

1 Q But these people, did they know Sirhan personally?

2 A They knew him as an acquaintance, as a school
3 acquaintance.

4 Q From where? F.C.C.?

5 A F.C.C., a little bit in high school, but--yeah, I
6 mean, I saw him five weeks before the thing, you know.

7 Q Did any of them see him five weeks before the
8 thing?

9 A No, not to my knowledge.

10 Q Okay, now, when he--when he wanted to talk to you
11 five weeks before this thing went down, again is there some-
12 thing that you're overlooking? In other words, if I were to
13 ask you a question other than what you have told me about a
14 conversation at Bob's--

15 A Right.

16 Q --is there anything that you discussed, discussed
17 with Sirhan that could have been something that induced him or
18 helped him to do the deed that he did do?

19 A I'm--I'm sure there must have been. That's very
20 important, isn't it? Right. You know, revolutionary, you
21 know, plain revolutionary influence. (*) even involved in it,
22 I was right there, changed his roles, stepped into the shoes
23 of a revolutionary.

24 Q Well, how did you do this?

25 A Well, as I told you, he said that in politics; you
26 know, you have to be total commitment in this whole thing, you

1 can't go to school on it (*) you know; that's---those are the
2 things that were in his head. You know, in many different
3 kinds of things, but that was one of them.

4 Q Did he tell you that he had a gun?

5 A No.

6 Q Did you know that he had a gun?

7 A Did I know that he had a gun? I know now that he
8 had a gun.

9 Q No, I mean, then, did you know that he had a--

10 A I guess---I guess not.

11 Q Did you say "you guessed not"? Is that what you
12 said?

13 A Or I don't recall (*)

14 Q Huh?

15 A I don't recall him having a gun.

16 Q Then you can answer "no" to gun truthfully?

17 A Yeah, I would--I would answer "no" to that, but it
18 scares me, nevertheless. I should have seen a lawyer (*) I
19 should have seen a lawyer.

20 Q Why do you say that, a lawyer?

21 A I mean because the political implications in this
22 thing, also personally for me the implications. (*) I might
23 lose my job, be called to a trial. Getting into this thing
24 up to the hilt just destroy me personally. Plus that, I mean,
25 you guys are working, you know, for Mayor Yorty and Reddin.
26 See, I think that--that Yorty and Reddin may want to play up

1 the political aspect of this thing. I've heard his statements
2 on the radio (*)

3 Q He's a politician though, don't (*)

4 A (*) Reddin these are the--that this information is
5 going to go to, they are going to see this, they're going to
6 have a tool to hurt--to hurt the Party, to hurt the left, to
7 start a red scare. And this is where the information is going
8 to go. And this is one of the things (*) when I answered I
9 felt that I was lying because I think is there anything that
10 you are afraid to tell me or something like that.

11 Q Uh huh.

12 A Yeah, shit, yes.

13 Q Well, what is it?

14 A I don't know how this--you know, how this is going
15 to come out in a report, what--what--I mean, Yorty, you know,
16 was able to build the thing out of the fact that his car was
17 seen outside of a DuBois Club meeting and that was obviously
18 bullshit because there had been no DuBois Club in Los Angeles
19 for a year. You know, and he was willing to use that, you
20 know, to exploit this situation.

21 Q Well, if it will ease your feelings about that--

22 A And, uh--

23 Q Go ahead. I'm sorry.

24 A Well, and then, in this, you know, here is the--here
25 is the real link, you know, and--and if this thing comes out
26 doubtful on something, you know, I'm up a shit creek and--

1 Q Well, let me tell you, I think I can understand here
2 your feeling. Let me tell you this before I go any further.
3 I think that Yorty will not receive any of this information.

4 A (*)

5 Q We are by court order restricted, any person working
6 in the investigation of this thing, and now this thing has
7 been cleared up, and if you don't think for one second that
8 Yorty, Mayor Yorty was--shall we say--slapped a little bit,
9 you know? And talking about the senior--senior law enforcement
10 agent in this county, he has been talked to and he knows what
11 his position is. There is--there is a group of people working
12 on this investigation even within the Police Department, these
13 fellows, including myself, are prohibited from discussing this
14 case with anyone, and I'm not going to run out of here and tell
15 anyone about what we're talking about right now except the man
16 that's in charge of the unit. He has to be aware because we
17 have to be responsible to someone. But I think, Walter, that
18 what we should do here is, before I continue this examination,
19 I think that you should go out here and discuss all these things
20 that you are thinking about, all these things, these possible
21 implications that you feel might be that somebody--if somebody
22 were to get the information he asked and say "Aha! We told
23 this." This is the thing right here, you see?

24 A Uh huh.

25 Q And got this in a report, and then if there is any-
26 thing that comes up then at a later time, possibly give you a

1 lie detector test at that time. But I think that you're being
2 sincere with me and I think that you'll be sincere with some-
3 one else on the outside that you want to go talk with whether
4 it's myself or somebody else, but I would like to have a steno
5 take this down.

6 A (*)

7 Q Now, how do you feel? This information we're
8 talking about? I'm just proposing this right now.

9 A About what?

10 Q Well, this conversation. It's obvious that you
11 haven't talked to anyone about your deep seated feelings
12 about, you know, being--if you had not ever known Sirhan, may-
13 be he would have never done the deed that he did, you see.
14 Possibly. Possibly. But you--you can't be accountable for
15 other people's actions. If (*) if that was the case, then
16 these guys that are rioting, I mean, you know, every black man
17 in this country would get up and start burning, you know.

18 A Well--no, I mean, we are responsible for what we do.

19 Q Okay, now, what is your responsibility to this you
20 feel? In what way are you responsible for the death of
21 Kennedy?

22 A I'm, you know, I was, you know, you know, an influ-
23 ence on his life. (*)

24 Q How do you know this?

25 A I know it because of the way he came across to me.

26 Q How did he come across to you?

1 A Uh, he came across to me as someone who is basically
2 not political, but was willing to play that role.

3 Q Well, tell me. How did he--how did he--what did he
4 say to you? What did he demand or what did he--what was he
5 seeking that you turned him on the way you think, the way you
6 feel that you did?

7 A What was he--what was he seeking?

8 Q For example, this meeting you had with him five
9 weeks ago.

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Okay, he came to you, he wanted to talk to you. We
12 hit very lightly on this subject, but, I mean, there is a lot
13 more there that you haven't told me about, you see?

14 A Now--I mean, he said that, geez, you know, I mean,
15 he said that to be a revolutionary, you know, it requires a
16 total commitment and he was, you know--

17 Q What did this mean to you, Walter?

18 A It was bullshit.

19 Q Huh?

20 A It was bullshit.

21 Q No, but what did this--what did this mean to you?
22 I mean, it can mean one thing to me, but to you as a person
23 who is a member of the Communist Party, who has--has been
24 educated here and you have your own feelings and your own
25 philosophies, when he said this, you have to have total
26 commitment, what did this mean to you?

1 A What, now, in terms of my assessment or what he
2 was---

3 Q You know what he was saying; right. What he meant,
4 what he was trying to convey to you?

5 A What was he trying to convey to me? That he was,
6 when he was saying, look, you know, I mean, do we have a real
7 basis for, you know, to relate, and, you know, this is what I
8 personally I see, you know. In fact, you know, you know, I
9 am more of a revolutionary than you are, you know. That's
10 what it meant to me. But it was, you know, it wasn't for real,
11 I mean, you know, first of all, that's absurd, and secondly, I
12 mean, that was not the way, you know, I mean, he wasn't--that
13 was--he wasn't living that way (*) he wasn't doing those things
14 in his daily life and so it was just, it was talk, you know.

15 Q Yet, five weeks later, he up and does that thing so
16 somewhere if you influenced him at that time during that
17 evening, this conversation with him or contact with him, he
18 must have really found an outlet or a source of either backing
19 or maybe guidance or maybe in listening to you, he says, you
20 know what I'm thinking even if he hadn't talked to you about
21 doing it, and I'm not convinced that he didn't talk to you
22 about Kennedy because you can't truthfully say that he did not
23 discuss Kennedy the way you are responding to me. And that's
24 what I'm trying to get because you do have this guilt feeling
25 about this thing and there's a lot of things that you haven't
26 told me about relative, for example, Kennedy on that

1 conversation now.

2 A My thinking out that you mean is a lie?

3 Q No, not a lie. I didn't say it is, but this is
4 meaningful to you.

5 A No, now, tell me--

6 Q Well, this is--

7 A --on the Kennedy thing--

8 Q On the Kennedy thing, yeah. I don't think that
9 you're convinced within yourself that Kennedy was not discussed
10 that night.

11 A I'm not convinced.

12 Q Well, that's what I'm trying to exploit here in
13 talking with you, so that maybe if I can strike a chord some-
14 where, you know, you'll say, well, yeah, now--now, I remember.

15 A All right. I--I don't know, I've got, you know, so
16 many things going around. Did we discuss Peace and Freedom
17 Party? Geo, I don't know. I'm not sure. I might have. That
18 was on my mind at that time.

19 Q Well, was he a member of the Peace and Freedom Party?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay, here's the thing. Let me tell you--let me
22 tell you just for an example. I know that Tom Good was
23 receiving money from Sirhan.

24 A What?

25 Q Do you know this? Do you know this?

26 A No.

1 Q Okay, then, why would Sirhan be giving--sending
2 money to Tom Good?

3 A To sup--help support him maybe.

4 Q To help support what?

5 A Tom.

6 Q The Party.

7 A No.. Tom is not in the Party.

8 Q He's not in the Party.

9 A He's anti--he's against the Party.

10 Q Okay, so what is his position now? Before you--you
11 know, these are things that I'm also wondering. You know,
12 I'm trying to determine the truth, you see, and--and I appreci-
13 ate the fact that you are being cooperative, let me say that,
14 but the fact is--

15 A Yeah, digging my own grave, too.

16 Q Now why do you say that? Why do you say that?

17 A Well, I mean, we're getting into so many areas where
18 uh, I find that I, you know, I'm, I mean, I'm so afraid to--
19 to--

20 Q Okay, let's say this. Have you talked to Tom Good
21 since the assassination?

22 A No.

23 Q You haven't talked to him. Well, you seemed surprised
24 when I told you right now that he was getting money. Now,
25 I don't know why he was getting money. Now, you tell me that
26 he's not a member of the Party?

1 A No.

2 Q Was he a member of the DuBois Club?

3 A No.

4 Q Okay, what was his relation--Good's relation--
5 because you didn't mention him as being one of the people that
6 were a major influence on Sirhan.

7 A No.

8 Q Right? How was Tom Good a major influence?

9 A Uh, well, at P.C.C., Tom was, you know, politically
10 involved on our committee, was chairman of the Young Democrats
11 and was very, politically a very astute person and who was a
12 friend of Sirhan. Now, as far as I know, Tom hasn't seen
13 Sirhan for three years since he went to San Jose State. He's
14 living in San Jose now. I see Tom (*) every few months if he's
15 still around.

16 Q Okay, now, where does Tom live?

17 A San Jose. And (*) Tom lives in Pasadena. Now--

18 Q Now, let me tell you this. Pardon me?

19 A That poor fucker, is poor Tom going to be dragged
20 into this?

21 Q No, I don't think so. I don't think so. The thing
22 is, things have to be checked out and they don't have to be
23 checked out by telling him that I'm talking to you, you know.
24 As a last resort, sure. Now you were mentioned long before
25 tonight. We knew that we were going to talk to you, but
26 certainly if--until the point came out (*) now we have this

1 and let's find out if, you know, that's the investigators told
2 me this. Let's find out, let's talk to the young man and see
3 what his position is on this thing here.

4 A Uh huh.

5 Q Now, if it's a matter of sitting down and conversing,
6 I can discuss anything with anyone save treason, you know--

7 A Uh huh.

8 Q --save treason, I can discuss the death of anybody
9 and anything else, and we can talk and I can say, well, this
10 guy should be killed and this guy should be eliminated, this
11 guy shouldn't be President.

12 A All right.

13 Q That's my right as a citizen here, I can.

14 A Right.

15 Q We have freedom of speech. But, now, if it's going
16 to be a conspiracy type of thing and this is where, you know,
17 this is something else, you see.

18 A Right, right.

19 Q But I'm going back now to these people here. You
20 mentioned people that you say "we had an influence, an impact
21 on Sirhan's life." You mentioned Tommy Good.

22 A Right.

23 Q Okay, now, who else do you feel in your mind had an
24 impact in Sirhan's life?

25 A I think Tom and I mainly.

26 Q Okay, now, how do you--I'll ask again--how do you--

1 you say this ad hoc committee, this Young Democrat Club and
2 so forth--

3 A Right.

4 Q But he was never a member of the Party--Good?

5 A No.

6 Q He isn't a member now?

7 A No.

8 Q When was the last time to your knowledge that Good
9 talked with or saw Sirhan?

10 A To my knowledge?

11 Q To your knowledge.

12 A It would have to be at P.C.C. (*)

13 Q Okay, then, did you discuss Tom Good at Bob's drive-
14 in on the night that you talked with him five weeks ago?

15 A I mentioned him.

16 Q In passing just, or was there--

17 A I said, yeah, I said, you know, Tommy is going to
18 jail.

19 Q He's going where?

20 A To jail. (*) something like that.

21 Q For--for what?

22 A Uh, well, he was in the--in the student riots at
23 San Jose early this year.

24 Q Uh huh.

25 A And they got him on a misdemeanor or something. I'm
26 not sure (*) I haven't talked to him for a few months. I

1 think he said it was supposed to be a felony and there was a
2 chance of it being reduced. I heard secondhand that he had
3 to do five days in jail or something like that. Assaulting an
4 officer. Or something like that. But when I told Sirhan, I
5 said, wow, Tommy's going to jail. That's all. I just mentioned
6 it.

7 Q Did he indicate to you in any way whether or not he
8 had seen him--

9 A No.

10 Q --or contacted him?

11 A No. He said, "What is he doing? What has he been
12 doing?"

13 Q Okay, now--

14 A Sir, what time is it?

15 Q It's 10:30.

16 A Look, I have--I have to--(*) I have to be at work at
17 8 o'clock tomorrow.

18 Q Uh huh.

19 A And also I--I am beginning to realize that--I came
20 down here--I should have known that if you wanted me to come
21 all the way down here, this is a real serious matter. The man
22 told me they wanted some background information on Sirhan. So
23 I--I mean, I have to go to sleep and also, you know, my club
24 has, you know, we discussed when the FBI came to visit me and
25 they told me that--they said, you know well, Walt, what are
26 you going to (*) number one, how does Hoover get his money

1 every year? He gets his money by, you know, screaming about
2 the Party. He said these people are not going to, you know,
3 judge this thing objectively. He said, if they can find a
4 weapon to use against us if they want to they will. And they
5 said, you know, that, you know, (*) everyone knows that you
6 don't have to talk to a cop; that you have a right to an
7 attorney, you know, to, you know, to counsel, and that if, you
8 know, you made a real bad error. You don't know what's--you
9 don't know what they're going to say in your report, you don't
10 know how it's going to come out, you don't know what they are
11 going to say.

12 Q What do you think I'm going to say in my report
13 right now?

14 A I don't know. I know--I certainly going to say, well,
15 you know, the--you know, Mr. C has doubts about his--his
16 influence on Sirhan.

17 Q As a matter of fact, you don't have doubts. You
18 have been--you have been quite frank, you said that you know
19 that your association with Sirhan probably was a motivating
20 factor to what he did.

21 A Right.

22 Q You didn't say you had doubts about it. You were
23 quite strong and you made the statement that you know that
24 your contact with him--

25 A Right.

26 Q --if he had never met you, that he probably would

1 have never done what he did.

2 A Right.

3 Q That's what you said; right?

4 A Right.

5 Q And then I asked you (*) and what is the greatest
6 thing, the greatest contribution, in your mind, that your
7 association with Sirhan could have caused him to do what he
8 did and then we get into a different tangent on this point.
9 And let me ask you again. In your mind, what is the greatest
10 thing that you told him, showed him or discussed with him to--
11 that led him to do the eventual act that he did do?

12 A I told him that the Arab Israeli struggle was akin
13 to a national liberation struggle. I also gave him, I believe,
14 in a position to--to Israelis that the Jewish people have a
15 right to national discretion, they have a right to their own
16 state. But there is another Israel which is an alter (*)
17 which is a religious, political, you know, political system
18 (*) religiously (*). What is needed is to, as I say, de-Zionize
19 Israel to give the Arab people an equal political voice, an
20 equal position in the community.

21 Q And how do you think that saying this, that it
22 should be the way you put it to him, how do you think this had
23 an effect on him deciding to shoot Kennedy?

24 A Well, I don't know if that--you know, I don't know
25 if that did or not. Actually, I don't know that any of it
26 did, I just don't know, but speculating on telling him that

1 Al Fatah had given new respect to Arab people and morale; that
2 we--we could expect, you know, long internal struggle in Israel.
3 That it would be like a liberation struggle. I mean, that--
4 that could have put some ideas in his head. Terrorism.

5 Q Al Fatah--inform me a little bit. I'm not--

6 A Al Fatah is the organization that's going across the
7 Jordan River and--

8 Q Guerrilla warfare and this kind of thing.

9 A (*)

10 Q Uh huh.

11 A (*) was going across the river.

12 Q So this is--this is where you bring this up, he says
13 well, then, it's up to me. He probably could have very easily
14 said, well, it's up to me to--

15 A Right.

16 Q --do it here.

17 A Right. Right. Exactly. That's it. You know that
18 he could have seen himself as a fighter (*)

19 Q Well, Walter, it's late. I appreciate the fact that
20 you--you have indicated to me you want to go home.

21 A And also (*)

22 Q No report will be made, I'll tell you this. How-
23 ever, I do have to continue talking to you and I can tell you
24 this on my own right now, in all honesty to you, no report will
25 be made.

26 A You guys say one thing and you do another.

1 Q Well, I mean, you have to trust me now. I'm--I'm
2 dealing with you as a gentleman because that's how you've been
3 in here with me. You behaved completely a gentleman with me.
4 And I can tell you right now, I'm going to give these papers,
5 these questions that I have asked you, some questions that I
6 haven't even begun to ask you on the polygraph, and the reason
7 I felt in all fairness to you that I should discuss these
8 things before, you know, and this is the best procedure, what
9 we're doing, we're talking about this. I don't want you to be
10 sacked out to the point that you're going to say, well, Jesus,
11 you know, I mean, I know, I know this, when actually you don't
12 know it, but you're afraid of it, see. But let me ask you,
13 when can we sit down so I can make my appointments to corres-
14 pond with your time, and anyway that you want, anytime that
15 you want, so we can continue this conversation.

16 A We do have--is there urgency? As to the time?

17 Q Well, like, for example--

18 A First of all, I have to see a lawyer and that's going
19 to have to be at night. So that's one night gone. I have--

20 Q Excuse me a second.

21 A All right.

22 Q Now, that's your prerogative, Walter, to see a
23 lawyer. I think--I'll tell you this. If I thought--the moment
24 that I thought that you were possibly suspect in anything, then
25 at that time I'm obligated to tell you, Walter, you have
26 certain rights.

1 A Uh huh.

2 Q You have the right to an attorney, you have the
3 right--that's up to the point that you say, well, why? Are
4 you suspect right now? You are not suspect as far as I'm
5 concerned. You have that we are seeking here. We are trying
6 to arrive at one thing; that is, the truth. That's all we
7 want. But you can, certainly you can go ahead and get an
8 attorney if you want. You know, that's your privilege.

9 A Well, now, I want to find out--what's happening--to
10 me.

11 Q Well, what do you think's happening?

12 A I think that I made, you know, very quickly be made
13 into a political pawn. And I think that so many things are
14 happening right now in my life that--

15 Q Like what?

16 A Like the draft facing me, you know, soon. I'm
17 trying to delay it. You know, I don't want to leave the
18 country, but I just can't go in the army, I don't want to go
19 to in case for two years, you know, and they rejected my
20 appeal, so many things, you know. I broke up with my girl
21 friend, I can't stay on my job (*)

22 Q You're a young man with problems.

23 A Right. Anyway, that's all.

24 Q Well, if you can tell me--

25 A I mean, and then this, you know. I'm not ready.

26 Q I'll tell you our conversation has been very

1 interesting in here because I--there are certain things that
2 I can't tell you right now, but I think when we get through,
3 we will be able to tell you certain things about what we have
4 been discussing here tonight that point very much the way that
5 you're laying this thing down, you see. But are you account-
6 able for somebody's actions, you know? If you discuss some-
7 thing and you were to tell me, you know, you are wearing a \$20
8 suit and if you go rob a bank, certainly you will have money
9 because money is what you need to buy a suit that's \$150, but
10 you don't have the 150, but in a bank they have the 150, and
11 I say, well, you know, fine, I'll go in there and pull a deal
12 and, you know.

13 A Yeah, I just have to get my perspective right on
14 this thing. When the FBI came to my house just--I was really,
15 you know, getting paranoid about the whole thing.

16 Q Did you discuss with the FBI what we've been
17 discussing in here tonight?

18 A Well--

19 Q (*)

20 A --I told them the truth, I mean, that's it--if you
21 want to find out the truth, that's it, it was very full, you
22 know, deal, and there was friction, you know, I was very
23 honest.

24 Q Uh huh.

25 A In fact, I'm positive that, I mean, I don't think
26 that they knew I was in anything when they came to me because

1 they didn't understand when I explained to them what--what a
2 club was, what my club was. They didn't understand these
3 things.

4 Q Well, is there anything that we have discussed here
5 tonight, you and me, that you prior to tonight did not discuss
6 with the FBI or anyone else? Have you told me things that
7 are--that are more meaningful to you that you failed to tell
8 the FBI, well realizing that you hadn't told them?

9 A Yeah, I mentioned Al Fatah, that's--that's the only
10 thing that I mentioned.

11 Q Is this the most meaningful thing regarding your
12 contact with--

13 A Regarding--regarding my own feelings, yeah, it is.
14 At that I could (*) the picture, you know.

15 Q Well, did he pursue this thing when you mentioned
16 Al Fatah?

17 A Um, not really, no. I don't--

18 Q What did he ask you? What did he say?

19 A Uh, gee, he probably said, you know, that it was
20 groovy or something about it groovy, I mean, that's the (*)
21 idea (*) he must have said.

22 Q This is very important to me, Walter. Let me ask
23 you right now. And we are not talking with the machine here,
24 the polygraph or anything. We are just talking now. Did he
25 at any time make mention to you that he had any weapons?

26 A No.

1 Q He never mentioned that to you. Did he lead you to
2 believe that he had weapons or a weapon?

3 A No.

4 Q What's the most violent thing you've done?

5 A In my life? The most violent thing I've done. I
6 never hit anybody. Most violent thing I've done. Geez,
7 probably in demonstrations, getting mad, you know, (*)
8 irrational I probably thing maybe June 23rd. (*) scared.

9 Q You were which?

10 A On June 23rd.

11 Q What did you do there?

12 A That was when Johnson came to the hotel, Century
13 City.

14 Q Century City, were you there?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q You participated in that?

17 A Well, I mean, I was just trying to stay--stay away
18 from the police.

19 Q Well, did you contribute anything to that, do you
20 think?

21 A What? You mean--

22 Q To the confusion?

23 A No, I--fact, I told a guy not to throw a rock that
24 was going to throw one. I said, they'll shoot--they'll shoot
25 us if you do that. No, I mean, I didn't--I was in a fight
26 once, but I never even hit the guy. Just hit me once. Oh,

1 most violent thing--yeah. Sure, yeah, I've been, you know,
2 wrestled with people, had a fight with an old friend once.
3 Right. Now, yeah, and once I hit, way back in junior high
4 school, I hit a friend of mine with a yardstick. I've forgot-
5 ten why. (*)

6 Q But as an adult, the most aggravated or violent thing
7 that you've done was the 23rd of June thing when Johnson was
8 down here at Century City, in your mind right now?

9 A Right.

10 Q Well, when do you think you can arrange to come
11 back?

12 A (*) well, here's what I'd like to do. Wednesday,
13 Humphrey is coming to Los Angeles. I have to be there.
14 Tomorrow I would like to see Metropolis and "The Canon of Dr.
15 Calverney" (phonetic.)

16 Q Dr. who?

17 A The Calverney, it's an old German expression, it
18 comes from (*), so Thursday I'd like to see my lawyer and
19 maybe see you Friday or the weekend, you know, I mean, the
20 weekend (*) if that's all right.

21 Q Okay, well, I'll tell--have you got Sgt. Alexander's
22 card? Or maybe it's not good that you carry a card with you.
23 I'll have him give you a number and then you can contact him
24 and he can make arrangements with me.

25 A All right.

26 Q Is that all right?

1 A All right.

2 Q Okay-doke. Thank you very much for your patience
3 and we'll pursue this later.

4 A Yeah, I know.

5 (End of conversation)
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Jose Duarte

1 TAPE RECORDED INTERVIEW OF JOSE DUARTE
2 TAKEN AT 6642 DELONGUE, HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, APT. #15
3 WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1968, 7:00 P.M.

4 QUESTIONED BY: LT. M. PENA, S.U.S. UNIT
5 SGT. M. J. MCGANN #10329, S.U.S. UNIT
6 OFFICER J. L. MOUNT #12247, S.U.S. UNIT

7 TRANSCRIBED BY: STELLA C. ROEH

8 ASSISTED BY: SGT. M. J. MCGANN
9 OFFICER J. L. MOUNT

10 (*) UNINTERPRETABLE

11

12 LT. PENA: I'd like to identify myself as Lt.
13 Manuel Pena. This is Sgt. McGann, Sgt. Mount, and you are
14 Major Jose Duarte. I would like to cover four or five points
15 with you in connection with this meeting on May 21st.

16 SGT. MCGANN: First.

17 LT. PENA: Wherein you had a verbal altercation
18 with a particular individual.

19 A A verbal altercation. There was some kind of
20 shoving in there, too.

21 LT. PENA: All right. Sgt. McGann and Sgt.
22 Mount have, during the past two weeks, have been investigating
23 this particular meeting and contacting a group of people--a
24 number of people. They have located and identified--is it
25 seven?

26 SGT. MCGANN: Seven men.

LT. PENA: Seven men of Arabic or--

SGT. MCGANN: Persian.

LT. PENA: Persian background who were at that
meeting. Last evening they brought Ali--

1 SGT. MCGANN: Kahn Bouzmand.

2 LT. PENA: Ali Kahn Bouzmand to your home here,
3 and you have identified him as the man with the beard that
4 was present with this group of Persians at the meeting.

5 Q BY LT. PENA: Isn't that so, Mr. Duarte?

6 A Arabs. They may have been Bengaleze (sic), or
7 they may have been Algerians or Arabs.

8 Q You did identify the gentleman that was brought
9 here last night?

10 A Yes, he was present there. Yes.

11 Q From the first instance in this case, is it not
12 true--

13 A Would you gentlemen like something to drink?

14 Q --is it not true, Major Duarte, that you indicated
15 that it could be a case of mistaken identity with respect to
16 your indicating that the man you had the altercation with
17 was Sirhan Sirhan?

18 A It was more than that. I said--this is what I
19 said. In regards to this situation, these circumstances,
20 it could be left to honest to God truth that this was either
21 a case of I making up the story or a case of mistaken
22 identity or whether I'm saying the truth. This is what I
23 said. I even said myself--guarded myself--I granted the
24 public and I gave myself that I have been guilty of allowing
25 people to think that this was a story that I was making up
26 because people could think of that. These are the three

1 things I mean that came to be now a case of mistaken
2 identity. But I say--

3 OFFICER MOUNT: Jaladipour (phonetic).

4 A --I say from the beginning, this is what I say
5 from the beginning--this is what I said from the beginning.
6 This could be construed as three cases. Three cases. Three
7 independent cases. One, that I am making up a story in
8 order to bring the Cuban question out and give to it publicity.
9 Second, that this could be the case of mistaken identity.
10 Third, that if the truth, what I'm speaking--therefore, if
11 this is the case, that I'm making this up, I'll have to
12 stand on my record for that and on the investigation.

13 Second, if this was a case of mistaken identity, let
14 the person that was there at this time come forward and
15 identify himself or bring Sirhan ~~as~~ his brother.

16 Third, that I am saying the truth up 'till now. I have
17 no contradictions to it. These were my statements. Now,
18 in the beginning--I say from the beginning--I think this may
19 be a case of mistaken identity. I wasn't sure. These were
20 the three things I brought out that could be, and I was
21 letting everyone know to go forward and prove to me and prove
22 to the police and prove to the authorities which of the three
23 were. I said in the first case it could be this, that I am
24 making this up, investigate me, and whether I was there or
25 not--what took place.

26 Second, if this is the case of mistaken identity, I

1 have identified this picture without seeing the man ever on
2 different occasions of photos having been shown to me. If
3 I recognize a man that is similar to him, let him come for-
4 ward now, and the case--it happens that two months afterwards
5 his Persian friends, his roommate, and so they come forward
6 now to bring a story or an evidence or circumstantial
7 evidence or a likely story or something that eliminates one
8 or two promises of there--of my making up a story, or
9 whether I'm telling the truth, too. Leave out only the case
10 of mistaken identity, and it comes of what? Of their words?
11 Your investigation? And my--my position, I stand.

12 Q Now, we have shown you several photographs of the
13 roommate of Ali Kahn Douzmand.

14 A And I do not recall him.

15 Q You have indicated you do not recall him. We
16 have indicated to you that--

17 A --that he was a man that your investigation has
18 shown that he was a man and that he had, and that you have
19 in your investigation, be of the evidence--I don't know
20 whether you got evidence, but you have been led to believe,
21 or that you believe--I don't know how you can paraphrase
22 that in English. I leave it to you. I could say in Spanish--
23 (speaks in Spanish).

24 Q I will translate that for purposes of the record,
25 "that the Los Angeles Police Department by virtue of its
26 investigation, has been investigationally satisfied and

1 convinced that this is the case of mistaken identity and
2 that the picture of this gentleman--

3 OFFICER MOUNT: Reza.

4 LT. PENNA: Reza.

5 OFFICER MOUNT: Jaladipour.

6 Q BY LT. PENNA: Jaladipour is the man that had the
7 altercation with you. The interviews with this gentleman
8 have verified to great extent your version of the altercation
9 at the meeting. He is willing to face you and meet you
10 personally and go over the incident if this could be arranged
11 on an amicable basis. I have also--

12 A If he keeps his cool and he does not act the way
13 he acted there, it might be amicably.

14 Q Well, we appreciate the delicacy of that, and
15 shall we say can we hold that in abeyance and make a decision
16 at a later time?

17 A Any time you want.

18 Q You are willing if it can be handled on an
19 amicable basis?

20 A I am not willing--this puerto (sic).

21 Q You are disposed to meet him?

22 A Surely.

23 Q All right.

24 A Willing is not in Spanish what--what this puerto
25 means--I'll be ready, willing and able--willing all the time.

26 Q BY SGT. MCCANN: While we are on this subject

1 of Jaladipeur, would you agree that he had similar features
2 in this picture that we have shown you today?

3 A I can't go into that today because he doesn't
4 look to me like Sirhan's nose. His hair--he has short hair.
5 There, now, he has long hair. His hair at that time was not
6 as long as you have here.

7 Q You can't say there is a resemblance, is that
8 correct?

9 A Well, according to the resemblance--and this is
10 a fact--something that we never mentioned--but this really
11 hurt us. Chief Raddin--with all respect for him--the first
12 thing he came out and say the man looks like an exile Cuban
13 or like a West Indian, and that created a very delicate
14 situation, you know. Mesquerz was working in Washington at
15 the time that Oswald was killed. She was working that day--
16 Organization for American States before she become a
17 librarian in UCLA. She's been there for four years. And
18 she could tell you when they said that the Cubans had killed
19 Kennedy, the situation she had to face there. The same
20 thing happened here when Chief Raddin--I would say extempor-
21 aneously--I wouldn't say unwisely--I would say extemporandi
22 (sic), and I'll say that now--excuse me, what the hell does
23 a Cuban look like compared to a Jamaican because I'm brown-
24 skinned, so are you.

25 LT. PENA: That's true.

26 A And I can show you so many huertes in our

1 Spanish race that might be taken for them--for Americans.
2 And yet because he was olive-skinned and he had an accent,
3 all of a sudden they say he looks like a Cuban or a West
4 Indian. Wait a minute! Maybe we wouldn't mind so much to
5 be taken for niggers.

6 Q BY MR. PENA: Did the man that you have, Major
7 Duarte, did the man that you had the altercation with that
8 you, shall we say, believed was Sirhan Sirhan have an accent?

9 A Just like I have. Surely.

10 Q He had an accent and he spoke English with you?

11 A Oh, yes, the whole conversation was in English,
12 and he had an accent just like I have, I have, like Mesquera
13 has, like--you have one.

14 Q Do you think I have an accent?

15 A Oh, yes. You don't have an accent, you have an
16 inflection.

17 Q I have an inflection, but I don't believe I have
18 an accent.

19 A No, no, you have an inflection. I stand corrected.
20 The inflection is that we say words and we have a certain
21 cadence.

22 Q Well, that comes from the Latin influence.

23 A That's right.

24 Q As opposed to an accent.

25 A An accent, it would be like if I was--I would be
26 saying for instance, instead of saying record, I would be

1 saying record, or something like that.

2 Q Yeah, it's a--

3 A --an accent. It's a case of gammatology (sic)
4 now. An accent or and inflection--I probably have an accent.

5 Q You do have an accent. Yes, sir, and you are
6 positive that the man that you believe might have been Sirhan
7 Sirhan at this meeting had an accent?

8 A He was--I mean he was--he was--he was not
9 speaking American with inflection characteristic to American.

10 Q He spoke with an accent. All right, now, we
11 have approached you. We have approached you on the possibility
12 of--of considering the tremendous burden this places on you
13 in terms of the length of time that has passed and of the
14 publicity that has been given your particular situation.
15 We have asked you how you felt about making--

16 A --as a matter of fact, Lieutenant, for the record,
17 not here in Los Angeles, but the world over--

18 Q Yes.

19 A --but not here in Los Angeles.

20 Q Yes. I--we understand that the publicity is
21 outside of Los Angeles, but we have approached you on the
22 possibility of indicating to the news media on the basis
23 that would be most comfortable and satisfactory to you and
24 to the publications that have been published.

25 A Of which I had nothing to do with. I mean, I
26 have been sighted, my picture taken, and all that. And my

1 threat--I have been threatened over the telephone, and I
2 went on Channel 9.

3 Q Have you been misquoted by the news?

4 A No--yes, from the Los Angeles Times. Yes.

5 Q Yes.

6 A Not only misquoted, it's a lie what it says
7 there. Would you care to read it?

8 A Not just at the moment.

9 A They send me a--a gentleman by the name of Hilda,
10 who visit me, he knew about the threat, not only--I tell you
11 what, Velasco was threatened the same way, and he told me--
12 now I don't say he did--he told--excuse me, he told me that
13 he had contacted the FBI through his son-in-law, and the
14 FBI had bugged his phone with his permission to see if they
15 could trace the calls, and they didn't do it. (*) and I
16 thought I didn't tell you that. I went on television in
17 case--the date is there.

18 Q Yes.

19 A The date is there, and I went on Channel 9, and
20 I asked Dolan for 15 seconds in which I addressed myself
21 this way. I say, "Now, this is to you who have been making
22 threatening telephone calls to me, my family, and my friends.
23 We don't scare easy. Now, let the hand of destiny," and it
24 was romantically speaking, sir, taken in Spanish, "taking
25 the hand of destiny to erase my name from the scroll of the
26 living wherever and whenever he wills." Just like that.

1 "And listen, and listen well, damn you," just like that, "this
2 Cuban-American yields to no violence or terrorism." Then you
3 have (*) "This Cuban-American yields only to God." I even
4 said that. I said, "You have been threatened." Everything,
5 I have come out to the public and said it.

6 Q How do you feel about making a statement or
7 authorizing a statement to be made to the news media with
8 respect to the investigation thus far, and what we have shown
9 you and indicated to you our investigators have determined?
10 I'll preface that with your own words.

11 A No, I say it now. I say it now, Sgt. Mount, Lt.
12 Pena, Sgt. Mc what?

13 SGT. McCANN: McCann.

14 A McCann, have told me that their investigation
15 has led them to believe, or been convinced, that this is a
16 case of mistaken identity; that the person in question was
17 not Sirhan Sirhan but somebody else. (*) Out of all respect
18 for the police force and for their judgment, but in all
19 honesty, within myself, within my consciousness, I can't re-
20 cent I believe that this man was Sirhan Sirhan. I'm sorry,
21 that's right.

22 Q And you are still disposed and ready, willing,
23 and able to face this gentleman?

24 A Yes. Gentleman, yes.

25 Q And a--

26 A --by all means.

1 Q That our investigation--

2 A Oh, definitely. Anybody, anybody.

3 Q Wait--

4 A (*) Just like when he called me yesterday, I
5 say, "Bring him over, surely. I have no--no prejudice or
6 objection whatsoever." I would never in any case say they've
7 been taken and this is a plot. Never would I say that
8 because I'm convinced this is not the case; that you are
9 honest law officers in the performance of your duties, your
10 inescapable duties. I regret--I don't know whether Sgt.
11 Mount has given you what we say our organization is.

12 Q Yes, I've read it.

13 A And you say that I said in there that we only
14 regret that officers of the law in the performance of their
15 inescapable duties may come in conflict with us. Because
16 we admit that if I break the law, proceed against me. Bring
17 me to trial--the Neutrality Law, the Sullivan Act--whatever
18 it is, proceed against me in the performance of your duty.
19 In fact, if I have broken the law, I'm going to stand in
20 front of a jury and in front of the judge and say, "Yes,
21 I have broken the law." But I have not this on my conscience.
22 You're saying the truth. I would never say--I would never
23 go against what you bring into court. Ever. Just like for
24 the record in the case of this fellow here in court. I
25 would never do anything like I said before, if this would
26 complicate--and I will not submit or subject or be willing

1 or unwillingly used by certain factions or interests in this
2 country that might use this as means of damaging the image
3 either of the police force or their administration. I'll
4 say that, too. I'll say that, too.

5 Q You are not in any way discrediting any part of
6 our investigation?

7 A What I can't do is just to say now that I have
8 beyond a reasonable doubt committed a mistake because the
9 attitude of these other people which subjectively--I know
10 how they act--are not what they pretend to be or what you
11 have been honestly led to believe.

12 Q May I offer this thought. If their attitude
13 was either just a means of baiting, or whether their attitude
14 was sincerely expressed in this verbal altercation that
15 occurred--

16 A --that's a very good point.

17 Q Either way, I do not doubt the emotion that must
18 have arisen there at the meeting. But say that the emotion
19 was there, however motivated, this would not necessarily--
20 because even if the man you identified last night--

21 A --he said so. He did. He said so. That does
22 not necessarily make him Sirhan.

23 Q Right. (*) The man that you identified last
24 evening.

25 A I said yes, didn't I?

26 SET. McALPIN: Yes.

1 LT. PERNA: With the board admits, and so does
2 this gentleman, that we are honestly and investigationaly
3 convinced that you have mistaken for Sirhan. He admits and
4 states that he engaged you in a verbal altercation, and he
5 has cited this altercation to Sgts. McGann and Sgt. Mount.

6 A Uh, say that psychologically, did he say what he
7 said to me? I mean, did he say there that--could you quote
8 it from memory what he said?

9 SGT. MCGANN: I cannot quote from memory what
10 he said. People--the persons with him, including Ali Hahn
11 Bouzmand and another gentleman we talked to, stated that it
12 became quite heated at one point.

13 A But did he say exactly--the expressions, what they
14 were?

15 SGT. MCGANN: No.

16 A It was not a case of being heated because I
17 might be--uh, forgive the expression, now I might may be
18 heated to a person and call him a son-of-a-bitch like in a
19 traffic jam or something or something. This happens, you
20 know, tempers flare and you know how the Latins are and
21 so forth, and (*) are.

22 LT. PERNA: I know how they are.

23 A But this was not that case.

24 LT. PERNA: I understand.

25 A This was not the case. That was not the case,
26 but he insulted me and called me a bastard or a son-of-a-bitch.

1 or cocksucker or any one of the most deprecating words you
2 can use, no. He called me a C.I.A. agent. He said that I
3 was a traitor to the revolution--what this country needs is
4 another Castro, and he was doing to--with you--doing with
5 you what the Jews are doing to the Arabs, and then he went
6 on to say terrible things. I could--I say he had not insulted
7 me. He had insulted my country, and he was in favor of Castro
8 and he was in favor of Guevara, and he was in favor of
9 Communism. Now, he wasn't baiting me personally calling me
10 names. He was insulting my family, or he was calling me
11 this kind of insults, and a person like you might have some-
12 one in a traffic jam, you know, or in a shoving match and
13 whatever. A Cuban or a theory, no. He express himself in
14 that group. I haven't say that this gentleman that was here
15 yesterday insulted me or anything, or something, because I
16 don't recall it. He might have been saying things to me
17 while I was talking to the other one. I remember him only
18 because he was the one that had me mad enough to say--did he
19 say that I told him when he started baiting me, this--we are
20 in a private home, and you should abide by the rules a
21 gentleman should and keep a civil tongue in your head or
22 otherwise I'll take action against you? Did he say that?
23 I warn him that way before. I even warned him that. I kept
24 on talking and he kept on there baiting me and calling me
25 names from there until finally came so much, he was right
26 there standing in front of me (*) I mean, pushing me. So I

1 turned, and that's when the shoving match really got started.
2 Then I asked him, "Who are you?" because he said something
3 about being back to Cuba, suppose. And I told him, "I'm
4 an American; who are you?" And he said, "I'm an Arab." And
5 I said, "Why don't you go back to it?" So he was all the
6 time--but this was not a personal--

7 LT. PENNA: I understand.

8 A Like he tries to pretend, but this was a personal
9 incident, Lt. Penna. He was--he was expressing himself as a
10 Communist. He was expressing himself anti-American. He was
11 at a Communist meeting. He was at a meeting where they
12 weren't in favor--I mean against the Vietnam War. They had
13 Guevara and Castro and everybody's picture around there.
14 Even the slides we took, I'll be honest enough to say we
15 stole slides. Didn't I tell you that? I could have been
16 put in prison or something for that. We took the slides to
17 prove of this Shinoff that he had there.

18 Q BY LT. PENNA: Now--

19 A He wasn't--it was an impression of--if they had
20 led you to believe that this was just a personal matter, it
21 wasn't. This was a philosophical question, a political
22 question.

23 Q May I--

24 A They expressed themselves, and I really got angry
25 at him, not because he--he--because he didn't call me names.

26 Q May I--

1 A Personally a--a personal insult. What I got
2 really sore is because derogatory remarks about the United
3 States. He was making derogatory remarks about that and
4 praising Castro and Communism. Probably that is why they
5 didn't come forward in the beginning because if it wasn't
6 Sirhan, now see how much benefit or investigator (sic) I'm
7 giving it to you, my experience. Like I said before, I
8 haven't had the experience that you have, but I have been a
9 military man and I know that. In my opinion the case, that
10 when they know, although you give them the benefit of the
11 doubt because you didn't know--they didn't know--I might ask
12 you this now, Sergeant, just because you didn't know, does
13 it make it evidence? Just because you didn't know more about,
14 my appearance on television, just because you didn't know,
15 and Sgt. Mount didn't know, and the Lieutenant didn't know,
16 does it make it a fact that they didn't know?

17 SGT. McGAHAN: It does not make it a fact.

18 A Okay.

19 SGT. McGAHAN: But by the same token, they may
20 not have known. Just as easily.

21 LT. PENA: Objectively speaking.

22 A Okay, they might have not, but like I say, I
23 can answer in this way. Maybe if it wasn't Sirhan, he didn't
24 come forward in the beginning because since he had said so
25 many things, and he's probably an alien, he made enough
26 remarks there to be kicked out of the country.

1 INT. KENA: This is a possibility to consider.

2 A All right, so this is what I tell you now,
3 personally any man who's an alien and does not feel loyal to
4 this country that took him in, he does not deserve to be
5 here. He should be kicked out, Cuban or otherwise, because
6 I was here to study with my money--the money that my family
7 brought in here when I was a kid. Then I felt my responsi-
8 bility when this country was at war was to go. So they
9 didn't do it. They come over here; they are taken in; and
10 they try to undermine the government, our way of living, our
11 society. Maybe they didn't come forward for that, but that
12 just doesn't make that he wasn't Sirhan; that he was this
13 man. So I can give you so many subjective suppositions that
14 they derived into the objective motivations.

15 You see, Lieutenant, it's just like this, to us. Now
16 let me tell you this now as a policeman, because one time I
17 was one. When a person is found murdered, to us investi-
18 gators is the beginning, but that is the end of the situation,
19 because when a man kills a woman, it has been piling up on
20 him for God knows how much, how long a time until he decides
21 to kill her. That is the end of the situation, but for us,
22 the investigators, that's the beginning. There is the corpse.
23 We have to go there; we have to investigate why; who is she?
24 Where does she live? And so forth and so on. This is just
25 the case. This is not the beginning. For you as investi-
26 gator, this is the beginning (*) but for me, no, that was the

1 end of a situation. A situation that these people are
2 coming from a foreign country into this country to associate
3 with the subversive, with the anti-patriotic, with the
4 Communists, with the violators of law, with the violent, and
5 all of a sudden it appears that they went there. Incidentally,
6 that I can mind.

7 Q BY LT. PERNA: In your comments--

8 A --that I can find.

9 Q --even if valid, still do not investigationaly
10 make this man--

11 A Yes, I admit it.

12 Q --Sirhan Sirhan.

13 A But it doesn't make him either because not on
14 the contrary, to the contrary.

15 Q And in your mind only?

16 A Yes, but I can't say it for you because if I would
17 say it for you, I would be insulting you, your intellect--
18 no, more than that, your authority, which to me is sacred.
19 Your authority, gentlemen, to me is sacred, and I have been
20 very careful all along, as you may have seen and as you have
21 perceived, not what {speaks in Spanish.

22 LT. PERNA: Translation, he has indicated that he
23 has handled himself as delicately as he would have handled
24 the petals of a rose in terms of not casting any doubt as to
25 the integrity of our police investigation, our intentions,
26 our objectives, in the investigation, and very eloquently

1 said, Major, we appreciate that. Can we hold it in abeyance
2 then that you are--

3 A --Yes, sir.

4 Q --willing to face this gentleman?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Or observe--

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q --or talk with him?

9 A Yes, sir, talk with him like anybody else. Yes.
10 Not only with me, but with the rest of the Cubans if you
11 want to.

12 Q And if you or we decide that this might be the
13 best method to proceed by, if you are satisfied that he is
14 the man that was there, well, will this be too much of a
15 burden?

16 A No, sir. No, I wish it were true. I wish--I wish--
17 I wish to God--I wish to God there would be a reasonable
18 doubt in my mind. I have pray for it ever since the beginning
19 of this unfortunate affair. And now because I'm saying so,
20 because you have witnesses to that, you have been saying--

21 Q You have a doubt but not a convincing doubt, is
22 that what you are saying?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q But you have been--

25 A --yes, because there was an incident there--I
26 saw the picture; I was shown the pictures; I recognized him;

1 and the Sergeant showed me a picture I have never seen any-
2 where. It hasn't appeared anywhere, among the rest of the
3 pictures, and I said this is the man. Now, if he had shown
4 me the picture that you have shown to me today, I probably
5 would have discarded it and picked this other one.

6 Q Now, you will agree that it's entirely psycho-
7 logically and humanly possible?

8 A To err is human, yes.

9 Q To err and to be honestly mistaken.

10 A Yeah, to err is human.

11 Q It is my firm belief that you are honestly
12 mistaken, Major, and we hope that we can convince you.

13 A (Speaks in Spanish)

14 Q Very well put. He said, "It's human to err, but
15 to rectify is divine."

16 A And if I could rectify, I would rectify, but
17 there would still be what is come to be a verbal cliché in
18 this country, the credibility gap.

19 Q I understand.

20 A I haven't been able because you are basing your-
21 self on the investigation of which I haven't been part of.
22 I have taken your word face value, not theirs. Theirs isn't
23 worth a damn to me. Yours, I have taken at face value.

24 Q We appreciate that.

25 A And the only thing I'm sorry that--really burdens
26 me--is to be in this conflictive (speaks in Spanish) and no,

1 no, it hasn't been a meeting of the minds, but it's a con-
2 flict, not of opinions but of minds. It's not your opinion
3 or my opinion, a conflicting of mind there. Their--their
4 declarations, their story, that you have all reasons in the
5 world to take as evidence or otherwise to believe their
6 story. I am not in the least hurt, sore, (*) that you might
7 take their word, their story; and through your investigation,
8 because after all your investigation has nothing but your
9 word--their word--because you were not there at the meeting.
10 They were, and I was; but you were not. The opinions of the
11 others that were there, their roommate, just like the opinion
12 of these Cubans that identified Sirhan.

13 Q The investigation is also the interviews of many
14 of the other members that were there say that Sirhan was not
15 there.

16 A But have they identified this other person as
17 the one that have been there?

18 Q We haven't got to that point, but we anticipate
19 that it will happen.

20 A Why sure, it probably will.

21 Q We anticipate that this gentleman will be
22 identified by any of the people that were close enough to
23 have paid attention and to have been able to observe the man
24 that had the altercation with you.

25 A And most of the people there when the altercation
26 started, because there were different altercations, not only

1 this one, and they left. Now it all comes to the point of
2 credibility gap, credibility. It is there and comes to--and
3 the--I'm not bringing in the moral aspect. They are
4 Communists and we are not.

5 Q I understand.

6 A We are loyal Americans and they are not.

7 Q I understand.

8 A And I'm bringing the point in because it has no
9 weight whatsoever. In the trial they would discard that.

10 Q Yes.

11 A Emotions. They are just emotional as I am. I
12 can say that because they baited me, and they became emotional.
13 Now it just comes to the identification, declarations, or
14 statements of these people that were there and for my stand
15 which is based on these presumptions. Presumptions that I
16 received from the investigators. Point of view valid. I
17 believe in all honesty that my deductions are valid. My
18 deductions as to investigative time and just like--take Earl
19 Ray, for instance, no one saw him shoot Martin Luther King,
20 but there is a day when he is going to be brought to a trial.
21 Now what he might say--circumstantial evidence, not it comes
22 to me who to believe, these people or these other people,
23 and he comes to the credibility gap. Right. Who are these
24 people? What right--what motivation would they have to say
25 different than I am. All right, my motivation might be this
26 is hurting Castro. These people express themselves. In his

1 mind there has been an image--not a criteria, but an image,
2 because a criteria is something that comes from analysis,
3 from deduction, from logic, whereas an opinion is based on
4 emotion, on--sociologically speaking--from a consensus. This
5 might be a consensus; this might be an image. But from the
6 objective point of view I have, I have as many valid--I
7 wouldn't say reasons, suppositions, because I don't believe
8 that you have the reasons. Like I said (speaks in Spanish).

9 Q We have no motive but to seek the truth.

10 A Right. Right. But the reasons that bring out
11 a truth are nothing but suppositions. In this case your
12 investigation of talking to (speaks in Spanish) Their state-
13 ments, and their statements here, and then you put in the
14 balance to weigh of your experience and support. The Cubans
15 may have (*) specifically must, could, should, probably have
16 it in motivation. If for a reason to make this a (*) I'd
17 say in French (*) I will say in English (*) President Kennedy
18 shooting in Dallas, so this brings out the question just like
19 raising a (*) or an inference, just to bring out the question
20 of ethics--but still down to brass tacks is the credibility
21 gap. A, bear in mind (*) This gentleman that came here with
22 the beard of which I said there was a malice of aforethought.
23 If there was malice of aforethought, and from our conversa-
24 tion you might have to guess that I'm no stupid person (*)
25 I'm a very intelligent--but I'd say I'm cultured. But I
26 could perceive--well, if I want to make this stick in my case

1 I would say him--I don't know. But if I had done this, you
2 would have found the truth. You would have found the truth,
3 and I couldn't risk a lie, so he was there, yes. And he was
4 sitting with the person I presume is Sirhan. Just like I
5 say here, it's just a matter of technicalities, semantics.
6 They are rich. And I got in an argument with Bob DeLoan
7 because, as I said, what do you mean they are rich, they are
8 fascists. Oh, no, 27 people saw him in the commission of
9 the act--still you have to say they are rich. It's a matter
10 of technicalities. Just like they were saying, there's a
11 Supreme Court interest in finding out the truth about
12 technicalities, and there you have another case and you have
13 to abide by it. Here we have to abide by it. He's a con-
14 fessed murderer, but there wasn't a lawyer in front, and I
15 weigh that right all by myself. So you don't have to bring
16 a lawyer here or anywhere else. I--but I put it in favor
17 of the Americans, but it appears here they abuse the techni-
18 calities, and here we come to the technicalities--this man
19 come over here and says, "Yeah, I admit that I was there."

20 Oh, it was a very heated argument, but he doesn't come
21 out and say why was it heated, because they would have to
22 confess they were deprecating the United States. They were
23 pro-Communist in their expressions and support. And then I
24 don't think it was as bad as that--maybe they were afraid.
25 Don't they trust--

26 Q Wouldn't this explain to you why they didn't come

forward before?

A Don't they trust--don't they trust the law of the judicial system? I do. Don't they trust the judicial system of this country? I do. They don't. They're working against it and was in favor of it, so it comes right back to where we are. Like I said before, Lieutenant, I will face anybody; I'll put it on tape; I'll put it on a statement, in writing; and I will say this like I said it before--the gentlemen of the Department, the gentlemen of the police, I (*) they have said this. I respect them without exception, just like they do in court. In court they overrule (*) I admit it because the judge--(*) I will not question whatsoever your investigation, your judgment, whatsoever. I'll make exception of it (*).

Q That's fair enough, and we do agree on the existing fact that--that honest people make honest mistakes.

A Yes. Yes, like I said before to err is human, or I mean any human can err, only God can rectify. And I would be willing to rectify if I could.

LT. PENNA: Anything you would like to add?

SGT. MCGANN: I can't think of anything.

A Anything I can do, anything. I've had a lot of work to do. I have put it aside to be here, to be available at any time.

Q BY LT. PENNA: May we contact you again?

A Surely, you can contact me at any time. I won't

1 be leaving here. Probably I go out to lunch, and maybe I
2 try to contact the university. I do research there or some-
3 thing, but I--see all the books she have brought me? See,
4 I'm doing some research here. I have recently finished the
5 History of Cuba.

6