

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeremy Gunn/ARRB

FROM: Laura Denk/ARRB

DATE: April 27, 1995

RE: NEW ORLEANS
LIST of POTENTIAL WITNESSES for JUNE PUBLIC HEARING

I. GARRISON INVESTIGATION

- James Alcock Assistant D.A. and Chief Prosecutor in the Shaw trial. Garrison describes Alcock as "always unhappy with uncertainty." Advised against calling David Ferrie before the grand jury. Did not think they had enough evidence. Decided to call Charles Spiesel to testify. In 1988, was practicing law in Houma, Louisiana after being a Criminal District Court judge in New Orleans.
- Numa Bertel In 1988, was Chief of the Indigent Defender Service at the Criminal District Court.
- Tom Bethell Claims he participated in Garrison investigation. Not mentioned in On the Trail of the Assassins. Author of 12/16/91 article in The National Review, in which he criticized Garrison. Discussed the role of Bill Boxley/William Wood. Wrote a manuscript in approx. 1971 about the Shaw case. Never published.
- Pershing Gervais Chief Investigator. Served with Garrison in the army during WWII. Police officer in NOPD. Allegedly wanted Garrison to stop the JFK assassination investigation. Had a personality conflict with Frank Klein and Garrison fired Klein when Klein refused to work with Gervais. Later, Garrison fired Gervais after he learned that Gervais was accepting bribes in exchange for getting cases dismissed. In 1988, was a bailbondsman in Baton Rouge.
- Louis Ivon Young police investigator. Involved in the Garrison investigation throughout. In 1988, was a member of the Louisiana state legislature.
- Alvin Oser Assistant D.A. Questioned a number of witnesses at the Shaw trial. In 1988, was a senior partner in a New Orleans law firm. Previously

Andrew Sciambra served as judge of the Criminal District Court in New Orleans. a.k.a. "Moo Moo." Assistant D.A. Member of Garrison's investigative group. Extremely familiar with the French Quarter in New Orleans. Knew many of the owners and employees of French Quarter establishments. Interviewed over 300 townspeople in Clinton, Louisiana. Interviewed Perry Russo for several hours. In 1988, was a magistrate in the Criminal District Court in New Orleans.

Charles Ward Chief Assistant D.A. Took over Klein's position after Garrison fired Klein. In 1988, was a judge on Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

D'Alton Williams Assistant D.A. Not primarily a trial lawyer. Specialty in administrative supervision. In 1988, was practicing real estate law in New Orleans.

William Wood/Investigator. Told Garrison he was a former CIA case officer, a newspaper journalist and investigator from Austin, Texas.

Bill Boxley Garrison claims that they used the name "Boxley" in order to obscure his CIA connection from the media. Garrison believes that Boxley was working for the federal govt. and was trying to sabotage the investigation. Boxley resigned as investigator before the beginning of the Shaw trial.

II. LA COSA NOSTRA

Emile Bruneaux Alleged member of Carlos Marcello's New Orleans syndicate who paid Oswald's bail after the August 1963 arrest for disturbing the peace.

Joseph Poretti Also known as Poretto. New Orleans mafia; associate of Marcello.

Samuel Saia Organized crime leader from New Orleans who was a business partner of "Dutz" Murret.

Harold Tannenbaum Nightclub owner in New Orleans and friend and business associate of Ruby. Lived in a trailer park in which one of Marcello's lieutenant's also lived.

Frank Timphony One of three top bookmakers in the country. Operated out of New Orleans.

III. FBI FIELD OFFICE

Obviously, any of these men would be good candidates for testimony at the hearing. I do not know whether any of them are both alive and living in New Orleans.

Warren De Brueys FBI SA in New Orleans. Author of 10/25/63 report. Perhaps liaison to anti-Castro groups. Denies meeting Oswald. Won't comment about

relationship with Orest Pena. Pena claims he “worked for” DeBrueys and the FBI.

Milton R. Kaack FBI SA in New Orleans. Author of 10/31/63 report on LHO.

John Quigley FBI SA in New Orleans. Had lengthy private interview on 8/10/63 with LHO after LHO’s arrest in New Orleans for disturbing the peace. Quigley destroyed notes from interview with Oswald.

William S. Walter FBI employee of the New Orleans office. Reported that LHO had an internal security file and an informant file. Saw FBI Telex from 1/17/63 and said it then disappeared from New Orleans field office. Told Mark Lane about the Telex. May still be in New Orleans. Check (504) 899-9587 and (504) 895-4850.

IV. RIGHT WING/MILITANT GROUPS

Carlos Bringuier Anti-Castro Cuban exile. Head of New Orleans branch of Cuban Student Revolutionary Directorate. Salesman at Casa Roca, a retail clothing store. In Cuba, was an attorney and Assistant Secretary for the Criminal Court. Did not become a member of the bar in the United States. Met Oswald in 8/63 in New Orleans. Oswald offered to help with methods for Bringuier’s organization. Several days later, Bringuier saw Oswald handing out pro-Castro leaflets and engaged Oswald in a scuffle. Debated Oswald on the radio.

Ronnie Caire New Orleans associate of Arcacha-Smith. Supporter of anti-Castro community in New Orleans.

Miguel Mariano Cruz New Orleans anti-Castro activist who, along with Carlos Bringuier, fought with Oswald and was arrested.

William Dalzell International businessman involved in New Orleans anti-Castro activities with Banister.

Rudolph Davis a.k.a. Richard Rudolph Davis. Cuban exile living in New Orleans who operated a training camp for an anti-Castro military force in the Louisiana swamp during the early 1960s.

Augustin Guitart New Orleans anti-Castro Cuban associated with the CRC.

Carlos Quiroga Anti-Castro Cuban exile in New Orleans. Friend of Carlos Bringuier. Private Investigator **David Lewis** allegedly saw Quiroga with David Ferrie and “Leon Oswald.”

Luis Rabel Cuban exile leader who succeeded Sergio Arcacha Smith as head of the CRC in New Orleans.

Sergio Head of Cuban Revolutionary Council. Office at 544 Camp

Archacha-Smith Street 15 months before LHO used address. Anti-Castro Cuban exile

w/ties to Marcello and Banister. Rose Chermie (a.k.a. Melba Christine Marcades) implicated him in the assassination. (Ms. Chermie died on 9/4/65 after being thrown from a car.)

George Wilcox Told Kurtz he saw Oswald, Ferrie and Cubans conducting paramilitary maneuvers north of Lake Pontchartrain. Kurtz interviewed Wilcox on 9/9/79.

V. WITNESSES

Many people in New Orleans claim to have seen Oswald with Ferrie, Banister, and Bringuier. In bold are names of those witnesses who may know where documents are located.

Adrian Alba

Owner of Crescent city garage next to William Reilly Coffee Company. Knew Oswald. Talked to Oswald about guns. Asserts that he helped LHO repair the sling on a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. Told Summers that in the summer of 1963, a man with FBI credentials requested a car - a green Studebaker. The next day, the same car stopped in front of the coffee company and Oswald bent down, talked to the driver and took a large envelope from from man inside. Several days later, Oswald met the same car outside the Coffee Company. On the morning of 11/22/63, when Alba was out, one of Alba's employees said that a man claiming to be Alba's friend came in and asked to look at Alba's gun magazines.

Dean Andrews New Orleans lawyer with links to Marcello. Told WC that Oswald requested his legal help in appealing his discharge from the Marine Corps. On the day of the assassination, Andrews was in the hospital with pneumonia. Told WC that Clay Bertrand called and asked him to go to Dallas and defend Oswald. Said Bertrand often called him on behalf of "gay kids." Andrews' office was rifled after he got out of the hospital.

Emmett Charles Barbe, Jr.

Maintenance foreman and Oswald's supervisor at William Reilly Coffee Co. in 1963. Told WC that Oswald started on 5/10/63 as a "greaser & oiler." On 7/19/63, Oswald stopped working at the coffee company. Noticed that Oswald was often absent from his workplace because he was next door at the Crescent City Garage next door. Told WC he ultimately recommended that LHO be terminated for failure to complete his work.

Dr. Hugh Betson

Doctor who signed Clay Shaw's death certificate. Attested that Shaw died of lung cancer.

Vance Blalock 16 years old in 1964. Saw Carlos Bringuier and Oswald together at Casa Roca. Went downtown with his friend Philip Geraci who was collecting money for the Cuban Student Revolutionary Council. Testified that Oswald came in and began talking to Bringuier about methods and asking Bringuier about the workings of Bringuier's organization. He did not ask to join. Oswald explained that he had been a marine and that he lived on Magazine Street. Blalock did not recall a discussion about President Kennedy. Blalock told the WC that Oswald seemed like an intelligent, well-spoken, well-dressed and well-groomed human being. The FBI interviewed Blalock in December, 1963.

Vernon Bundy Testified at Clay Shaw's trial. Says saw Shaw give Oswald a roll of money in 7/63. Admitted heroin addict. May still be in New Orleans at (504) 283-2555.

Deslatte, Oscar Bolton Ford Dealership employee. Told Garrison's staff about two men who came in claiming to be members of Friends of Democratic Cuba.

William George Gaudet CIA employee for 20 years. Obtained tourist card to Mexico City at same time as Oswald. (Tourist card had next serial number after Oswald.) First admitted, then denied, knowing Oswald. Says he never went to Mexico City and cannot remember why he obtained the card. If alive, may still be in New Orleans at 850 Martin Behrman Avenue. (504) 834-0127.

Louis Hopkins New Orleans travel agent who booked Oswald's trip from New Orleans to Le Havre, France aboard the SS *Marion Lykes*. Told WC Oswald not well-versed in European travel. Travel agent's office located at 124 Camp Street, in International Trade Mart

**** Michael L. Kurtz Professor of History and Government at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. Teaches a course on the Kennedy assassination. Author of Crime of the Century and articles in Louisiana History about Oswald in New Orleans and about organized crime in Louisiana. Also saw Oswald with Guy Banister in New Orleans twice during the summer of 1963.

Palmer McBride Acquaintance of Oswald in New Orleans before Oswald joined the Marines. Later stated that Oswald said he would like to kill Eisenhower because he was not representing the working class.

Francis Martello New Orleans police lieutenant. When Oswald was arrested in New Orleans during the summer of 1963, he told Martello that he did not speak English when around Marina and June because "he did not want them to be Americanized."

Dr. Frank Minyard New Orleans coroner at time of Clay Shaw's death. Wanted to obtain a court order for the exhumation of Shaw's body in order to verify nature of Shaw's death. After public outcry, Minyard reconsidered and never exhumed the body.

Murret family Lillian and Charles "Dutz" Murret were Oswald's aunt and uncle in New Orleans. Oswald stayed with them for awhile in New Orleans. Some theorists say that "Dutz" Murret had connections to the Marcello LCN family.

Frederick O'Sullivan **Knew Oswald in junior high school in New Orleans. Recruited Oswald into Civil Air Patrol.**

Delphine Roberts Guy Banister's secretary at 544 Camp Street. At first, hesitant to discuss what she saw, but later confirmed that Oswald and David Ferrie were frequent visitors to Banister's office. Says Banister was aware that Oswald was distributing pro-Castro literature on the streets.

Perry Russo Acquaintance of David Ferrie. Reportedly witnessed Ferrie, Shaw and "Leon" Oswald meeting to discuss why to kill JFK. Recalled Ferrie describing a triangulation of crossfire. "Star" witness in Garrison trial. In 1988, was operating a property rental business in New Orleans. Drove a taxicab on the side. May still be in New Orleans at 741 Navarre Ave. (504) 488-4439.

Fred Sewall Salesman at Bolton Ford dealership in New Orleans. Reported that on 1/20/61, two men (one Cuban named Moore and Oswald) ordered ten trucks for "Friends of Democratic Cuba". However, Oswald was in USSR at the time.

William Stuckey Radio host on New Orleans station WDSU. Arranged debate between Oswald and Carlos Bringuier.

Edward Voebel Knew Oswald at Beauregard Junior High School in New Orleans.

DEAD

I. GARRISON INVESTIGATION

A. Frank Klein (DIED 1986)

1. Went on to become Chief Asst. District Atty in Plaquemine Parish, south of New Orleans.
2. Chief Asst. D.A.

II. PLAYERS

A. W. Guy Banister

1. Anti-Castro activist. Former FBI agent (SAC of Chicago, fighting organized crime, until 1955.) During WWII, worked for ONI, then back to FBI. Went to N.O. to be deputy chief of police. Then, became private investigator. 544 Camp Street. Died 1964. Never questioned by Warren Commission.
2. Dr. Nichola Chetta
 - a. New Orleans coroner. Performed autopsy on Ferrie. Chetta died 5/25/68. His longtime assistant was killed on 1/26/69.
- X. George de Mohrenschildt
 - a. Found shot to death.
3. Dorothy Kilgallen
 - a. Syndicated newspaper & TV columnist. Nationally known. Covered the Ruby story. Travelled to New Orleans re: assassination. 11/65 - claimed she was going to blow the story "wide open." Found dead within a week of that statement in NYC.
4. Jack Martin
 - a. Guy Banister associate in New Orleans. Pistol whipped by Banister on 11/22/63. (3 in New Orleans phone book.) New Orleans Police Dept. has report number K-12634-63 on the incident.

David William Ferrie (DEAD)

1. Pilot. Flew missions into Cuba before Bay of Pigs. Active with anti-Castro organizations. Associate of Guy Banister. Also did work for Marcello. Died 2/22/67, shortly after Garrison implicated him. Speculation that may have been a CIA contract employee.

D. Clay Shaw (DEAD)

1. Well known business leader in 1960s in New Orleans. Gay. Knew David Ferrie. Close ties to Banister and anti-Castro Cubans. May have known Oswald. CIA operative (?). Died 8/14/74.

follow up

1) books

Weisberg: Oswald in New Orleans, Canyon Books 1967.

Rosemary James & Jack Wardlaw: Plot or Politics? The Garrison Case (New Orleans 1967), pp. 39-47.

F. Peter Model & Robert J. Groden: JFK: The Case for Conspiracy (NY 1976), p. 77.

2) articles

Jim Phelan, Saturday Evening Post, re: Perry Russo. (Late 60s)

Hamilton, Journal of Psychohistory, 1986, Vol. 14(1), pp. 43-54.

Griffin, Quarterly Journal of Speech, 1984, Vol. 70(2), pp. 111-131.

3) look for information on right wing militant groups in New Orleans & experts on same (Louisiana generally)

4) newspapers

New Orleans Times-Picayune

New Orleans States-Item

Addendum to memorandum from Laura Denk to Jeremy Gunn entitled “List of Potential Witnesses for June Public Hearing”

The “List of Potential Witnesses in New Orleans” from my 4/27/95 memo to Jeremy is intended to be a working list of people who actually witnessed events in New Orleans as well as people in New Orleans who may have knowledge about the location of documents.

As I told Jeremy when I gave him the memo, the names in bold are those people who I believed would be most helpful to the Board in indicating the location or disposition of records.

Please add to list:

Regis Kennedy Kennedy was the New Orleans FBI Special Agent assigned to cover the Marcello family and organized crime in New Orleans. Kennedy retired in the early 1960s and is probably either dead or quite old. Throughout his life, Kennedy has maintained that Marcello was simply a tomato salesman and a real estate investor and not an organized crime figure. Under direction from FBI HQ, Kennedy filed reports on Marcello, but claims that the New Orleans FBI office never had an independent reason to investigate Marcello. Both Blakey and John H. Davis have thoroughly criticized Kennedy’s work.

Patrick Collins New Orleans FBI Special Agent. Replaced Regis Kennedy after Kennedy retired. Assaulted by Marcello at the New Orleans airport in 1966, when Marcello was returning from New York, where he had been arrested during a LCN gathering at La Stella restaurant. For various accounts of the story, see, John H. Davis, Mafia Kingfish, 357 (1989).