

Friends In High Places

By Steve Jones

In previous articles researcher Carol Hewett has convincingly demonstrated that Ruth and Michael Paine had a much closer relationship to Lee Harvey Oswald than was ever previously realized. It is now very clear why the Warren Commission never asked the Paines any probing questions about their background and associates or why they were never called to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations. If these investigative bodies had paid serious attention to the Paines it would have led them to where they didn't want to go—the intelligence community and the Eastern Establishment power structure. This article will explore connections that the Paines had to people within that powerful nexus.

Of the various acquaintances of the Paines who had intelligence connections none was more conspicuous than George De Mohrenschildt. Born of Russian nobility shortly before the revolution, De Mohrenschildt is now known, without a doubt, to have been a CIA asset and perhaps a contract employee as well. The CIA's Dallas bureau chief J. Walton Moore was a frequent dinner guest at his home. Shortly before his 1977 suicide, De Mohrenschildt admitted to author Edward J. Epstein that Moore had asked him to befriend Oswald after the young ex-Marine returned from the Soviet Union.¹ De Mohrenschildt carried out his assignment so well that Oswald once referred to the man who was more than twice his age as "my best friend."

As De Mohrenschildt was preparing to leave the country for Haiti in the early spring of 1963 it appears that he was passing on his "babysitting" assignment to Ruth and Michael Paine. It was arranged for the Paines to meet the Oswalds at a party hosted by Mobil Oil engineer Everett Glover on February 22, 1963. According to the official story, Ruth Paine never met De Mohrenschildt until that evening, and she never had contact with him again.²

But the evidence indicates otherwise. Ruth herself reluctantly admitted to Jim Garrison during her 1968 Grand Jury testimony that she and her husband were dinner guests at the De Mohrenschildt home in 1966 where they discussed, among other things, a copy of the backyard photo which was found amongst De Mohrenschildt's possessions after the assassination.³ Why would De Mohrenschildt invite a couple to dinner whom he had only met "briefly" (the word used by Ruth in her

Warren Commission testimony). Normally people invite as dinner guests those whom they have regular contact with, such as friends or co-workers. In fact, Michael wasn't even at the Glover party. Though he was invited, he did not attend due to a cold. So supposedly it was only Ruth who had "briefly" met De Mohrenschildt. George De Mohrenschildt stated in his 1976 manuscript *I'm A Patsy, I'm A Patsy* that he discussed this photograph only with close friends.⁴ Not only were Ruth Paine and

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George De Mohrenschildt friends, but they were also related to each other. California researcher Bruce Adamson has completed a family genealogy of Ruth's father William Avery Hyde and has discovered that Ruth and the Russian aristocrat turned CIA asset were distantly related by marriage.⁵

Until Adamson's groundbreaking research little was known about De Mohrenschildt's brother Dimitri Von Mohrenschildt (George had changed his own last name) who was an even bigger player in intelligence circles than George. Von Mohrenschildt worked with Allen's nephew, Ohio State professor Foster R. Dulles, during the 1940's. Foster was the son of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. There is documented correspondence between Dimitri Von Mohrenschildt and Allen Dulles dating as far back as 1953, and Dimitri was involved with Radio Free Europe, the CIA sponsored propaganda vehicle which broadcast ant-communist reports to Eastern European nations behind the Iron Curtain.⁶

However, since Von Mohrenschildt as-

sisted the OSS with translations during World War II it is possible that the two had contact well before 1953. Von Mohrenschildt was also the co-editor of a monthly journal titled *Russian Review* which appears to have been subsidized by the CIA during the 1950's and 60's. Allen Dulles was an occasional contributor to this very important vehicle for Cold War propaganda. Von Mohrenschildt's co-editor was a man named William Chamberlain. Bruce Adamson has carefully read personal letters between Chamberlain and Allen Dulles and has commented that Chamberlain appeared to act as a go-between with Allen Dulles during the Warren Commission investigation to do damage control on the intelligence connections of George and Dimitri.

There exist almost fifty personal letters between Dulles and Chamberlain. The two developed a friendship in the 1940's that lasted until Dulles' death in 1969. On April 30, 1964 Chamberlain writes to Dulles, "I miss very much your stimulating and informative talks at the annual meetings of the Radio Liberty Committee. I wonder if it might be possible to see you during a forthcoming visit to Washington. I shall be at the Statler-Hilton May 11-15 with mid-day as arrival and departure times." One week later Dulles responds, "I shall be away on May 14 but expect to be in Washington on the 13th and hope you will give me a call."⁷ Allen Dulles never publicly disclosed that he was meeting with a close friend of the brother of Oswald's "best friend" only several weeks after George De Mohrenschildt's testimony before the Warren Commission on April 21-22, 1964.

There is yet another Radio Free Europe connection. An FBI document dated December 1963 states that the FBI had interviewed a couple in the Philadelphia area who were friends of the Paines. Frederick Osborn, Jr. and his wife Nancy vouched for the Paine's religiosity, good character, and innocence in having anything to do with the assassination of President Kennedy.⁸ At the time Osborn was a 48 year old executive at Smith Kline pharmaceutical company. How long and in exactly what capacity he knew the Paines is uncertain, but he and his wife were among the first "friends" of the Paines to be interviewed by the FBI after the assassination.

As it turns out, Fred's father was Frederick Osborn Sr. who was an associate of Allen Dulles. Osborn graduated from Princeton in

continued on page 30

Friends in High Places

continued from page 9

1910 two years after John Foster Dulles and four years before Allen Dulles. In Frederick's personal papers at Princeton there are several letters between him and both Allen and John Foster Dulles. Frederick Osborn's establishment connections rival those of John J. McCloy. Osborn was a partner in the powerful banking firm of G.M. Murphy and Company in 1933 at the time of the firm's involvement in the little known unsuccessful coup attempt against FDR.⁹ He served as a trustee of the Carnegie corporation; Princeton University; the American Museum of Natural History; the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; the International House (as mentioned by Donald Gibson in the Jan/Feb 1998 *Probe*); the Woodrow Wilson Foundation; the Population Council; and served as a U.S. representative on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. During World War II, with no prior military experience, he was made a Brigadier General in charge of the information and education division of the U. S. Army. In this capacity he was in charge of newspapers, radio programs, motion picture production, and correspondence schools. He was eventually promoted to Major General before leaving the military in 1945.¹⁰

After the war Osborn and Allen Dulles co-founded an organization called Crusade For Freedom which was an early CIA propaganda effort similar to Radio Free Europe.¹¹ In 1962 the Crusade For Freedom merged with Radio Free Europe. Osborn served as the Crusade For Freedom's first president. Henry Luce, the founder of *Time* and *LIFE* magazine, was also a member.¹²

During his reign at Time-LIFE, Luce's publications often acted as a propaganda tool for the intelligence apparatus. On one occasion in 1962 Luce and his wife Claire Boothe Luce sponsored a boat of Cuban exiles who attempted to raid Cuba.¹³ *Time* and *LIFE* often ran articles highly critical of Kennedy's Cuban policy and his lack of support for the Cuban exile community. It was *LIFE* that purchased the original film of the assassination from Abraham Zapruder on November 23, 1963. *LIFE* made sure that the film was hidden from public view for 12 years while proclaiming in its December 6, 1963 issue that "the 8mm film shows the President turning his body far around to the right as he waves to someone in the crowd. His throat is exposed toward the sniper's nest just before he clutches it." Anyone who has seen the Zapruder film knows that Kennedy never turned

his body toward the Texas School Book Depository.

Luce's lover Mary Bancroft, whom he shared with Allen Dulles, is another Paine connection to the corridors of power. As discussed by Carol Hewett in the Nov./Dec. 1997 issue of *Probe*, Michael Paine's mother, Ruth Forbes Paine, was a long time close friend of Bancroft.

Warren Commission apologists would have you the reader believe that these connections of Ruth and Michael Paine are simply more in a long list of Kennedy assassination coincidences. But a reasonable person would logically conclude that there is something more going on here. The fact that the Paines associated with people in the intelligence community is not proof that they themselves were agents or assets, but it sure is enough to make people suspicious, especially since they have consistently lied about or downplayed their connections to people in the intelligence community. When one combines the above evidence with the fact that Ruth's sister, Sylvia Hoke, worked as a psychologist for the CIA and that her father was most likely used by the CIA as an "executive agent" who used his business connections to gather intelligence¹⁴ it becomes readily apparent why Ruth was so uneasy about New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's probing into her family background. And it becomes clear why the government needed to pass the Paines off to the public as merely pious Quakers who were act-

ing as Good Samaritans by housing and feeding Oswald's wife and children. ☩

Notes

1. *Oswald, The CIA, and the Warren Commission: The Unanswered Questions*, p. 50, Peter Kross, Kross Research and Publications, 1997.
2. Ruth Paine Warren Commission testimony, Vol. IX, page 396.
3. Ruth Paine testimony before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, April 18, 1968.
4. "The Paines Know", Carol Hewett, *Probe*, Nov./Dec. 1997.
5. *Oswald's Closest Friend: The George De Mohrenschildt Story*, Vol. VI, Bruce Adamson, 1997.
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Oswald's Closest Friend: The George De Mohrenschildt Story*, Vol. IV, Bruce Adamson, 1997.
8. Unnumbered FBI document dated 12/4/63.
9. *The Plot To Seize The White House*, by Jules Archer, Hawthorn Books Inc., N.Y., 1973, pp.11-13.
10. Alumni File of Frederick Osborn, Sr. Class of 1910, courtesy of Princeton University.
11. Incorporation papers of Crusade For Freedom, October 25, 1950, courtesy of New York State Archives, Albany, N.Y.
12. Letter from Frederick Osborn, Sr. to Allen Dulles, October 4, 1950.
13. *The Last Investigation*, by Gaeton Fonzi, Thunder's Mouth Press, N.Y., 1993, pp.53-54.
14. "William Avery Hyde," by Barbara LaMonica, *The Fourth Decade*, Nov. 1997.

Letters

continued from page 8

even more thoroughly than the Ford documents. In the face of this kind of evidence—produced by its own efforts—asking the board to be neutral in their public comments is a rather mild request.

Finally, we are glad that the board members are only being compensated on a part time basis. When the JFK Act was being debated, the talk in the committees was that the board members were to be paid full time salaries, as then editor Dennis Effle reported in an early issue of *Probe*.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I saw the piece by Jim DiEugenio in *Probe*, November/December, 1997, bearing the sub-head "Tony, How Could You?" How could I, DiEugenio wanted to know, write what I did about Marilyn Monroe's relations with the

Kennedy brothers? I'll tell you how—by spending three years doing intensive research and conducting some 650 interviews. Donald Spoto, whom DiEugenio recommends to his readers, dealt with the matter by ignoring such interviews. He also assailed my journalistic integrity as well as my conclusions. I sued him and his publisher for libel, successfully. Spoto made a published apology. Let's go where the evidence leads us, not where our bias leads us.

Sincerely,
Anthony Summers

DiEugenio replies:

I have absolutely no problem stating that I am biased against Robert Slatzer, James Haspiel, Geraldo Rivera, Judith Exner, Timothy Leary, David Horowitz, Peter Collier, Priscilla McMillan, Ralph DeToledano, Ovid DeMaris, Norman Mailer, Bernie Spindel, Jeanne Carmen, Dan Moldea, Walter Sheridan and Liz Smith, all of whom Summers' uses or