

The Wegmann Files Part II

By Jim DiEugenio

In the last issue, we mentioned the importance of both Gordon Novel and the FBI affiliated Wackenhut private investigatory service. Although Novel appears to have worked for CIA, he was also a frequent informer to the Bureau, which was very interested in Garrison's progress. Novel made many trips to various FBI offices, and according to his *Playboy* lawsuit deposition, the FBI would often visit him at home. A particularly interesting report is one dated 2/9/68 which went directly from J. Edgar Hoover to Richard Helms, then CIA Director. In it, Hoover quotes Novel as stating that he knows Shaw's

Bill & Ed's lawyers "... plan to subpoena many Federal officials ... involved in the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy." And further:

Mr. Novel added that Shaw's attorneys feel that testimony of reputable Government witnesses regarding the lack of evidence that there was a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy will be their best defense for Clay Shaw.

Hoover was quite interested in this strategy because the more holes Garrison punched in the *Warren Report*, the worse the Bureau would look, since the Warren Commission relied on the FBI as its major investigatory arm. And although *officially*, Hoover stayed clear of any role in Garrison's probe, there are many indications that *unofficially*, the Bureau was working to undermine him. One of the avenues of operation was through Wackenhut.

Surveilling Garrison: Wackenhut and the FBI

In part one, I mentioned that it appeared that Wackenhut was availing itself of some FBI databases to get leads and background on prospective Garrison witnesses. Through the Review Board's securing of the extant Garrison files, we now know that the Wackenhut-FBI interplay went further. In Lou Ivon's memo, (at right), former FBI agent—now prominent banker—William Walter, reveals some significant information about the FBI's role in both the Warren Commission's cover-up, and its electronic surveillance of

Garrison's probe. Later on, in 1977, when Garrison was contemplating suing the U. S. government for illegal surveillance, he interviewed Walter in person. Well-established in his new career, the banker felt free to be more specific and detailed about what he knew about the wiring of Garrison's office.

In this interview, Walter reaffirmed that Garrison's office was wired. Walter named several of the former FBI agents and one undercover agent who had been transferred to the phone company's security office, "...from which vantage point, under a longstanding arrangement between the Bureau and the phone company, he can patch anyone's phone line into the Bureau's local cable for self-activating recordings."

Walter revealed that this technical crew was working under the supervision of former FBI agent, now Wackenhut agent, Charles Carson (named in part one as giving many reports to the Wegmanns). This relationship, of course, clearly implies that since Carson was working for the Wegmanns, he would be informing to them on important developments revealed in this surveillance. But according to Walter, this operation went even higher. He stated that the audio tapes of the surveillance were transcribed nearly every day in the New Orleans FBI office. How was he so sure about this part of the operation? Because he later *married the Bureau secretary who typed up the transcripts*. Another Wackenhut agent, Bob Wilson (also employed by the Wegmanns) moved into a hotel room in New Orleans from his home in Biloxi, Mississippi to be in on the operation. One of Wilson's assignments was to personally tail Garrison. Originally, the surveillance was done by Wackenhut on assignment for Aaron Kohn, a strong Wegmann ally and head of the Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC). But Garrison's memo of the Walter interview reads:

However, Walter makes clear that this was just a thin cover to protect the Bureau and "explain" its entry into the operation. Besides the Bureau clerk typing the transcripts of my conversations in the Bureau office, recordings of my conversations were monitored in the Bureau's

Technical Surveillance room and a full file was maintained in the office filing cabinets on my phone calls.

In regard to the MCC's eager cooperation with the Bureau and Wackenhut on this electronic eavesdropping, it is interesting to note that one of Kohn's positions earlier in life was "administrative assistant" to J. Edgar Hoover himself. The man who followed Kohn as head of the MCC was Warren DeBrueys a special agent of the FBI, who was quite active with the Cuban exile community in New Orleans and also in the Bureau's investigation of Oswald. Clearly, the Wegmanns, through Wackenhut and Kohn, were getting a lot of help from the Bureau. Garrison's notes from his Walter's interview state that the Bureau's motive

...was to see what leads I was checking out on the Kennedy assassination and to make sure that my investigative efforts did not "embarrass" the FBI....

In a mutuality of interests then, the Wegmanns and

the FBI coalesced into what now appears to be the illegal monitoring of a state official during a homicide investigation.

Walter Sheridan: Washington Touchstone

The web of forces in the capitol intent on monitoring Garrison and helping the Wegmanns is much broader than the FBI. One of the touchstones leading out of the Crescent City and into D. C. is, again, NBC "correspondent" Walter Sheridan. It was Sheridan who hired Novel for the network's hatchet job on Garrison. It was also Sheridan who arranged for Novel's dubious polygraph exam in McLean, Virginia (see part one of this article). But the tributaries and streams around Sheridan are even richer. To take one instance that has been noted, although not yet examined and plumbed, when Garrison was attempting to try Sheridan for attempted bribery in Louisiana court, Sheridan had a battery of lawyers there to defend him. Two local ones were the well-known Milton Brener, and the relatively obscure Edward Baldwin. Unlike Brener, Baldwin did not write a book about Garrison

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MEMORANDUM

May 22, 1973

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: LOUIS IVON, Chief Investigator

RE: Phone call from BILL WALTERS [sic]
May 11, 1973 at approximately 4:10 P. M.

I received a telephone call from a person who identified himself as BILL WALTERS who wanted to speak to JG. He identified himself as the fellow who was in contact with this office when he was working as a clerk in the local FBI office. He went on to say that he doesn't personally like JG, that he believed JG was sincere in what he was doing because he personally knew that messages were sent through the office where he was working where reports or memos by agents, if they didn't coincide, the agents were advised to make the necessary changes so there wouldn't be a question about the Warren Report. There were also complete statements from various individuals which were eliminated by the agents.

He said he had been watching and reading about this Watergate with the bugs and break-ins and said he personally knew that during our investigation there were ten or fifteen agents assigned to the New Orleans office to follow our investigators to see what leads we were checking out. He said he personally knew that there were some telephone taps in New Orleans and he specifically mentioned the Governor House where a HARRY BENNETT who was from Gulfport, Mississippi, telephone was tapped by one CHANDLER JOSEY who works closely with the FBI. He said another bug was put in on the Chef Menteur Highway by a motel. He could not remember the name but the person that owned the hotel was a woman who worked for the State Insurance Commission. One night an agent by the name of NAT BROWN picked the lock at the motel, removed a lamp from the office, placed a bug in the lamp and went back and replaced the lamp in the office of the motel.

He said ex-agents BOB WILSON, CHARLIE CARSON of Southern Research, were hired by the MCC to investigate the District Attorney's office.

All these taps were being monitored in a room called the Technical Surveillance Room or the Bulky Exhibit Room which is located on the seventh floor on Loyola Avenue.

He said there was a fellow by the name of KEN KENDRICK who was an investigative clerk classified as GS7 who was an electronics expert who they also used. Other names mentioned were Agents JOSEPH SYLVESTER, ERNIE WALL, C. L. MURRAY (GS7), FURMAN BOGAN (who now has security at Nichols State College) and a fellow by the name of MAYNARD who was the head of the New Orleans area.

He stated that he wanted to give JG this information. He didn't want any money nor any publicity. He wanted to be assured that his name would be kept in complete confidence. He further stated he would call between 3:30 and 4:00 the following Tuesday to speak to JG.

[In the above 1973 memo, Walter refers to Wackenhut by its old name, Southern Research. MCC refers to the Metropolitan Crime Commission. - Eds.]

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or his experiences opposing him. Yet Baldwin was not just a local attorney for Sheridan. He also turns out to be the lawyer for Sheridan aide-de-camp, Rick Townley. Beyond that he also provided legal help for probable Garrison infiltrator Bill Gurvich. Over a month after Sheridan's infamous NBC special (originally planned for two parts) Baldwin was still funneling information from Sheridan and Hugh Aynesworth to Ed Wegmann. And just as Sheridan arranged for Novel's "polygraph" before he began his publicity tour blasting Garrison, it was Baldwin who arranged Gurvich's polygraph as he began his tour.

From the above duties—and there were more—the obstruction of Garrison provided ample billable hours for Mr. Baldwin. So much so that his partner, one James F. Quaid Jr., wanted in on some of the lucrative opportunities. But Quaid did not query Townley or Aynesworth in case they needed help. Apparently, Baldwin told him to go right to the horse's mouth. As we can see (from his letter pictured below), Quaid did just that. He wrote

BALDWIN AND QUAID
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1018 DE MONTELUZIN BUILDING
234 LOYOLA AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112

EDWARD M. BALDWIN
JAMES F. QUAID JR.

May 18, 1967

Honorable Richard Helms, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 "E" Street
Washington D. C.

AIR MAIL

Dear Mr. Helms:

I am a practicing member of the Louisiana State Bar, have been admitted to practice in the Federal Courts in this area, have served as a Judge ad hoc in the State Courts and in both the Civil and Criminal divisions.

It is requested that your office place my name on their referral list of qualified attorneys in this area.

A suggested reference of a private federal agency that has used my services in the past is the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans.

If there are any further questions concerning my qualifications please contact the undersigned hereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ JAMES F. QUAID, JR.

to CIA Director Richard Helms.

Mr. Quaid received a response to his letter from Helms' personal friend and CIA counsel, Lawrence Houston. Although Houston expressed appreciation for Quaid's offer, Houston replied that no such "referral list of attorneys" actually existed. There is a difference between what the *overt* operators say, and what the *covert* side does. Even before Houston's letter was mailed, at least three different sections of the Company were assessing Mr. Quaid: Domestic Contact Services (DCS), the New Orleans CIA station, and James Angleton and Ray Rocca of Counterintelligence.

Angleton's memo requesting information on Quaid, in turn went to three other desks at the Agency. (To show further how "in the family" this circle of lawyers opposing Garrison was, Burton Klein, attorney for Dave Ferrie's pal Al Beaubouef, had been a former associate of Irvin Dymond.)

Further undermining Houston's denial is another CIA document declassified last year. It refers to Lloyd Cobb, who along with Shaw, ran the International Trade Mart in the '60's.

The first paragraph of the 3/18/68 document reads:

Lloyd J. Cobb, born 19 July 1904, New Orleans, Louisiana, senior member of the law firm, COBB and Wright, New Orleans, Louisiana, was granted a Provisional Security Approval on 19 June 1967 to permit contact and assessment of COBB in connection with his use on a *Cleared Attorneys' Panel* for the Office of General Counsel. [Emphasis added].

The head of this "Office of General Counsel" was Houston himself. Apparently, CIA wished to investigate Quaid more thoroughly before admitting the panel existed.

Novel's "Clandestine" Funding

Furthering the idea of a CIA-backed "attorneys panel" is a list of queries put to Gordon Novel in preparation for his lawsuit against *Playboy* and Garrison. It is revealed in those documents that Novel met with Elmer Gertz, his libel specialist, as early as 1967, when the Garrison in-

terview in *Playboy* was published. This lawsuit dragged on until 1971. Since Novel was employing three attorneys at the time—with no visible means of support—it is logical to ask: Where was he getting the money to pay these lawyers? David Krupp, attorney for *Playboy*, addressed this curious point twice as part

of pre-deposition interrogatories. Let us quote Novel's two answers:

As of this date, I have paid a total of \$3,700 to my attorneys, Steve Plotkin in New Orleans and Jerry Weiner in Columbus, I have entered into an arrangement with Elmer Gertz, my present counsel, and such arrangement is privileged (3/14/68).

Lloyd J. Cobb was considered for use on a CIA "Cleared Attorneys' Panel"

On April 19, 1969, Novel slightly altered his answer:

My attorneys [Plotkin and Weiner] refused fees for this matter, but it is my understanding that they were *clandestinely* remunerated by a party or parties unknown to me in the amount of \$1,633.33 each. (Emphasis added.)

But in these interrogatories, Novel reveals something that is just as—perhaps more—important than these clandestine payments. As one of the people who he consulted with about the effects of the *Playboy* interview on his reputation, he listed *another* lawyer: Herbert "Jack" Miller of Washington D.C. What makes this fascinating is not just that the itinerant Novel now has four lawyers in his employ, but that Walter Sheridan also employed Herbert Miller. In the August 1967 editions of the *New Orleans Times Picayune*, Miller is described as Sheridan's "personal attorney from Washington D. C." Miller flew into New Orleans at the time Garrison was attempting to prosecute Sheridan and stayed for days at a time, closely consulting with Brener while awaiting the grand jury's action against Sheridan.

The Return of Jack Miller

The presence of Miller in the Garrison investigation, especially in aid of two men bent on obstructing him, completes a fateful arc in the JFK investigation. That arc began in November of 1963. At that time, Miller was assistant Attorney General and chief of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department. Technically, this puts Miller at about the level of Hoover in the assassination investigation. According to both Seth Kantor and William Manchester, within about 72 hours of Kennedy's murder, Miller was Washington's man on the scene in Dallas *coordinating the FBI, Justice Department and Texas investigations*. In fact, Miller was essentially coopting Waggoner Carr's local inquiry until Washington could formally take jurisdictional control away from Texas. When Lyndon Johnson, right after

Maurice Gatlin: Another Langley Lawyer in the Big Easy?

Since New Orleans was such a hub of intelligence activities, Washington needed a phalanx of friendly lawyers in place to help protect those activities. In part one of this piece, we showed how Guy Banister was associated with both Bill Wegmann and Guy Johnson, attorneys for Clay Shaw, in a network of both covert and overt intelligence activity. The focus of most of these actions were toward Latin America. But Banister, as we shall see, was associated with another attorney whose activities in this netherworld seem to have ranged even wider.

Maurice Gatlin was born in Century, Florida in 1903. He graduated from Loyola in New Orleans and then Tulane Law School. According to a 1957 FBI report, he was a lawyer "who is not well regarded by other lawyers...and is considered a shyster of the first water." As researcher Jerry Shinley has discovered, as early as 1949 the FBI learned that "Gatlin had suggested his friend infiltrate the Communist Party and report back any information to Gatlin." In 1950 Gatlin associated with a broad group of business and professional men, seaman and laborers who were concerned about "the international situation, particularly regarding Communist matters." Gatlin was their point of contact with the FBI. Later in 1950 he reported to the Bureau that he had uncovered an undercover Communist, a member of the National Lawyers Guild, working as an examiner for the FCC.

Shinley has also discovered that Gatlin was sometimes in possession of inside information as to CIA-related activities. In a

discussion between Dennis Flinn of the State Department and J. Edgar Hoover, Flinn revealed that in two letters from November 1953 to Asst. Secretary John Cabot, Gatlin warned of a "plan by certain American business interests" to invade Guatemala. Gatlin even made an offer to brief Cabot: "If you are interested in the details of the plan engineered by certain American business interests, I shall be happy to make them known to you at your request." This inside knowledge of the CIA-United Fruit 1954 Guatemala coup was not limited to Gatlin. Banister crony Allen Campbell, in 1994, told me that both Banister and David Ferrie were involved in the training of the Guatemalan military after the Jacobo Arbenz government was overthrown. Also, that Banister had sent him down there later undercover in an "air show" (Campbell was a pilot) to monitor progress on that front. Gatlin also crossed paths with Howard Hunt, having attended an anti-communist conference in Guatemala in 1958 that Hunt had organized.

Gatlin also appears to have been a recruiter of young law school graduates into his causes. Shinley has discovered declassified State Department documents which show that in 1960, William Martin mailed a letter to Secretary of State Christian Herter. In it, Martin asks for advice in a career matter. He was being recruited as a law student just out of Tulane by Gatlin. Gatlin wanted Martin to join his and Banister's Anti-communist League of the Caribbean (ACL). Martin wants Herter to vouch for the legality of this enterprise. He writes, "I am particularly concerned since I have been offered duties which will involve travel in the Latin American coun-

tries as an Intelligence Agent for this organization." We don't know what Herter's response was, but we do know that Martin went on to have an office in Shaw's Trade Mart from which he filed reports to the CIA.

Gatlin's direct association with Banister is proven by his letter to the *New Orleans Times Picayune* of 10/5/60. In regard to intercepting a supply of jeeps headed for Castro's Cuba, Gatlin wrote in to correct an error. He could not share credit for "his investigator's" seizure of the vehicles; all credit should go to Mr. Banister. For this effort, Gatlin was awarded the Ruben Darlo Medal, presented to him by Nicaraguan Consul Reynaldo Chavez on behalf of the Somoza family.

It was Bill Turner who first revealed some of the nefarious activities of Gatlin in his article "The Garrison Commission" in *Ramparts* of January, 1968. He reported that Gatlin was general counsel to the above ACL group and was a member of the steering committee of the world umbrella group of the ACL, which was global in scope. According to Turner's source, Gatlin liked to boast about his undercover duties, including his courier work for the CIA. He once stated that he was going to Paris to give money to a French military group attempting to assassinate DeGaulle, presumably the OAS rebel group unhappy with DeGaulle's Algeria policy. Turner also found out that Shaw's shadowy Italian "trade group" Permindex was also involved in the funneling of money for this attempt on DeGaulle's life. ♦

Kennedy's burial, ordered Nicolas Katzenbach to compile a report on Oswald, Katzenbach assured him that Miller was already flying to Texas to get on that immediately.

So here we have the spectacle of a man who, in 1963, was a major player in the original—and abominable—investigation of the assassination, resurfacing less than four years later to aid Sheridan in making sure that Garrison's probe will not be successful. By 1967, Miller was a high-priced Washington lawyer in the firm of Miller, McCarthy, Evans, and Cassidy. The Evans in this firm is a former top FBI officer, Courtney Evans (Evans had also been in the Bureau during its pathetic "investigation" of the JFK case). How does

one explain the incredible resurrection of Miller's interest in the supposedly "solved" assassination?

A Faustian Bargain

Before we answer that question, we should return to Shaw's defense team which, as revealed in Fred Leemans' affidavit (*Probe* Vol. 4 #4), was working closely with Sheridan. As some commentators on the Garrison case have pointed out, Shaw's lawyers used every possible legal tactic to delay a trial for their client. At various stops along the way—the preliminary hearing, an appeal to a federal court in 1968—they argued that the *Warren Report* should be binding on the JFK case. According

to Mort Sahl, at one step, Dymond had:

waved into the court room two men with wheelbarrows containing the 26 volumes of the *Warren Report*. As they proceeded down the aisle toward the bench, the three judges conferred with each other. They stated that they would not accept the *Warren Report* as evidence.... (*Heartland* p. 104.)

Shaw's lawyers must have known that no court could have accepted as binding something as porous as the *Warren Commission*. Again, there seems to be something at work behind the scenes, at a higher level. That "something" is hinted at in Ed Wegmann's letter to Jack Ruby's sister Eva Grant (3/11/68) in which he states,

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Let me assure you once again that I believe the *Warren Report* in every respect...

To trace the beginnings of Ed Wegmann's epistemological certitude, we must go back to March of 1967. Two days after Shaw's arrest on March 1st, the Wegmanns sent a telegram to Attorney General Ramsey Clark. It reads in part as follows:

We have been retained to represent Clay L. Shaw charged by the District Attorney for the Parish of Orleans with conspiring and entering into an agreement with others for the purpose of committing the crime of murder of John F. Kennedy STOP In the interest of justice we respectfully request a meeting with you at the earliest possible date STOP Edward F. Wegmann can be reached at area code 504-524-0732 or 861-3844 William J. Wegmann can be reached at area code 504-524-2206 or 488-0155.

This was just the beginning of the Wegmanns' efforts to get Washington directly involved in Shaw's defense. Through Wackenhut agent Bob Wilson, they apparently urged Orleans Parish prisoner John Cancler to seek a consultation with the FBI about misdeeds by Garrison. Through Bill Wegmann's former law partner Herb Racivitch, the Wegmanns tried to get a private conference with J. Edgar Hoover. At the end of a 4/17/67 FBI memo the following is noted:

Wegmann was previously in touch with the Bureau by phone on 3/9/67, at which time Wegmann requested the FBI in Washington instruct New Orleans office of the FBI to cooperate and make available the "rap sheet" (criminal or arrest record) of the individual Garrison named as the informant against Clay Shaw.

On May 11th, Hoover wrote a memo to Ramsey Clark in this regard. He described a meeting Ed Wegmann had held with assistant Attorney General Harold Sanders. After this meeting, Wegmann went to the FBI's Washington headquarters. Although not clear, it is implied, that Wegmann met directly with Hoover. The object of the meeting was ostensibly to get a retraction of the 3/3/67 *New York Times* story stating, from a Justice Department source, "that Mr. Bertrand and Mr. Shaw were the same man."

But there was something else on Wegmann's agenda. Hoover writes that the object of the Sanders meeting was "...an attempt to have the Department of Justice order the FBI to enter the investigation...being conducted in New Orleans by District Attorney James C. Garrison." The object of the FBI meeting was to express an interest "...in securing...any information in our files concerning Clay Shaw or the results of any investigation which had been conducted by

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

To : Mr. Ramsey Clark
The Attorney General

DATE: September 22, 1967

From: Fred M. Vinson, Jr. and J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

Attached for your information is a copy of the memorandum summarizing the conference held Thursday, September 21, 1967, between Mr. Nathaniel E. Kossack, First Assistant, Criminal Division, and Messrs. Edward F. Wegmann and Irvin Dymond, counsel for Clay L. Shaw. A copy of this memorandum has been furnished to Lawrence Houston, General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, with request for his comments.

At the conference, Messrs. Dymond and Wegmann expressed their belief that if Clay L. Shaw is convicted of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy, not only will the Warren Commission and the Commission's Report be completely discredited, but confidence throughout the world in the United States Government will be undermined. They expressed amazement and horror that one prosecutor in one medium sized city could so affect the international stature of the United States. They cited the results of a public opinion poll taken in Louisiana during August at the direction of Governor John J. McKeithen, which revealed that 88% of those interviewed had a favorable impression of Jim Garrison. The District Attorney is a dangerous, irresponsible man and must be stopped they concluded.

Dymond and Wegmann were disparaging of Judge Haggerty who is scheduled to preside at the Shaw trial, saying that he is a notorious alcoholic. Also that he is rumored to have "bounced" a number of checks in the New Orleans area, checks which Garrison is supposed to have covered and collected, and now keeps in a file to guarantee Haggerty's "cooperation". Because of Haggerty's (possibly forced) disposition against Shaw, Dymond and Wegmann are hesitant to seek a change of venue, lest Haggerty assign the case to another parish where the political climate might be even less favorable.

Dymond and Wegmann, who claim that they are forced "to play with a stacked deck," presented a strong plea for investigative assistance and cooperation to help them refute charges that are otherwise unanswerable. Ultimately, their objective is access to information in the CIA files. Mr. Kossack said only that we would communicate with them further, without any pledge of assistance.

the FBI regarding the latter." Hoover notes in the memo that he had to decline this overture on grounds of confidentiality.

By September, the attitude of the Justice Department had warmed. On 9/21/67 there was a meeting between Ed Wegmann, Irvin Dymond, and Nathaniel Kossack of the Criminal Division of Justice. At this meeting Wegmann and Dymond dropped a laundry list of requests in Kossack's lap. They requested financial information on Oswald, investigatory files on Jack Ruby's roommate George Senator, and access to CIA files on David Ferrie, Novel, Shaw, attorney Burton Klein and them-

selves! Revealingly, they wanted to ascertain the FBI's willingness to conduct an investigation of Garrison witness Perry Russo for its psychological effect alone i.e. to "shake up Russo." Importantly, in exchange, they seem to offer to bolster and support the government's verdict on the case, that is the *Warren Report*. This proposed bargain seems to explain the near religious belief Shaw's lawyers have in the Warren Commission to this very day. (As Irvin Dymond explained to me in 1994, the Commission was a sloppy inquest but it got the essentials right.) Two memos of this meeting with Kossack went to Lawrence Houston

at CIA. (The first one is pictured at left.) Interestingly, in the second one dated 9/28/67, it is reported that Kossack got the "very clear impression that Shaw had not told them [his lawyers] of his previous contacts with CIA." This is quite revealing of the depths of Shaw's secrecy about his service with the Agency. In fact, when this message was relayed to the New Orleans CIA station, they found it "hard to believe" that Shaw's contacts were not revealed to Dymond.

Although there was no overt deal yet, the Wegmanns were insistent on getting direct FBI help in exchange for upholding the *Warren Report*. By 1969, on the eve of the Shaw trial, they appear to have succeeded. A 2/7/69 memo by the Dallas office discusses a series of meetings from 1/31/69 through 2/6/69. Ed Wegmann "indicated that the defense attorneys needed someone outside the State of Louisiana to assist them in their investigations." Since this unsigned memo is still partly redacted, it is impossible to state precisely who was involved in the deal that appears to be in effect at that time. But the Bureau "agreed to check out state witnesses or potential state witnesses" who would testify for Garrison. In fact, the memo states that the FBI had already checked out two witnesses whose names are not revealed but "were referred... by Attorney Ed Wegmann." Again, at the end of the memo, Wegmann assures the Bureau "that the defense of CLAY SHAW is going to do everything possible to uphold the *Warren Report*...."

Sheridan-Miller-CIA

This explicit aid by the FBI to Shaw's defense seems to be only the *direct* part of a network that has been working through *indirect* channels for a long time. Although Lawrence Houston was alerted by Justice to the September meeting of Wegmann with Kossack, it appears that CIA was indirectly in contact with the Wegmanns at an earlier date. This seems to have been done through the Walter Sheridan-Herbert Miller connection. The earliest known CIA memo on this is dated 5/8/67. Houston's assistant counsel Richard Lansdale wrote up two phone calls he had with Miller. They concerned the trip to Washington by David Ferrie's friend Al Beaubouef, who had accompanied Ferrie on his trip to Texas the weekend of the assassination. Lansdale reveals in his memos that Miller's source about the imminent visit by Beaubouef is Sheridan. Miller's function was to arrange a conference with his former cronies at the Justice Department for Beaubouef, apparently at Sheridan's urging. Lansdale notes that Miller assured him that "Beaubouef would be glad to talk with us or help in any way we want."

This is notable in two ways. First, as Gar-

risson noted in his *Playboy* interview—and as is borne out by the record—after this trip "a change came over Beaubouef; he refused to cooperate with us any further and he made charges against my investigators...." This differed from his previous attitude toward the DA. Secondly, the date of this memo is many weeks before the broadcast of Sheridan's special. Therefore it precedes any of the legal entanglements Sheridan had with Garrison. Yet Sheridan's lawyer Miller—the first Justice Department representative into Dallas in 1963—is serving as a "cut-out" *well before* his overt role as Sheridan's "personal Washington lawyer" is revealed. This implies that Sheridan had a covert assignment, and covert sponsors, from the beginning.

Lansdale's memo of May 8th went to both the Office of Security and James Angleton's Counterintelligence unit, among other places

Allen Dulles was in contact with Gordon Novel and was forwarding material from him to CIA

in CIA. Yet Angleton already seemed aware of Beaubouef's trip. And whoever Angleton's unnamed source on this was, the information was given to that person by Sheridan also. In his May 9th memo, Angleton alerted his FBI contact, Sam Papich, of the Sheridan-Beaubouef visit to Washington and Beaubouef's importance to Garrison's case. Three days later, both Lansdale and Angleton (through his chief assistant Ray Rocca) received even stronger overtures from Sheridan and Miller. Lansdale wrote that Miller had called on May 11th and said that Sheridan would be willing to meet with CIA "under any terms we propose." Sheridan would be willing to make the CIA's view of Garrison "a part of the background in the forthcoming NBC show." Lansdale goes on to write that Miller was selected by the CIA to be part of an unrelated litigation matter they were involved in and that he had worked closely with him on that matter and was "quite favorably impressed with him."

At this point, there is a gap in the declassified correspondence. But there can be no doubt that Miller continued and expanded in his role as willing conduit for the Company in aid of Shaw's defense. On May 31, 1968 there

appears a note from Miller to Lansdale:

Dear Dick:

Enclosed are the documents I received from Clay Shaw's attorney, Ed Wegmann.

Best regards

Later, in June, Miller made two such drop-offs for Wegmann in the space of nine days. In fact, by 1968, Miller was serving as a CIA courier not just for the Wegmanns but for Gordon Novel also. When Garrison was trying to extradite Novel from Ohio, the Company seemed very interested in the progress of those legal proceedings. They could not request a copy of the hearings directly of course, so they got the transcripts through Novel's lawyer, the same Herbert "Jack" Miller. In March of 1968, Miller wrote to Lansdale:

Dear Dick:

Enclosed is the transcript of the testimony which you requested in the Gordon Novel case. (Emphasis added.)

But there is another person who was also forwarding material to the Agency for Novel. One of the most curious comments made by Novel while he was ensconced in Columbus evading Garrison's subpoena occurred in February of 1968. He told a reporter that in response to Garrison's subpoena, he would "wait and see what Mr. Dulles does." (Allen Dulles had been called by Garrison around the same time.) Most people could not fathom what this curious comment could mean; others had just cast it off as irresponsible drivel from the loquacious Novel. It now is revealed that *Allen Dulles was in contact with Novel and was forwarding material from him to CIA*. When Miller came to Novel's aid and got an Ohio court to reject Garrison's subpoena, Novel forwarded a press clipping on the victory to the former CIA Director, and noted that he himself could take advantage of the legal precedent to avoid Garrison's subpoena. This is what probably was meant by Novel's "wait and see" comment quoted above. Dulles then forwarded Novel's cover letter to Lawrence Houston, keeping the enclosed clippings for himself. But there was another enclosure in Dulles' 3/14/68 letter to Houston (see page 22).

There is as yet no evidence that the Wegmanns' proposed meeting took place. In fact, Dulles wrote to Houston, "I do not propose to make any answer and plan to avoid seeing the writer unless you have other views."

Surveying Courses of Action

So far, we have outlined what appears to be essentially an intelligence gathering operation against Garrison. But as early as 1967 the Agency was liaising with the Justice Department

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ment as to what to do about Garrison. Houston was speaking at that time with Kossack and Carl Belcher. Houston wrote, "I think we should consider this aspect carefully at the Wednesday morning meeting...." The results of that meeting seem to have been positive since in late September of 1967—right after the Wegmann-Kossack meeting in Washington—a CIA memo went out surveying courses of action against Garrison. The two main courses outlined were to get sympathetic

members of Congress and/or the Executive branch—Clark Clifford is specifically named—to attack Garrison and to endorse the *Warren Report*. The second avenue is to use the media, both at home and abroad, to smear the DA. In anticipation of the Shaw trial, this memo says "it would be prudent to have carefully selected channels of communication lined up in advance." It suggests that Richard Helms, then DCI, should "assure that the newspaper outlets receive a coherent picture of Garrison's "facts" and motives." It then suggests using the United States Information Agency (USIA) for foreign media and urges Helms to ensure their cooperation through

Dean Rusk at State.

A week later, the "survey of actions" is fast becoming a reality as Donovan Pratt of Angleton's staff is suggesting specific "story lines" for press contacts to use in editorials. What were some of the prospective "story lines" CIA was anxious to get out? In a 6/28/67 memo from Ray Rocca to Houston, Rocca forwards derogatory information on Garrison that was supposedly "confirmed" by the FBI. The angles are dual: 1) Garrison's charges against Shaw compose a personal vendetta, and 2) Garrison is mentally unbalanced. Interestingly, for the former charge, Rocca uses the story started by Shaw himself, that *Probe* detailed in the last issue, about Shaw claiming to have seen Garrison throw a drink in his wife's face at a restaurant in the French Quarter.

EDWARD F. WEGMANN
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FRED P. WESTENBERGER

TELEPHONE 624-0732
NOTARY PUBLIC

March 11, 1968

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2723 Q Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The writer, together with F. Irvin Dymond and my brother William J. Wegmann, represent Clay L. Shaw who, as you probably know, has been indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury with having conspired to assassinate the late John F. Kennedy.

As I dictate this on Friday, the 8th, I note that you have once again been subpoenaed by the District Attorney for the Parish of New Orleans to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in connection with his alleged probe of the assassination.

Mr. Dymond and I will be in Washington on other business of Friday, March 22nd, at which time we would like to meet with you for the purpose of discussing this situation. If this date is not convenient, could you meet with us in the early afternoon of Thursday, the 21st. We do feel that such a meeting would be mutually advantageous and I trust that you will find time to see us.

I await your advice.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Edward F. Wegmann

EFW: ft
Airmail

cc: Mr. F. Irvin Dymond
cc: Mr. William J. Wegmann

CIA vs. Garrison: Escalation

From the incomplete declassified record, the changing of the CIA's attitude toward Garrison seems to have occurred in May of 1967. Up until this time, the Agency is mainly concerned with monitoring the DA. But there were two interesting cables passed from the CIA's Lloyd Ray in the New Orleans office to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. In the first, Ray notes a letter forwarded to him from a friend of his at the Agency for International Development (AID) in Washington. His friend had received a letter from a New Orleans lawyer, one Charles Dunbar, in which Dunbar noted that after a series of articles in the *States-Item* had been published:

From original skepticism, many people around town are beginning to think Jim might have something. In any event, I don't believe the CIA can play ostrich much longer.

The occasion of this letter seems to have been a series of articles in the *New Orleans States-Item* by Hoke May and Ross Yockey which treated the Garrison case seriously and actually exposed some of the CIA connections around Novel and his lawyers. There seems to have been a series of escalating actions due to the May-Yockey articles and the concern expressed over them. On May 16th John Greaney, Lawrence Houston's assistant, visited Lloyd Ray in New Orleans to discuss the Garrison investigation, from the record, the first time this happened. Ray's memo on this visit is about 60% redacted. Then, Bill Gurvich visited the *States-Item* offices, and somehow had Yockey and May pulled from the Garrison case. (In my 1995 interview with him, Yockey told me that he was then reassigned to high school football games. Shades of Gary Webb, who, after exposing the role of CIA operatives in domestic drug trafficking, has been transferred to the Cupertino beat.)

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Why Wackenhut?

Wackenhut Corporation had a close relationship with the FBI in the fifties and sixties. Almost as soon as the Wegmanns hired them, within a month of Shaw's arrest, Wackenhut agent Charles Carson was in contact with the New Orleans FBI office. He requested the files on the original 1963 investigation of Shaw. Although Carson was rebuffed at first, the Bureau's attitude warmed over time. This FBI-Wackenhut nexus may have been why the Wegmanns decided to hire Wackenhut originally.

Company founder George Wackenhut left the Bureau in 1954. With three other FBI employees, he founded the company that same year. Wackenhut had a rocky start and times were tough in those early years. But Wackenhut was centered in Florida, home of Senator George Smathers, longtime Cuban exile crony, and CIA-informant in the Kennedy camp. Smathers did his constituent a huge favor. Due to a federal ban, the government was forbidden to hire detective companies for their services. Smathers' law firm got around the law by splitting Wackenhut's company in two. One part would be an investigatory unit. The other—a subsidiary corporation—would be used for guard and security duties. Presto! Now, Wackenhut could be the recipient of federal largesse.

And was it ever. By 1966, Wackenhut was doing 17 million a year in business. About 95% of that total came from "guard and security duties." And almost 40% of those assignments originated with the government. The two biggest customers were the Atomic Energy Commission and NASA. By this time, Wackenhut was located in Coral Gables (hotbed of Cuban exile activity) with branches in 22 states and Latin America. Next to Burns and Pinkerton, it was the third largest such firm in America.

In the early sixties, Wackenhut's file collection centered on "subversive" activities i.e. communist influences. The Wackenhut Security Review, a monthly publication, wrote incessantly about colleges and universities harboring 'pinko' professors. On the Board of Wackenhut at that time were Ralph Davis of the John Birch Society, and Lloyd Wright of the American Security Council (future home

of James Angleton).

Another Wackenhut ally in the sixties was Florida Governor Claude Kirk. In 1966, Kirk won office by running a "tough on crime" campaign. Once elected he did something quite unusual: he contracted with a private security firm—Wackenhut—to investigate crime in Florida. According to ace crime reporter Hank Messick, the probe was a farce. The real targets seem to have been political foes of Kirk.

For these political connections, and its files on subversives, Wackenhut became known as the most ideologically driven of the Big Three detective services. This reputation was enhanced when the company secured the files of former ONI operative, Karl Barslaag. With this coup, Wackenhut boasted that it had the largest collection of personal dossiers of any agency except the FBI.

With the end of the Vietnam war and the fallout from Watergate, Wackenhut decided to alter course in the seventies. It gave away its subversive files and decided to pursue a strategy of melding with the government. It hired as its legal counsel future CIA Director Bill Casey. Board members would eventually include FBI Director Clarence Kelley, former Secret Service chief James Rowley, DIA Director Joseph Carroll, and two CIA Deputy Directors: Frank Carlucci, and Bobby Inman.

Like the Smathers-Kirk connections, these new Wackenhut connections seem to have paid off in spades. By 1991, Wackenhut had revenues of 600 million a year, a third of it coming from government contracts. When a competitor was asked by *Spy* magazine how Wackenhut came to attain all those lucrative government contracts, the answer was that it was "payback time" for Wackenhut's clandestine help. When asked to elaborate, another source said: "It is known throughout the industry that if you want a dirty job done, call Wackenhut."

Some of the "dirty jobs" have included the transport of equipment for the manufacture of chemical weapons to Saddam Hussein. This was done under the guise of shipping food stamps. In 1985 and 1986, a Wackenhut officer, Ernesto Bermudez, ran a 1,500 man battalion in El Salvador. When asked what the battalion was actually doing, he replied: "Things you wouldn't want your mother to know about." Wackenhut had a deal with former CIA weapons specialist John Nichols

to test and manufacture weapons at a California Indian reservation. The weapons were to be used by Casey's Contras.

The "dirty jobs" also extended to the CIA's allies. In 1991, a series of hearings in Washington exposed an especially nefarious assignment Wackenhut did for Exxon. In the wake of the Exxon Valdez disaster, many of that oil giant's employees decided to blow the whistle on other unethical/illegal practices that company was performing in Alaska. A major conduit for these informants was a man named Charles Hamel. Hamel had been a business partner of Exxon who had been victimized by their 1988 deception that Prudhoe Bay was "running dry". Because of this claim, Hamel sold his oil leases at fire sale prices. When he learned he had been duped, he became a bitter critic of Exxon's practices in Alaska.

Wackenhut was given the assignment of neutralizing Hamel. They set up a phony environmental group called Ecolit, replete with ersatz offices and officers. They lured Hamel in with promises of huge funding for publicity and lawsuits. Hamel fell for the scheme and began to reveal his informants' names, what they knew, and documents they had given him. Naturally, the informants were persecuted, and/or fired. One committed suicide. But even for Wackenhut, this was a slimy one. Some of the agents involved in the operation say it was prematurely shelved because of the seriousness of the crimes revealed which turned out to be mostly true.

Just how tightly had Wackenhut bonded with the CIA? Former Agency officer Bruce Berckmans has stated that George Wackenhut submitted a proposal allowing the CIA to use Wackenhut offices as fronts. Another CIA agent, Richard Babayan said: "Wackenhut has been used by the CIA and other intelligence agencies for years." Author and former officer Phil Agee on the subject: "I don't have the slightest doubt that the CIA and Wackenhut overlap." In light of all this, it is fascinating that the Wegmanns chose to hire Wackenhut in their fight against Garrison. One wonders if they were guided in this choice. Considering the Wegmann ties to Banister and Guy Johnson (exposed in part one) that seems a distinct possibility. ♣

Walter Sheridan & Co.

The two parts of this article have shed much light on the specifics of Walter Sheridan's role in the capsizing of Jim Garrison's probe into the JFK assassination. These newly available files confirm what many had suspected about him, that although he was working for NBC, his connections in Washington led to the top levels of the Justice Department and the CIA. In this aspect, it is interesting to recall that Sheridan, Herbert Miller, and Nicolas Katzenbach all worked for Bobby Kennedy at Justice. During the Warren Commission investigation, Katzenbach and Miller played prominent roles in that ersatz inquest. Some critics have tried to make the case that based on these associations, Sheridan and Katzenbach were really "Kennedy men". But some facts bring us to hesitate on that point. For instance, Katzenbach later became Undersecretary of State to Dean Rusk. When Rusk was getting battered by Sen. Bill Fulbright's Foreign Relations Committee over Vietnam, Katzenbach replaced him and defended Johnson's reversal of JFK's policy and its legality. This, of course, was in direct opposition to his "old boss" Bobby who was then, by 1967, a dove. It is in further opposition to what people like Pierre Salinger and Ted Sorenson, also Kennedy employees, did. At the tumultuous 1968 Democratic convention they fought (unsuccessfully) for an anti-war plank in Humphrey's platform.

There is another name from this former Justice Department group that deserves mention here. Carmine Bellino is often referred to as another "Kennedy man." Bellino worked with RFK on the McClellan Committee in the fifties, helping to put Teamsters president Dave Beck away. Like Walter Sheridan, he was a former FBI agent who Sheridan then brought into his own "Get Hoffa" unit in the sixties. Later, in the seventies, Bellino became one of the chief investigators for Senator Sam Ervin's Watergate Committee. As Jim Hougan notes in both *Spooks* and *Secret Agenda*, Bellino seems to have averted his eyes from any CIA participation in that scandal. It is hard to believe that someone with such a reputation as a sharp, tough investigator could have missed that prime role.

There is an aspect to Bellino's career that may help illuminate that quandary. As Hougan notes, and as a recently declassified CIA file on Robert Maheu certifies, in the fifties Maheu "rented desk space in a suite occupied by Carmine S. Bellino, a former Bureau Agent, Certified Public Accountant, and currently employed on Capitol Hill with one of the Congressional Committees."

As the document notes, this is at the same time that Maheu has formed Robert A. Maheu and Associates in Washington D. C. As a wide variety of commentators have written, and as this file proves, this "company" was a CIA "fix-it" operation which provided cover for Maheu to migrate from the FBI to the CIA. Eventually, one of the assignments Maheu had was to recruit assassins to kill Castro. In fact, Maheu had been cleared by the CIA's Office of Security to handle such assignments at the time he was sharing space with Bellino.

There is another interesting connection to note in this seemingly odd pairing of Bellino, a "Kennedy man" with a top level CIA operator. According to George Michael Evica and others, before he left the FBI, Maheu had been stationed in Chicago, as had been Guy Banister. Both Evica and Peter Dale Scott state that it is highly probable that Maheu knew of and worked with Guy Banister, who had been stationed in the Windy City around the same time period. And Maheu's evolution from the Bureau to a private investigatory service—which is handling "off the shelf" CIA assignments—does resemble Banister's move from Chicago to his New Orleans activities.

Also recently declassified at the National Archives is another document that makes the seemingly odd pairing of Maheu and Bellino not so odd. Joe Oster had been an acquaintance and partner of Banister's in the late fifties. He later worked for Southern Research, which then became Wackenhut Corporation. In Oster's interview with the House Select Committee on Assassinations, he revealed that one of the people who helped Banister get his "private detective" firm off the ground at this time was none other than Maheu's roomie, Carmine Bellino. So, at around the same time that Bellino is getting high level covert operator Maheu off the ground, he is doing the same with CIA operator Banister, albeit at a lower level.

Sheridan's own relationship with Bobby Kennedy should also be examined. Reportedly, Sheridan met RFK in 1958 through an anonymous "church friend". Kennedy hired him to work with Bellino on the McClellan Committee. Their relationship was sustained throughout the Hoffa prosecution. But although Sheridan tried to pawn off his view of Garrison on RFK—he arranged to have Garrison "defector" Bill Gurvich brief Bobby in June of 1967—there are indications that it did not take. For instance, Garrison associate Mort Sahl has stated that in 1968, as the race for the White House was on, Bobby expressed an intense curiosity as to what the DA was digging up.

It should also be remembered that in the concerted effort to remove State Department security officer Otto Otepka, Sheridan was apparently working with National Security Agency (NSA) officer David Belisle. Right before Sheridan met Bobby, he had worked at NSA. Reportedly, he rose to a high level in the Counter Intelligence section. If so, he must have been in contact with CIA Counter Intelligence czar, James Angleton, who as Lisa Pease indicates, seems to have wanted to stop Otepka from discovering if Oswald was a genuine defector or a CIA agent.

We should conclude with one last paradox. Sheridan is considered by his admirers (Dan Moldea, David Scheim, John Davis) an indefatigable gumshoe for causes he believed in, and was supposedly devoted to the Kennedys. Yet, to our knowledge, he never went after the official verdicts in either the JFK or RFK murders. To the contrary, he interfered and obstructed Garrison, and quite probably Otepka. In both cases, he did so in conjunction with intelligence agencies. Noting his association with Bellino, his role in undermining Garrison, his alleged role in wiretapping Otepka (*Probe* Vol. 4 No. 3, p. 13), it seems warranted to ask to whom or what forces Sheridan really owed loyalty. In that light Sheridan's legacy in the assassination research community is epitomized by Dan Moldea's 1995 whitewash of the RFK case. One of the people he dedicated that (awful) book to was Walter Sheridan. ♦

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In August, Ray Rocca requested that Ray's office be swept for electronic "bugs" planted by Garrison.

A month later, on September 7th, a watershed is reached. Irvin Dymond is now in direct contact with local CIA officer Lloyd Ray on the Garrison case. The wall of decorous deniability provided by people like Sheridan and Miller has been breached. Dymond's request for information is sent to CIA HQ. On September 26th, in a cable marked "restricted handling" and "SECRET", this clandestine channel to Shaw's lawyers appears to be OK'd by CIA HQ in Langley, Virginia. New Orleans then wires back, "I do not believe our contact with Dymond could possibly be twisted into a story of CIA association." This, of course, is a reversal of what official policy had been for months. In all the early memos and cables, the fact that Garrison could "exploit" just such a direct relationship outweighed any advantage that could be gained from it. In fact, on 4/25/67 Lloyd Ray had sent a memo to HQ voicing this very fear. Now, as long as such a tie could be kept secret, the balance has shifted the other way: Garrison had to be stopped, and the Company was willing to run a modicum of risk to do so. Certifying this escalation, a CIA cable of 1/8/68 reads in part:

[Garrison] case is of interest to several Agency components covering aspects which relate to Agency...office heavily committed to this endeavor.

CIA Smothers Garrison's Subpoenas

It is in this time period, May-September of 1967, that the Agency seems to have upgraded its stance toward Garrison from a somewhat passive to a heavily active mode. On May 15th, Dennis O'Keefe, another Agency counsel, met with Judge Sinclair of Fairfax County, Virginia. Sinclair would be involved in the transfer of any subpoenas or extradition requests to Langley from Garrison's office. O'Keefe briefed him of the CIA's views on any requests from Garrison. He wrote:

The Judge...promised to cooperate with us in every area whence in judicial and legal ethics would allow such cooperation. He said there would be no unnecessary publicity emanating from his court and stated that he would call Mr. Houston or myself if and when he heard anything relating to the service of Garrison's subpoena. I gave the Judge Mr. Houston's and my phone numbers and thanked him for his cooperation in this matter.

At around the same time, Garrison issued subpoenas for both Helms and any photographs of Oswald in Mexico City held by the

Agency. This request set off a chain reaction in Washington. The CIA first contacted Carl Belcher at Justice who was monitoring the Garrison investigation there. The Company then contacted both Lloyd Ray and the Justice Department representative in New Orleans, Louis LaCour. The point was to establish local contacts with Justice "in the event Mr. Ray did receive a subpoena." Next, CIA got in touch with Louisiana Congressman Ed Hebert of the CIA subcommittee in the House, who "...was very closely associated with the Agency; in fact, he had breakfast with Mr. Helms on 10 May." These contacts all turned out to be quite helpful. When Garrison's subpoenas arrived, Houston met with Belcher and, "It was agreed that the subpoena would be returned as not having been properly served...." There were *no legal grounds* discussed in this memo. Just a bald, blank assertion of non-service. It was also decided that Houston would write a letter to Judge Bagert in New Orleans who had issued the subpoena. Houston would deny there were any photos in CIA's possession depicting Oswald in Mexico City. The assertions in Houston's letter were run by both Attorney General Ramsey Clark and White House counsel, Harry McPherson. The skids were greased even more by Hebert, who actually called Judge Bagert. The judge agreed to keep the returned, unanswered subpoena under wraps, with little or no publicity. Hebert informed CIA, that on receipt of Houston's letter, Judge Bagert had called him back and "was very pleased with the letter and that he considered this "privileged" information and, therefore, had turned the letter over to the foreman of the Grand Jury." Houston was glad that the *New York Times* "did not refer to the CIA report addressed to the Judge."

The above demonstrated network may also explain why Wesley Liebler, living in Virginia at the time, was also able to dodge a Garrison subpoena. The story in the *New Orleans States-Item* on August 8, 1967 stated that a district court judge in Virginia "blocked" a request to have Liebler testify "after Liebler said he had personal business" conflicting with the court date.

So we finally know how the CIA managed to avoid testifying in New Orleans, and simultaneously to make Garrison look impotent and isolated in the process. But there is another instance that appears to be even more relevant to Shaw's actual trial. Before discussing it, we should print here the final page of a CIA memorandum that, to our knowledge, has yet to be released in anywhere near its complete form:

3. This is an ongoing review. Recipients will receive updatings as the New Orleans cases develop. [Deleted]

is requested to carry out tasks stipulated in paras. 5, 6, and 7. The New Orleans offices of the Domestic Contacts Service will be tasked by separate memorandum per para. 8. [Emphasis added.]

The other attachments to this memo are unavailable. But the above suggests that there were "task forces" at work in New Orleans to thwart the DA. There is a recently declassified file that furthers this suspicion dealing with the New Orleans, Domestic Contacts Service specifically mentioned in this memo.

CIA Task Force at Work?

Those familiar with the Shaw trial know that Garrison produced a logbook from the so-called VIP Lounge at the Eastern Airlines terminal of the New Orleans International Airport. The VIP Lounge was a kind of waiting room for business people and similar "frequent flyer" types to frequent while awaiting a flight. The airline clients would usually, but not always, sign the book while waiting. The book produced by Garrison contained the signature of "Clay Bertrand" signed on 12/14/66. The handwriting resembled that of Clay Shaw. The DA, with help from Ray Marcus, produced a nationally renowned document expert, Elizabeth McCarthy of Boston, to testify to that effect. Charles Appel, who we mentioned in part one of this piece, volunteered to testify for the Wegmanns.

This all occurred at the trial. But the CIA was way ahead of Garrison. On November 15, 1967, the CIA's Lloyd Ray sent a memo to Langley. The third paragraph relates that Hunter Leake of the New Orleans office had attended a party at a friend's house the night before. The friend, Alfred Moran, told him that Garrison's office knew,

several individuals who happened on occasion to be together in the Eastern Airlines VIP room...One of these names was Clay Bertrand; another was Moran's. Mr. Moran recalled the occasion and positively identified to the Assistant D. A. the presence there of Clay Shaw at that time. [Emphasis added.]

CIA wired back the next day and placed Ray and Leake on the tail of Moran. What made this easier is that Moran had previously been used as a contact for the Agency out of both the New Orleans and Miami offices.

Extensive background checks were done on Mr. Moran. By November 30th, the Agency was contemplating having Leake meet with Moran to flesh out his story more. But since Moran was ill, another method was used. Since CIA had decided "it makes no sense for Clay Shaw to use the name Clem (sic) Bertrand at such a meeting", there must have been two different people. This in spite of the fact that no one in that city could turn up any other person with that name. Houston cabled New

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Orleans that Leake should "casually" inquire of Moran "along this line." He finished off this key 11/30/67 wire with:

If so, we have means of getting this information to Dymond for use in preparing Shaw case without involving Hunter [Leake] or Agency.

Within two weeks, Leake had accomplished Houston's request. Moran admitted to everything he had said to Leake in his original talk at the party on 11/14, but with one notable exception. Leake now stated that "Actually, Moran had not seen Clay Shaw in the VIP Room on the occasion in question." As the reader can see, this is a direct reversal of Moran's original statement.

Appel was then sent in at the request of Shaw's colleague at the Trade Mart, Lloyd Cobb (of the CIA's "cleared attorney's panel") to contest McCarthy's expert analysis. And to apparently confuse the public even more on this matter, Shaw's defense actually placed the following ad in the *States-Item*:

Will the person who signed the name

"CLAY BERTRAND"

in the guest register of the
Eastern Airline lounge
Moisant Airport

PLEASE CALL

EDWARD F. WEGMANN 524-0732	861-3844
F. IRVIN DYMOND 524-3316	482-1652
WILLIAM J. WEGMANN 524-2206	488-0155

This article could go on at length with more apparent clandestine shenanigans by the CIA in Garrison's investigation. For example, as

with Gordon Novel, when Edgar Bradley took his (exculpatory) lie detector test in Los Angeles, the technician was another CIA acquaintance, Major Chris Gugas, once employed at Curtis LeMay's SAC base in Omaha, Nebraska. According to Bill Turner, Gugas was a CIA asset. When Garrison subpoenaed Herman Spicer of International House, Hunter Leake interviewed him extensively and an actual copy of the subpoena ended up at Langley. Like the FBI, the CIA was also running name traces on the jurors at the Shaw trial. In addition, the CIA's "segregated collection" reveals reams of pages of trace results on anyone the CIA felt might be associated with Garrison's investigation. During the trial, a teletype machine was moved into the New Orleans office to keep Langley aware of all developments in that proceeding as they happened.

Up until now, there has only been some general testimony from Victor Marchetti and Bob Tanenbaum on the actions of the Agency concerning Garrison's probe. In spite of the credentials of these men, some commentators have scoffed at the idea that the CIA—and other federal bureaus—would actually intervene on behalf of Shaw and against Garrison. These files put the lie to that tenet. They show that such intervention was actively sought by Shaw's defense, and as early as May of 1967, was officially approved by the CIA, and later, other agencies. From illegal electronic eavesdropping to clandestine funding of suspects' and witness's lawyers; from the use of "cut-outs" to hide their monitoring of his progress to the use of FBI agents to check out his witnesses; from the mapping out of plans of action using press assets and government officials to the use of judges to smother subpoenas; and finally what appears to be the employment of "task forces" to help talk witnesses out of their original, and damaging, stories, the aid given to Clay Shaw's cause was munificent and myriad. No one can now deny that this aid was requested and then granted at the highest levels of these organizations; that men like Hoover, Dulles, Angleton, Larry Houston and Ramsey Clark were cognizant

and complicit in it.

What is even more startling is that this article has been written when the declassification of these particular files has progressed only slightly. There are dozens of folders yet to undergo review by the ARRB. Who knows now what has been redacted, what was never written down, what has been destroyed, and what did not go through official channels at CIA HQ.

In this last regard, *Probe* has already mentioned the role of Bernardo DeTorres (Vol. 3 #6 p. 20), a CIA infiltrator into Garrison's office in late 1966, a date preceding the record in these files. It appears that DeTorres, and right after him, Novel, were sent in as ad hoc, "off-the-shelf" operators, known only to a select few at Langley. When these qualifiers are factored in, and added to the documented and official proofs noted above—things that the Agency was willing to admit to after the fact—Garrison's critics have been shown to be wrong again. The fact is that both the Bureau and the Agency were helping Shaw. The very fact that this aid was granted, that the risk of clandestine complicity with Shaw's defense was run, clearly suggests that the power brokers in Washington were worried about Garrison's progress. At the time, most of the mainstream media ridiculed Garrison's accusations on this point. As Oliver Stone's chief researcher Jane Rusconi wrote in 1992, only Bill Turner of *Ramparts* was really on the mark. The declassified record makes clear what his January 1968 description of the fate of the DA's investigation could only suggest:

When news of the assassination probe first broke, Garrison declaimed in a burst of rhetoric, "Let justice be done though the heavens fall!" The heavens are still there, but Washington has come crashing upon him. ☐

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