and 418.
- (71) FBI teletype, FOIA material, 62-109060-5237, May 7, 1967, pp. 1-2.
- (72) Outside Contact Report, Vernon Gerdes, Jan. 10, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 3 (J. F. K. Document No. 005208); see ref. 68, p. 49; Outside Contact Report, Jack Martin, Dec. 5, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 6 (J. F. K. Document No. 005212).
- (73) FBI teletype, FOIA material, 62-109060-5237, May 7, 1967, pp. 1-2.
- (74) See ref. 60, p. 825.
- (75) Ibid., p. 481.
- (76) Ibid.
- (77) Ibid.
- (78) Ibid., pp. 825-855.
- (79) Outside Contact Report, Mary Helen Brengel, Apr. 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document No. 008861); and ref. 69, Anti-Castro Cuban Staff Report, par. 439ff.
- (80) Ibid., par. 390.

- (81) *Ibid.*, par. 390ff.
- (82) *Ibid.*, par. 392.
- (83) Outside Contact Report, Ross Banister, Feb. 20, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 3 (J. F. K. Document No. 005967).
- (84) *Ibid.*
- (85) *Ibid.*
- (86) Deposition of I. E. "Bill" Nitschke, July 31, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, pp. 5 and 12 (J. F. K. Document No. 012308).
- (87) *Id.* at pp. 12-14.
- (88) *Id.* at pp. 36-37.
- (89) *Ibid.*
- (90) *Id.* at pp. 38-41.
- (91) *Ibid.*
- (92) Outside Contact Report, Delphine Roberts, July 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 3 (J. F. K. Document No. 009979).
- (93) See ref. 22, p. 27.
- (94) *Id.* at pp. 35-36.
- (95) *Ibid.*
- (96) *Id.* at p. 30.
- (97) Outside contact report, Joseph Newbrough, Apr. 10, 1964, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 1 (J. F. K. Document No. 009113). Newbrough was associated with Banister's agency from approximately 1958 to 1964; Outside Contact Report, Vernon Gerdes, Jan. 10, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document No. 005208). Gerdes was associated with Banister for the period 1960-63.
- (98) Outside contact report, Mary Helen Brengel, Apr. 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 1 (J. F. K. Document No. 008861).
- (99) Notes of an interview of Louise Decker, May 30, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 015045).
- (100) Outside contact report, Joseph Oster, Jan. 27, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 005207).
- (101) Deposition of Carlos Quiroga, May 23, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, pp. 21-27 (J. F. K. Document 009394).
- (102) *Id.* at pp. 50, 51, and 57.
- (103) *Ibid.*
- (104) See ref. 22, p. 31. Newman recommended the committee speak with Martin because he was in Banister's office "90 percent of the time; every day almost" and he "kept up with all that stuff" related to the Cubans. See also ref. 86, pp. 59-60. Nitschke told the committee, "* * * If you were trying to explore this to the fullest extent, I would say that Delphine (Roberts) would be No. 1 * * *"
- (105) Outside contact report, Delphine Roberts, July 6, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 1 (J. F. K. Document 009979).
- (106) *Id.* at p. 3.
- (107) *Ibid.*
- (108) *Ibid.*
- (109) *Ibid.*
- (110) *Ibid.*
- (111) *Ibid.*
- (112) *Ibid.*
- (113) *Ibid.*
- (114) See ref. 105, p. 3.
- (115) *Ibid.*
- (116) Guy Banister file, Garrison papers, Aug. 14, 1977, item GB-2, "Report of Offense Against Persons," Nov. 22, 1963, New Orleans Police Department (J. F. K. Document 002066). The report indicates the incident took place at 5:15 p.m. and was classified as "aggravated battery"; the motive was "sudden anger."
- (117) *Ibid.*
- (118) *Ibid.*
- (119) *Ibid.*
- (120) *Ibid.*
- (121) *Ibid.*
- (122) *Ibid.*
- (123) *Ibid.*
- (124) Outside contact report, Jack Martin, Dec. 5, 1977, House Select Committee on Assassinations, p. 1 (J. F. K. Document 005212).

- (125) See ref. 86, pp. 9-16.
- (126) See ref. 124, p. 3.
- (127) Id. at p. 4.
- (128) Ibid.
- (129) Ibid.
- (130) FBI interviews of Jack Martin, Nov. 25, 1963 and Nov. 27, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69.
- (131) FBI interview of G. Wray Gill, Nov. 27, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 2.
- (132) FBI interview of David Ferrie, Nov. 26, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 9.
- (133) See ref. 124, p. 1; FBI interview of G. Wray Gill, Nov. 27, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 2; and FBI interview of David Ferrie, Nov. 26, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 9. See also FAA Systems Board of Adjustment Grievance hearings for David Ferrie, July 15-17 and Aug. 5, 1963, for more discussion of Ferrie's and Martin's involvement in unusual religious orders.
- (134) FBI interview of David Ferrie, Nov. 26, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 9.
- (135) FBI interview of G. Wray Gill, Nov. 27, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 2.
- (136) Ibid.
- (137) See ref. 124, p. 2.
- (138) Ibid.; see also FBI interviews of Jack Martin, Nov. 25, 1963 and Nov. 27, 1963; Secret Service interview of Jack Martin, Nov. 29, 1963, reported in report of Dec. 13, 1963, p. 5. Martin makes no mention of the alleged sighting of Oswald and Ferrie together.
- (139) Outside contact report, Mary Banister Wilson, Apr. 7, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 012448).
- (140) Ibid.
- (141) Ibid.
- (142) Outside contact report, Kent Courtney, Mar. 19, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 006676).
- (143) See ref. 139.
- (144) Outside contact report, Russell R. Willie, June 8, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 009262); outside contact report, Joseph Cambre, June 8, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document 009263).
- (145) Ibid., outside contact report, Willie.
- (146) Ibid.
- (147) Ibid.
- (148) Outside contact report, Joseph Cambre, June 8, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document No. 009263).
- (149) Ibid.
- (150) Ibid.
- (151) Ibid.
- (152) Outside contact report, Aaron Kohn, Jan. 20, 1978, House Select Committee on Assassinations (J. F. K. Document No. 005121).
- (153) Ibid.
- (154) Guy Banister file, Garrison papers, Aug. 14, 1977, item GB-1, index of Banister file (J. F. K. Document No. 002066).
- (155) See ref. 148.
- (156) Guy Banister file, Garrison papers, Aug. 14, 1977, item GB-1, index of Banister file (J. F. K. Document No. 002066).
- (157) FBI interview of David Ferrie, Nov. 26, 1963 and Nov. 27, 1963, Bureau file No. 89-69, p. 10.