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Notes -- call from Frank Sturgis 6/25/76

He just ran across a friend of his who used to be an agent, in communications, and he "revived" his mind on something that he "completely forgot." (He had previously told me that he had lost almost all his notes from his adventures in the intelligence business, which explains why he hadn't remembered this before.)

He reminded me he told me that he had been sent to Washington by a group of key men in Castro's inner circle and told to give some secret documents and lists of names to Hoover, personally. (Sturgis didn't tell me this, but Pedro Diaz-Lanz -- the guy who came out with Sturgis and was head of Castro's Air Force -- told someone the list contained the names of Cuban exile double agents. At the top of the list, says Diaz-Lanz, was Artime's name.) Sturgis says he never did get to see Hoover but he did see his personal secretary. He says he was sent to Hoover directly because the insiders didn't trust the American Embassy.

He believes the Rockefeller Commission and the Watergate Commission has testimony from him about plots against Castro, but he couldn't get an OK to assassinate ~~xxxx~~ Castro because of the Eisenhower administration.

One of the people that Sturgis says he was in touch with here, besides ~~xxxx~~ the CIA, was Al Tarabochia. He was in touch with Tarabochia at this particular time, and therefore Tarabochia would know of this incident:

There was a meeting in Cuba about two, two and half months before the Kennedy assassination. There were a number of high-ranking rebel officers present: ~~xx~~ Fidel, Raul, Che, the chief of G2 (can't remember his name), a man who was called "El Mexicano," several other people, a woman...and Jack Ruby.

The meeting was in Havana. One of the rebel officers present was a half-brother ~~xx~~ of a Cuban exile living in Miami. After the JFK assassination, the officer sent a letter to his half brother telling of the meeting, the discussion to assassinate JFK and the presence of Jack Ruby. He smuggled the letter out, probably through Mexico.

The deal was that Castro would supply Ruby with a flow of drugs. Ruby would get the money to buy the drugs by being given the winning number in the bolito drawing. That's how Ruby would be paid off..

When Cuban exile got letter some CIA agents found out about it, but before they could get it from him, he made contact with the FBI here in Miami and he turned over the letter to agents from the Miami FBI office. They advised him that it was a very delicate situation and not tell anyone about it.

Sturgis doesn't know name of Cuban exile, but he worked in a factory in Miami or Hialeah. He's going to try to find out, he's checking on it now.

The friend he ran into, the guy with the Company, was the one who told him Tarabochia had this information.

Sturgis says the background is this: Ruby had gone to Cuba many times and while he was there he was trying to get some action because "McWillie was a friend of his, as you know." (NOTE: In interview with Canfield in Coup d'tat, Sturgis has a tough time remembering who McWillie is. (page 243). This is where Ruby probably thought ~~x~~ up the idea of making a deal with Castro. "We all know he had criminal connections." There should be some record of his trip through the American Embassy in Mexico City of his trip to Cuba through there. "But this could have been a secret ~~xxx~~ trip he went on, on the other hand, if he was involved ~~xx~~ in an assassination."

He doesn't know how long after the assassination the Cuban exile got the letter from his half-brother. (It probably came via Mexico) Sturgis: "This man here like to had a shit hemorrhage." (Coincidence?: From Robert Morrow's Betrayal: "Not to be vulgar," I thought aloud, "but he'll have a shit hemorrhage." Morrow was speaking of Castro's reaction to his counterfeit operation.)

(I asked him about Crile's piece in the Wash. Post re the Castro-Trafficante relationship)

Sturgis says that's news to him. But he doesn't believe it because Castro kicked out the mob and Lansky and Trafficante lost their casinos. "I told Santos one day, I said, 'Santos, I just ~~xxxx~~ left a meeting with Castro and he ordered me to close down the casinos for 10 days.' And he did. Sturgis was put in charge of casinos for a while by Castro.

Sturgis believes if that was the case, that would make Aleman an agent for Castro also. But if he did make contact with Trafficante it was through Rolando Martinez, because he knew Trafficante very well, he used to work for the Havana Hilton, so he knows all ~~x~~ the mob people, "He knows them as well as I do." Aleman and Martinez are ~~xxxxxx~~ very close friends.

Barker got fired from the CIA because of his connections with the racket people.

--says Tarabochia should remember Castro-Ruby incident because "I know the CIA agent, or former agent, who told him about it."

-thinks the woman he mentioned as being at the meeting was Tanya, Che's secretary who was killed with him in Bolivia..

-also trying to get name of Cuban exile in Miami who received the letter

--his ex-CIA friend spoke to Tarabochia about it at the time and perhaps Tarabochia ~~xx~~ should have it on record...
...it should also be part of the FBI files in Washington, along with the original letter...

-CIA should have a report in too, "We sent the report in." ***

--re Cellula Fantasma: (Was that Company operation or Naval Intelligence operation?), "No, Company operation." The people who were involved in that were Dr. Louis Conte-Aguerra (sp?); he asked my assistance and I went to see my CO, who was Sam Jenis. Conte-Aguerra was associated with the Company and they came to me because they knew I was about the ~~x~~ only one who could do successful air operations. So they asked me if I would do a series of five air operations and I said, certainly, I would...

(re I heard of the relationship ~~xx~~ of Jukio Lobo and his anti-Castro activity. I understand Bill Attwood went down to interview him and...

"Well, Bill was with the Company. ... No, wait a minute, wait a minute.. Attwood, Attwood...I forget...I think he was with the Company...I'm not sure offhand...I didn't know all the agents."

(Wasn't it Rojas in charge of Cellula Fantasma?) Conte-Aguerra was the big man on it. He's the one who arranged for the financing for the people that I would do the operation for... As a matter of fact, I went on three of them myself..I couldn't get the Cubans to do it so I used Americans. One of the pilots was Bill Johnson..)

(What was Rojas' role?) I didn't fool around with Rojas. You know, there was a movement within CIA which told Conte-Aguerra that he was going to be a big official in the new government. And many of the agents who were also going to get positions went along with the idea that Conte Aquerra would be the president of the new Cuba. And he was being financed through his own CIA contacts to do a series of these operations

(How does Lobo fit in?) Well, Julio gave money. He was working also with CIA. He was giving money which he was taking off income tax and so forth. This was the way what you'd call "washigg" money. This is how CIA would wash money through different Cuban business people--and American businessmen--which wouldn't lead directly to the CIA. Julio Lobo was one of the people.

(Were you dealing with him much?) Well, I worked with him, but I wasn't dealing directly with him because he wasn't connected with the people I was associated with. He was more with the economic section, you know, that certain officials dealt with.

(You met him here in Miami or Havana?) In Havana. But I didn't have any dealings with him because, you know, certain people worked with certain people. It was the thing that you call compartmentation, you know.

They dealt with different people in different ways. Just like Tony Verona. He was a CIA agent. He not only was one of the leaders, he was an agent per se. And even today Manolo Artime is still an agent. He wasn't then but he is today. He's still with them. You know he was the civil coordinator between the Revolutionary Junta and the Bay of Pigs...

(mentioned Gerald Shamma and her Artime story) Heh heh heh, she told you that story, eh. I wish she hadn't told you that story, heh heh heh.

Artime: "When he came back from Cuba, they made him a businessman, they made him a very wealthy man. I think he's got a little problem with Semoza now, but he was working closely with him.
**But if you're with the right people they don't give a shit what you did, as long as they control you. The CIA got some shits of the world working for them.

The Agency slammed the door on all four of us when we got out of prison. Colby sent orders out to all stations not to talk to us or have any contact with us. But it makes no difference to me, if I need to get to them I go through other people..

But, hey, that's the name of the game, I guess. When you get into the big league stuff with the powerful people up in Washington or Langley, if the wrong group of people are in control and you're not in that league, they can hurt you. And right now the wrong group is up there. Have been since Colby's been up there. Colby's got his own people and I'm not one of them."

(Looks like they're getting ready to hang Lucien Conein) Well, you know, Howard knew him very well. Evidentially, he's been involved in some things and they don't want to let it come out. But there's a lot of shit Colby has been involved in and he comes out smelling like a rose" Evidentially, he [Conein] is in ~~xxxx~~ bad with the wrong people. Colby cleaned house and put his own people in there ~~xxxx~~ and what they do is use people for sacrificial lambs... like they did us in Watergate...to take the heat off of them.. Howard himself didn't realize that he was used and we in turn worked with Howard and they buried all of us..

But like I told you before, Bennett was the man who really did a number on the President. (Bennett of Mullens Co.) And though they closed house and withdrew all the agent that were overseas working for the Mullens Co, they re-opened a new company and had to re-do the agents with the new company... I curious to find out where Bennett is right now.

(Howard Hughes connection) Oh yeah, they used him. They let him make a lot of money. There's still a lot of places down here especially that are still CIA fronts...

-remembered also that Castro's G2 at meeting name was R Romero Valez...

-notes--call from Frank Sturgis 7/28/76 -tate1

-said he wasn't surprised by the Schweiker announcement of running with Reagen: "I think Schweiker's using this thing, but, hey, you can't blame him, he's a politician. The thing worked out beautifully for him." Then he asked: "Is he still officially investigating the JFK thing?" I said, yes, he was still interested. After a few minutes of inconsequential conversation, he asked again: "Hey, let me ask you something. Are you still checking up on the JFK thing?" I said, yes, I was. Then he said: "I told you about that letter from Cuba, didn't I?"

I said we ~~xx~~ had checked up on it and that we had gotten a memo from Tarabochia about it but the memo said nothing about Castro, although it did mention a trip to Cuba by Ruby. He asked did the report mention about the letter that came to the relative in Miami, he said his friend "Salvatore" [the former CIA ~~man~~] told him definitely there was a ~~**~~ letter and that "Bob Dwyer probably was the man [the FBI agent], because he was in charge of the Cuban desk at the Bureau downtown, was probably one of the agents who picked up the letter."

I told him that Tarabochia's memo indicated only that Ruby went to Cuba, not that he had seen Castro, and that the FBI man was James O'Connor, not Dwyer. Sturgis asked how we got a copy of that memo and I told him I didn't know. He implied that perhaps it was changed or censored and I said that was possible for all I knew, because I had never seen the original. He then said that Ruby could have been to Cuba without people knowing it, of course.

Sturgis then asked me if I ~~x~~ had ever heard of Lyle Stuart. I said yes. he's the ~~xx~~ book ~~xx~~ publisher who has published a lot of sensational and controversial books. "You know he supposedly met Oswald a month before Kennedy was assassinated in Miami, according to a report I'm trying to track down."

There's supposed to be something in the newspapers in 1963 before Kennedy was killed about Oswald being in Miami, Sturgis said, and he is going to the library to check up on that.

Lyle Stuart, says Sturgis, was head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. "It was also reported he was very pro-Castro and that Castro was supporting him financially and that Lyle Stuart was seen with and connected with Oswald. And it was reported in the papers that Oswald was here a month before the assassination. Now it may all be bullshit but I'm still going to check it out."

Sturgis said the man who told him this was a writer who was "pretty much involved" in the investigation of the assassination. He was with him last night, and the guy said that Lyle Stuart would be the one to check with. The guy's name is Bob Trainins. "I did ask him ~~x~~ if it would be alright for him to talk with you."

At this time Sturgis went to get Trainins phone number and in the background I could hear the television news which -- coincidentally -- happened just then to announce the news of Howard Hunt filing the \$2-1/2 million libel suit against Weberman & Canfield. "Did you hear that?" Sturgis asked, just to make sure.

"What Ellis is doing," said Sturgis, "is to file Howard's now and then by the ~~xx~~ end of the week or next week he's filing mine. Both Howard and myself are using Ellis." [Ellis Rubin, local controversial attorney is most known in Miami for his publicity ploys and long-standing feud with State Attorney (Dade Co.) Richard Gerstein.] Sturgis said the suit ~~xxx~~ would be against the authors and publisher of Coup D'Etat and against Playboy and Hefner and later maybe against Dick Gregory ("As soon as I dig up enough about him." I said libel suits are tough to win. "Yeah, but hey," said Sturgis [St. George was right: he says "but hey" a lot], even if we get a judgment for a dollar it'll stop all the shit about us being involved in the the assassination of John F. Kennedy."

He asked if I had a chance to speak with the Cuban who received that letter. I said no, I haven't had a chance because as a result of his television appearances Wally Weston had come forth with his information and I had been busy on that. "I spoke to Wally Weston tonight," said Sturgis, "and I have a meeting to sit down and find out what he can tell me and so forth."

Back on Oswald's meeting with Lyle Stuart, Sturgis said he thinks it may have been possible because there was a report that he himself had met Oswald in Miami and that could have been very possible, what with all the anti-Castro people he met and the double-agents, but he himself didn't remember it. But he did hear that Stuart was connected with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and getting financial assistance from Cuba. "This Bob Tralins was a friend of his and dislikes the man very much, but he definitely told me this."

Switching subjects, I asked him what he knew about operations that took place from Cay Sal island. [the Hughes connection.] All he knew, he said, that there was a black Customs official who tried to keep people off the island because the CIA used it as a stepping stone, like a "listening post" off the coast of Cuba. He himself didn't have any operations from there. "On some of the island close by there we stopped by occasionally for several hours, but I kept away from Cay Sal because it was being operated by other people, other groups." [???] Was it CIA or other operators?)
 ? → "They were CIA operations. One time Barker got a hold of me because I was doing something, in some operations with Bill Johnson which I was financing, and Barker got a hold of me and said, 'hey, we're doing something very sensitive in that area' and he asked me to stop for a while and go into another area." [Note: This is obviously conflicting: Who was Sturgis working for if not CIA? Here he became very deliberately convoluting and wound up talking about Pinar de Rio operations in Cuba.]
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I asked him if he was involved in the training camp in New Orleans with Gus DeLabarre and Rudolph Davis: "No," he said quickly. "Not at all. I never knew about any training camp in Dallas...or New Orleans." [NOTE: WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT DALLAS???]

I asked him about the guy who was reportedly the head CIA man here, Mr. B, or Bender or his supposedly "real" name, Drescher, and what he looked like. "Oh, I don't know," he said. "I mean I never met him. You've got to understand the agents didn't talk to the contract employees, but there would just be a telephone system of reporting. The telephones were connected by relays so that if the FBI were checking the number it would be located in one area but it would just be a relay station, so they could never check it down."

Sturgis talked then about Schweiker and the Reagon situation and I said I thought they would have a tough fight on their hands against Ford who, after all, has all the power. "I disagree with you," said Sturgis. "I think the power is up there and they're advising him what to do. He's being controlled, like all Presidents are. Certain power groups control, you know what I mean?"

He changed the subject and mentioned he had been out in California last week. He said he was invited out by Chuck Ashman [a former Miamian who has a radio or TV talk show out there and has written some exploitation books about the Mafia and the CIA]. Sturgis said he has Oscar Fraley (author of "The Untouchables") who wants to do the story of his life. [Fraley's latest book is on Jimmy Hoffa].

He said he has been trying to get a hold of his ex-agent friend (Salvatore) who told him about the Ruby in Havana story to get more information but the guy is in the Dominican Republic for the week.

Sturgis then asked if it were possible to get a copy of the Tarabochia memo and I said I would check on that with my office.

The conversation got back on the CIA: "The CIA is very funny," he said. "They do things right up to a point and then they turn right around and screw you. Depending what their policy is; if they want to change it they'll change it and bury your ass too. In the last few years they've had their own internal power struggle and in that struggle a lot of people ~~xx~~ get hurt who are decent people. Like if I favor Howard Hunt and his boss gets whacked out, then everybody down the line goes. That could go into hundreds or couple thousand people. Just like when Helms left. I told you that Nixon wanted some files from Helms and Helms wouldn't give it to him, so the President fired him. Now I'm assuming, from my discussions with certain CIA officials fired now, the files he wanted pertained to the Bay of Pigs and also the JFK assassination. And Helms didn't to turn them over. He was scared that if he turned it over to the President, that Haldeman and Erlichman would have used it for political reasons. And after Helms was fired McCord turned ~~xxx~~ around and said, 'If Helms goes, all the trees in the forest will fall!' That's why McCord blew the

whistle on the President. Well, you know who Deep Throat was, don't you? I think Helms ordered Bennett to bury Nixon. Deep Throat was probably several guys, but the main man was Bennett, the CIA man. Unfortunately poor Howard got sucked into this thing, I don't think he even knew anything about it. And Bennett was his boss, both at the Mullen company and, I suspect, his CIA chief also. Oh yeah, I believe certain CIA officials, Helms the major one, set up Nixon to be caught. And the company's hot at me because I told all this to the Rockefeller and the Senate Watergate committees. But fuck'em, they screwed me enough all these years. Maybe Schweiker will get to be the Vice President and I'll get him to get me into CIA and I'll clean that place up myself..."

And on that note....

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-Notes -- call from Frank Sturgis w/ Ed Keiser. 8/2/76 tatel

Says he's at a friend's house and this friend just came back from Israel. He was in one of the big notorious prisons over there, Romley (sp?) prison outside Tel Aviv, the top security prison where all the major captured terrorists are locked up. ...his friend is very much in with the American Jews in this area and he had gone to Israel with the idea of trying to help Israel as an undercover agent, to help infiltrate the PLO. He did that and came back with a lot of information. Sturgis told him he would try to get someone to talk with him because he feels there is much information his friend has that our government should be aware of, since he made friends and has a lot of connections now with the terrorist leaders in prison. He put himself in prison with the knowledge of Israeli Intelligence.

"This guy has worked for me in the past and he's worked as an undercover agent for several federal agencies. He used to be with the French Foreign Legion, the guy is really a hot-shot guy."

--Name is Edwin Keiser. Sturgis said he thought I might find this guy's story of interest. "Whether it can be of any help to you or Schweiker, I don't know. After all, your boy is running for politics now."

I said I didn't know whether Schweiker would be interested in that information since it's really outside our subject area. "You never can tell," said Sturgis, "you know how politicians are. If they think there's a little bit of something that they might be able to use and Schweiker, I don't know what kind of religious background he's got but that sounds Jewish anyway."

I said I wasn't interested in the political aspects of any kind of intelligence information and I didn't think Schwiker was either. "Well, why don't you just say hello to my friend here anyway," said Sturgis. "He's got an interesting background, I've known him for a number of years and he's good to know."

"Hell, Frank," I said, "isn't there anybody you don't know?" Sturgis laughed and said, "Well, there were some people I swear I didn't know and I'd like to keep it that way. Ha, ha, ha, you know, one of those things."

Ed Keiser got on the phone and said that his problem was that the American Embassy in Israel, specifically the vice consul (whose name is John Adams and who is, in fact, chief of the CIA station), told him that when he, Keiser, returned to the U.S. he would be in touch with certain people and now he found that no one wants to talk with him, because technically he's under arrest for having left this country with a ~~xxxx~~ falsified passport.

He says he had lost his citizenship back in the mid-50's, without his knowledge of losing it, when ~~xxx~~ he joined the ~~xxxx~~ French Foreign Legion. He says it was taken away without a hearing or trial and he has since found out that shouldn't have been done. He says, however, he has never stopped fighting Communism and he has been out of the country several times since then on false passports.

This last time he went to Israel he went on a forged passport and after a month and a half he gave himself up and agreed to work undercover in the prison for the Israeli government. He was in Romley prison for five and a half months, including with the 43 people they wanted to exchange on the hijacking program in Uganda, all the top-ranking terrorists. He ~~xxx~~ left in good standing with these terrorists, including the six Jews and 30 Arabs who had plotted to take over the Israeli government who had come in out of Syria.

He came back to the U.S. to be prosecuted, paroled to this country by the Israeli government as an ~~Ex~~ Israeli.

"I brought back quite a bit of information with me," he said. For instance, he said, he was in prison with an American whose father is a very big man in the California movie business. The son was arrested for smuggling a half a ton of hashish, and his family is dealing heavily here in the States and in South America with cocaine and other drugs...

The Federal agents he's ~~xxx~~ tried to talk with said they can't talk with him because he's under arrest ~~xxx~~ (for false use of a passport) and his case is not resolved.

"It's really stupid," he says. "I'm carrying information around with me, I supposed to be in contact with intelligence over there and carry on with what I was doing, and I can't even talk with people in my own country to see if they want me to continue."

He was arrested by FBI here after he arrived at Kennedy airport, after being deported by Israel. They put a \$25,000 bond on ~~x~~ him in New York and another \$25,000 bond in Miami. They ~~x~~ brought him here for prosecution because here's where he falsified the passport.

He says he was also subpoenaed to Watergate when Frank was involved and he brought up information that could have really helped Frank, the information was taken but nothing was done. "It was really a sad thing," he said. "I think it was just used politically. I had agents in Cuba that were coming out of Havana who were willing to come here and testify, but the Senate wouldn't send a PBY or couldn't get authorization to pick them up. This all went to Howard Baker and his assistant Liebengood and they didn't do anything. I have but one life to live and I'll give it to my country, but I felt sour about that..."

He said he was working with the Cubans here in Miami for a while after Watergate but he decided to go to Israel and fight Communism there "because those people are serious."

He says he effectively infiltrated the terrorist and Communist groups within Israel prisons and he brought out important information but now "it seems like my own country could care less about it."

He says he'd like to get the information primarily to the CIA, especially stuff about the ~~x~~ PLO. He says he has pages of information which, if he dropped on the United Nations "would blow the lid off." He wouldn't do that, of course, without the authorization of his government; "But I'm sitting on a ~~x~~ keg of dynamite here and I don't know why my government is not at least talking with me. If they want to put me jail, put me jail, but at least first talk to me."

He says his wife put up their house to raise money for his bond.

He says he's being represented by a public defender because he can't afford an attorney: Edward G. Galante (305-350-4391)

He says he talked to people from DEA who say they're interested in what I got and to head of intelligence of U.S. Customs (Steve Czukos) here in South Florida == but they all put him off and he hasn't heard from any of them.

--meanwhile, he says he is supposed to get back in touch ~~xxx~~ with Israeli intelligence, he has a code and it ~~xxx~~ should have been started a week ago, but he doesn't want to start it up again without making our government aware of what he is doing. He says he also has agents with the PLO who are waiting now in Rome for him and he has been putting that off too.

He says his attorney is talking about making a deal with the government but he's not interested, he's interested only in getting out the information he has...

"I think that the information I have has something to do with the security of this nation, because it has something to do with the security of Israel."

He says just the information he has on drugs alone is valuable. The guy he met in prison who was busted with a half ton of hash should be out in two or three weeks and he's on ~~xx~~ his way back to California with a conspiracy he put together in the Israeli prison.. Keiser says he's got knowledge of how drugs are coming in, who's arranging for them, and who is carrying them.

He says the DEA told him they are interested but because he is still on charges and has a court case pending, it is not allowed to talk with him or work ~~xxx~~ with him..

His home number is 832-3358. He said: "If you can't get a hold of me, you can always get a hold of Frank and he'll know where I am because I don't do anything without his knowledge anyway."

I told Keiser I don't know what, if anything, I could do about his problem but that I would bring it to the attention of my office.

Sturgis than got on the line again and said that what Keiser forget to mention to me is that he has information that PLO leaders are using the drug traffic to finance their terrorist operations.

--asked if I contacted the person who got the note from Cuba re meeting of Castro and Ruby... asked if I would give him the ~~xx~~ names and details again of the Tarabochia memo...

--doesn't know the name of Pratkan or Paskin mentioned in memo.. (Why would Ruby visit him?) Well, why would Ruby go visit McWillie. You know McWillie was one of the big boys there... so evidently he had more than one connection...but remember when he went over there there were no more racket guys there, so why would he go see this man?

--Trafficante came out, I think, in 60, when they closed the casinos...that was after I came out...I left in June of ~~1959~~ 1959 -- the casinos were still operating..

(Could Trafficante have had a deal with Castro?) I doubt it. Remember I closed the casinos for 10 days on Castro's orders. There was a big uproar. I told Trafficante and some of these other people, because I was in charge of the casinos for the government, and I told them, I says, I want to tell you something for your own good, Fidel has said that ~~xxxx~~ he's going to run all the gangsters out of Cuba and take all their businesses.

On one of my tours of the casinos I ran into Santos and I told Santos, I said, I want to tell you something, if you see your other friends tell them I was in the prime ministers office with Fidel and Bidel said he's gonna nationalize all the American businesses here and he 's goinna run you fuckin' gangsters out of Cuba.' And he says, 'Naah, he can't do that, we got over a hundred million dollars in investiments here! Who the fuck does he think he is?' He was really hot. 'That sunavabitch should be dead!' Naah, he was an enemy of Fidel's.

(What's behind Crile piece then?) I don't know. Crile took some cracks at me. Well, I can't say that's wrong, because I don't know, all I can say is what happened to me and what I know. But, let's face it, Martinez worked for the mob. He was working for the Havana Hilton when I met him in 1959 on the baccarat table.

--knows Aleman, not well. 'not buddy buddy with him like ~~Martinez~~' never talked to him about this; "I'm surprised Aleman came up with that because one time Aleman borrowed some money from Santos when he needed it."

Trafficante kill JFK? "I don't think so, no, I don't think so. The man most logically to want to kill JFK would be that guy ~~x~~ in New Orleans, whassisname, yeah Marcelle. He would be the logical one." Surprised Aleman said that. "He's got a lotta balls to say that in the paper; ~~xxxxxxx~~ but why didn't it come out down here?" **

But I don't know why Martinez ~~x~~ is working with Barker. Barker is a rotten sunavabitch. But one of these days I'll find out why a certain CIA agent wanted me to do a domestic assassination. I wish I had a good memory to ~~xx~~ find out when it was asked me because that would nail that sunnavabitch CO of the party, because as I understand his CO was very leftist and considered an undercover Communist agent, but I'll dig it out one of these days.."

You know, Ambassador Smith called William Caldwell, who was chief of CIA in Havana in 1959, a "goddamn Communist." Oh, you don't know what went on...

(Was there a Cogswell also?) I don't know, I'll have to check some of my notes on some of these things. You know Paul Bethel was there also, he was the press agent...that was a nice little cover...yeah, he was an agent... he may be retired right now, but I believe he's done some contract work for them off and on...

No, I can't believe that Santos worked with ~~Bd~~ Fidel! You know I told you that they contacted me once, wanted me to kill Fidel.. (Yeah, Norm Rothman asked you, didn't he?) Oh~~xxx~~ no, no, no. It was Hymie Levine and another party...but they had a lot of connections with other people, besides me, who were constantly with Fidel and if they wanted to nail him they could have...

Trafficante hangs out at Capra's (80th & Biscayne) when he's in town... that's one of his people there.... 8 o'clock. I haven't been there for years, but I know, I was told one time, if you ever want to see me or something like that, 8'oclock, have spaghetti with me, you know, we'll both hit, but I don't go there, I don't mess with him, I keep away from zee mob...not my kind of people...

Sturgis 8/5/76

tatel

-asked if I spoke to Barker or Martinez yet?

Crile wrote an article about me that didn't put me in a good light. Of course, you know me and Barker & are on the outs. I don't like Barker... You know, I was gonna put Barker's head through the wall ~~xxx~~ in prison. The sunavabitch is a freakin' coward. I tried to get at him and four of the prisoners grabbed me and he went into the corner like a goddamn baby, the sunavabitch. But I'll fix his ass. You know I told the Senate Watergate Committee that one CIA associate of mine asked me to do a domestic assassination, and I told ~~xx~~ them it was Bernard Barker. Add I told them, if you don't believe me, give me a polygraph... And his CO was a goddamn Communist bastard! (yells) Because he sure loved Fidel, even over here. But I told Barker I wanted the orders directly from the CO because I wanted to make sure I knew who the ~~x~~ people was... I told Barker, if you're CO told you to contact me, then I want to see him... then the CO told him he didn't ~~x~~ want me to do it... And I don't know what year this was... The Rockefeller Commission really went into detail with me on that. I told them, I says, well, I'll be honest with you, because this is why I'm so mad at these goddamn CIA officials. They get you to do their dirty work and after a while they throw you to the wolves, like they did at the Watergate and... uhh, you know... uhhh.. so now I'm down on them. Fuck em. Well, whatayagonna do?

(asked him who Barker's CO was: talked around it) Barker had same CO here as he had in Havana... I forget who is CO was, because an employee had various types of agents: Barker and Martinez were contract agents, I was not a contract agent, because I didn't sign a contract and I didn't swear to ~~xxxxxx~~ secrecy, but I was a so-called field operator recruited by them to work for them on a cash basis, for a week or for months... but I wasn't in the same position Barker and Martinez was... because there were times here when they wanted me to turn in Cubans making raids against Cuba and I said, Hell, you gotta be kiddin', I'm a goddamn revolutionary! Just because you people are not assisting Cubans anymore, I'm gonna turn them in? Fuck you, I'm not gonna do it... like I was very close to Sam Jenis and his whole ~~x~~ family, we were very close, very close, since 1956, and I worked with that whole family, and two of the family members were CIA people, but they knew how I felt, they knew I would never betray the Cubans..

...this here David Phillips, he knocked the shit out of me on television, he said, "We never did no assassination, and Sturgis is full of shit, he never had no association with us, he never was an agent!" Well, fuck him, the sunavabitch, a week later all the shit broke loose about assassinations and all, and the Gianncanna bit, and then admitted on television that when he was chief of western hemisphere division, that he notified the Cuban government--Castro! -- through the Czechoslovakian embassy, when Cuban groups were leaving the South Florida area to ~~xx~~ go to Cuba and ~~x~~ do operations against him. Here's a man admitting that he was betraying Cubans to be caught over there and executed!

(I heard ~~x~~ he was involved in some Castro assassination attempts that never came off)

"I'm gonna tell you something. I think it's a little game they play. I think the plots that they wanted us to do were simply done to go ahead and make certain people think that they were working. But I think what they were doing all along, they were really betraying us, you know what I mean? They have one policy: Nail 'em, but behind the door stop it. The Cubans had a ~~x~~ force here and they had this feeling against Castro, so to pacify certain people who had a lot of influence here, they had to pacify them by saying, well, we're gonna do things, but at the same time they're doing the betrayal bullshit... And David Phillips convinced me that they had been doing this all along, just betraying everyone, the American public and everyone..

(I hear he was pretty much involved in the Chilean thing also) Who, Phillips? With the Allende thing? You better believe it!

(I asked him why did David Phillips have an interest in his Cellula Fantasma operation, as I had heard he had?) I don't know, he said, I really don't know. Well, he was pretty high up, you know..(even in 61, 62?) ..well, yeah..." Said the guy in charge was Conte-Aquerra, he worked for the company, later they sent him to Europe on an economic mission... "Then Diaz-Lanz got into the picture, he was suppose to take over the group, and that's what started a lot of problems. We had a lot of problems and I think this is where David Phillips came in, because then he started to get interested, you know, because of Pedro Diaz Lanz coming into the group."

"I'm writing a book. I sign a contract with Oscar Fraley this Sunday." Doing a movie with Morgan on the Trujillo thing, and Fraley will do the book of his life, less the Trujillo thing..

--talk to Pedro Diaz Lanz, that's how I got involved in the Trujillo thing. And talk to him about Artime. You Artime is still working for the people. ~~xxx~~ He'll tell you Artime's an double agent. Geraldine Shamma will tell you that also..she hates him..

(Do you see him much?) Not too much. When we were in prison, yeah. But since I've been out I've kept away from him. I don't want a goddamn thing to do with the company...

--(About about Roselli?) I think they nailed him good. How do I read it? Cuban agents. But I leave a question mark. I hate to jump on something ~~xxx~~ else, really, but they're capable of doing anything. "Cause I did a lot of dirty work for the sunavabitches, believe me, and they'll get people like me -- because you know I was considered one of the most six dangerous men in the ~~xxxxxxx~~ country -- and they can get people like me to do a lot of their dirty work, you know what I mean, because it leaves their hands clean and if they want to discredit you they can because they have the force and the power, they got everything working for them...

~~xxx~~ But I'll give them the benefft of the doubt, I don't think they had anything to do with killing the President through. That I'll give them the benefit of the doubt...

I had the FBI call me. On the JFK stuff. They said, well, you made some statements on television and we'd like to get together with you. Met them over at Denny's. It was about when I went to Calif. and was on TV out there and made certain statements about the meeting with Castro and Jack Ruby and they wanted to know about that... said Wash. called them... agents.. Ben Conte and ???

...when I asked them about the letter, they told me that O'Connor had investigated that and that O'Connor was the one who spoke with me about the JFK assassination. But they told they didn't know anything about a letter...

*** O'Connor now in New Orleans????

Hey did you read anything about four constables from Dallas who received a box of letters and documents pertaining to a meeting between Oswald and Ruby and so forth?? This box of 33 documents turned over to Dallas DA Henry Wade....???

...well, a friend of mine called me up last night and I copied down some shit on it... you want to read yours or of this??? (is this from x clippings?) It may have because he told me he got it out of some papers...

...they turned it over to the FBI and they gave a number and now they can't find the documents. Can you believe that? Just like they can't find the letter, they can't find the documents...

...You never got a hold of Salvadore, did you? (You never gave me his name) Yes, I did, I gave you his phone number but he told me he wouldn't talk to you, Schweiker's man..

*** Salvadore Garcia -- former CIA guy... says he doesn't like Schweiker.

The & FBI guys also asked me about Roselli. I told them I didn't believe I knew Roselli. I told them I know nothing about it... They asked me what I thought, I said I thought the mob got rid of him.. they're always fighting among themselves..

(re Crile pieces) I don't believe it. I don't think Trafficante had anything to do with it. I don't believe a guy like Trafficante could go ahead and do something like that on his own, he would have to get permission from the Commission, and I don't believe the Commission would allow him to do something like that. They tried it once before with Anastasia. Anastasia wanted to take over some of the gambling in Havana and the Commission said no. What happened, he went against the Commission's orders. And look what happened to him. The same thing happened to Dutch Schultz who wanted to knock off Tom Dewey. I can't see it. I don't think the mob would want that kind of catastrophe to happen to kill the president.

(re the Rolling Stone piece and Trafficante relation to the Bay of Pigs and his contact in that operation, FS)

(Laughed) Was that in Rolling Stone? You know, I'm trying to get my lawyerx to sue them sunavabitches for about \$20 million. Well, you know the mob was here on the Beach. And remember I told you how in Cuba the Embassy was divided and how Smith even accused Caldwell, the chief of station of CIA, of being a communist because all his agents were feeding information to the guerillas and Castro... And here you have the mob over there, all these Cubans who were working for the mob over there, they came over here and the CIA made agents out of them! So, hey, the mob knew everything was going on... You know, you had Normie Rothman who had the Biltmore Terrace, which was Batista's money, the top floor over there was going to house Batista if the government gave ~~xx~~ him permission to come into the country.. Now that place was the hang out of a lot of mob people..a lot.. and a lot of Cuban CIA boys used to work for Batista...and also intelligence agents from other countries would come in there...and the American CIA agents used to go wine and dine there, used to have a ball there

..and as far as I'm concerned, I don't have contact ~~xxx~~ with Santos Trafficante here and I don't have any contact with the mob..

(re Watley's statement of Sturgis contact with Trafficante)
~~xxx~~ Well, I don't know how Richard Whatley can go ahead and say shit like that because that's garbage....That is garbage!

(Who was Whatley?):

Whatley was one of these mercenaries who used to fool around with this Jerry Patrick, trying to get involved with the Cuban exiles...

You know, when I came out of Cuba they came up with all sorts of wild stories that I was the contact between the mob and the CIA...that's all bullshit

-re a conflict of interest on Ellis Rubin part because of suit with Hunt and him against CREEP (???)

..But I'm going to Washington anyway tomorrow.. Yeah, I told you that Senator Baker wanted to see me..yeah, they called me, Michael Madigan and Howard Liebengood called me, they said, come on up, we'd like to talk to you about this JFK shit. Yeah, I was surprised...

(re Martinez working at Havana Hilton and Crile saying no)
 That's bullshit. That's where I met Martinez when I was working for the Embassy. I told that to the Senate Watergate Committee when they asked me...(why) Well, because Martinez has been working on \$100 month retainer for the CIA and he has probably dug up a lot of information for the Company and writing the book with Crile and talking about Trafficante and Aleman, so naturally the CIA don't want anybody to know there was any connection...He's not ~~going~~ going to admit he worked for the ~~xxx~~ gamblers.. I met him at the Havana Hilton working on the baccarat table.. (fairly well off?) Yeah, he did abortions, he had a whore house over there...yeah, he was pretty well off...

(re WerBell trial) Yeah, you know I recruited the undercover agent that got Bernstine..Jerry Buchanan... I got a hold of the Company first because it was out of the country, because they have a drug..you know,,thing, but they slammed the door on me when I contacted them...I even had to go to Washington for the damn thing...so I got a hold of other friends of mine and they made the connection.. that's how Jerry was recruited...and he made out pretty good, they busted one of the biggest international ~~xxx~~ drug conspiracies in the country.... and Bernstine turns around and he starts to work for the government....

(undercover?) Buchanan got involved up to his eyeballs with Bernstine... I don't know how he made the connection...

(Bernstine involved in Bay of Pigs?) I think that's all bul\$hit...

(Bernstine crash an accident?) No, I think somebody killed him. He's too good a ~~xxx~~ pilot...

(WerBell) Well, he's x a friend of my old friend Andrew St. George and I think maybe Andy has helped bury WerBell a little bit... I swear to God, you can't even trust your friends nowadays....

-notes -- Frank Sturgis - tatel - 4/18/77

(partial)

(get any reaction from the New Times piece? Came down heavy on CIA..any reaction from them?)

No, except David Phillips, you know every time he gets a chance he wacks me. Because I made a big liar out of him.. ~~Man~~ You know when I was in frnt of tee Rockefeller Commission, I spent 16 hours with them, they went over very much with me on the JFK stuff and the mob stuff and CIA assassinatirn plots and all this ~~x~~ stuff and everything started to leak out. Then David Phillips came ~~nx~~ out and started wacking me. Then I got mad and I said, Fuck them, the hell with them, I'll just tell the truth! And that's when I said, Yeah, damn right, I been in ~~xxxx~~ touch with them, I was associated with them!" That's when David Phillips went on television and started knocking me, saying I was never an agent. I never told anyone I was. I said I was associated with them. But the truth is I was recruited by them, because it's on record. It's in CIA records

(Did you ever meet Phillips in Havana?) I don't know. This is the problem. I don't know. You know my contact man, the CO I was working with, was Colonel Nichols. And Nichols had Major Van Horn working with him. And I met a few other CIA guys but I had never any contact with because the rest was strictly telephone. You know when you make contact with an agent, an employee, and you are directly in contact with them, if someteing happens where teey have to leave, well, they'll give you a code name and they'll give you a number and they'll tell you that this man ~~xxxxxxx~~ here, so and so, will contact you, and this is the number. Then he disappears and then it's strictly telephone. You never really in touch with one another, after the first shot, after your first man leaves.

...Just like Barker. Barker met Hunt only one time. When he was turned over to Hunt...'cause Howard told me thi'...I said, How many times did Barker ever meet you? He says, Well, one time. ~~Thixxxx~~ His man, who Barker was in touch with in Havana, when he came over here, he says, he turned Barker over to me, I needed an assistant, ~~xxx~~ he says, so he turned Barker over to me, I met him one time and then after that we checked by telephone, the normal way of contact. He says after that when I left, I turned Barker over to somebody else, he said.

It all depends on the situation you're in. Like Martinez, he was in maritime operations and so forth. Well, when you're in maritime operations you come in direct contact with one or more CIA CO's at one time....[as a result of working on a ship where CIA officials ~~xx~~ are ~~xxx~~ restricted in their movements].. in maritime you have more personal contact with them, because thep stay with the ~~mother~~ mother ship...

(why is Phillips on your back?) Because I told the Committee that the CIA helped Fidel. The Communists were out to kill Fidel at the

very beginning when we came out of the mountains. When Ambassador Smith asked the CIA the background of the Castro brothers and his top military officials, the Cia said no, they had no communist background. Well, the FBI in the Embassy was given all the information on the Castro brothers, but the CIA wouldn't give Smith the correct intelligence information. So Cardwell, William Cardwell, was the CIA station chief and Smith called Cardwell noting but a fuckin communist. He said 90 % of the agents that work for me here are noting but pro-communist bastards. That's why CIA had Smith removed through pressure in Washington. And Jim Knowles was another one of them. He was later Barker's CO here, and that sunavabitch was way to the left.

(when was Knowles Barker's CO here?) Right after Hunt. You see, Hunt left a week before the invasion. Jim Knowles got to be Barker's next political officer. Hunt went back up to Washington and was in the Cuban desk, and the man...remember Hunt was a political officer...and Hunt was transferred from the political office to work with David Phillips, who was propaganda...

(When was Bender here?) Frank Bender? He was here before, during and after the Bay of Pigs. He's a queer sunavabitch. / 2

(Wasn't he Barker's CO?) No! Bender? No! Bender was over-all chief of CIA here for the political section. That's old Droller. He was German born...and he was faggot too. No, he wasn't Barker's CO. Barker's CO was Hunt and then it was Jim Knowles. Jim Knowles worked under Bender, just like Hunt... / 2

[Not Knowles -- KNOEL; Droller also called DRESCHER...]

(Don't know where Droller is now; may be retired; he's a few years older than Hunt..)

(RE PRIO); under ~~gix~~ financial pressure recently; wife only allotted him \$1000 a month; he snorted Coke for years; only those close to him knew how much business pressure he was under...***I asked a friend of mine who was close what happened..." [Duran???] No, he wasn't involved in narcotics...only years ago back in Batista's day, everybody was then..but all he did now was sniff coke...has all his life... / 20

(re Lorenz story)

(Had you known she was going to break this?)

No! I got a call Monday night, tonight's Wednesday, right?, from Paul Meskil, and Paul told me, he says, "Frank, Merita gave me something and I wanted you to ~~be~~ know about it and I want your comments on it." I says, "Shoot." He says, "You know, she has made statements and gave it to us and my editor is thinking about putting it in the papers." So I says, "What is it?" He says, "Well, she claims, she says, you know, this, this and this about Alex Rorke and some pictures somewheres in a training camp, I suppose, you know, and pictures of you, Diaz Lanz, I think she mentioned Diaz Lanz, I'm not sure, well anyway, me, Oswald and so forth. So I says, "Oh yeah, what else?" And he says we had some maps out with a couple of Cubans, Pedro Diaz Lanz, yourself, Oswald, and it had ~~xxxxxx~~ Dallas, and that we were, we all got into two automobiles and we drove to Dallas a couple days, a few days, whatever, before the assassination, and that we went there, and that we were members of Operation 40, and that we went there specifically to go ahead and kill the President of the United States.

I says, "She's got to be out of her goddamn mind! She's gotta be whacko to say shit like that! How the hell can she prove this? I says, I volunteered, like you know with the JFK assassination, to take a polygraph. I says, I'll do the same goddamn thing now! That she's lying."

So he says something about supposedly the two pictures that she had, one was missing with some German girl who was supposed to write her book....

(Had she ever mentioned this to you before?) Not a thing about that. You know, my own opinion, she's been messing around with these gangsters. And ~~xxxx~~ you know, the father of one of her kids is a very wealthy man, owns some race horses and stuff like that, a Jewish guy, and he's a loan shark for the mob. (Know his name?) Ed something. I think maybe him or the other ~~xx~~ guy might have pushed her, because she's always bitching that she needs money, and I think maybe more or less they busted her balls and said, hey look, you want cash for your book, this and that, you gotta ~~x~~ get something spectacular, you know, they always came up with some goddamn mob lawyers for her to handle her book and so forth, and you know, she's a little whacko. This is the conclusion I come to, but I don't know what's behind her mind to do this, because, hey, we're friends, but, christ, with something like this, she's actually getting herself, and Pedro and myself involved in killing the President! She's gotta be out of her goddamn mind!

(Was she in Miami at that time, in November of '63?)

"I can't remember that long. All I know is, like I told you, the day that Kennedy got killed I was here in the house. It beats the hell out of me, I can't get remember that long if she was here at the time."

Merita = Matt McVane - CIA

"Well, you know, too, she was Perez Jimenez's mistress. And Perez Jimenez was giving some of the Cuban people money. And also in New Orleans, with money and so forth. And she told me, at one time, that possibility at one time that Jimenez wanted to do something against the Kennedys. Now I don't know who she meant, whether it was the President or Bobby Kennedy or what, I don't know, but it's something she told me this past year when I was up in New York. How true it is, I don't know."

(Did Jimenez have a lot of money when he was here?)
 Shit, yeah. He lived on one of the islands here, kept her in a fancy apartment because you know she had a baby by Jimenez, a girl, and she's a split image of Jimenez. And he was involved in all kind of bullshit, Jimenez was. But who knows whether it's true. The only way to go ahead and get the truth out of her, like I told Paul, I says Paul, the people from the Assassination Committee if they believe her, should make her come to Washington and put her under oath, then ask her to take a polygraph. And I'll ~~xxx~~ tell you this, I'll take a polygraph that the statement that she said is a complete lie! That it is not so! No way in the world did I ever travel to Dallas, Texas with her, with Bosch, with Pedro, or Oswald. Cause I told the Committee and I told you, too, hey, to the best of my knowledge I don't think I ever met Oswald. Because you know the shit that was coming out of the town from here, that I made the statement the FBI got ~~xxx~~ going that Oswald was in town here, and this Lyle Stuart, the guy who was financing the Fair Play for Cuba thing, and that's known as being backed up with Communist money, that supposedly Oswald was here and was on a radio station, there was some article about it in the paper, that he appeared in front of some TV station or something, but hey, I don't know, this is all some bullshit talk, I don't know if he was here or not? But I was talking with a friend of mine today, Bob Tralins, and he remembered Oswald was here... (Talked to him last year)... "Oh you did." (Didn't check out.)

(Be Lorenz claim that Hemming was in photo) "Yeah, he called me up last night. (Where was that training camp supposed to have been?) "Big Pine Key, or No Name. Well there were several down there. We had one out in the Everglades too. But eventually they separated from me and started doing shit on their own. Jerry had all the fuckin' garbage all over the United States in with him, a bunch of crazy bastards." (Jerry knew Merita, also, didn't he?) "I don't know. That's it, I really don't know." "But why Merita would say shit like this, I really ~~xxxx~~ don't know either. But I tell you something, she's got a lot of balls, this gal. But, hey, this gal here did some good stuff for the government, believe me. You know, in the past she turned

over Communist codes to me, and documents and shit like that. She worked for the Company before and she worked for the FBI as an undercover agent for about seven years, even had her kid do shit for them. And she was out being a mistress for the top Russian KGB agent in New York. She was his undercover mistress, he bought her jewelry and booze, wining and dining her and she was ballin' him. You know, she won't say it to anybody because it would make her look like a whore, you know, but hey, man, she really did a job. And I took tape recordings of all that shit, you know, and I turned it over to our intelligence, they got it, they took copies of it ~~xx~~ and all that. Yeah, she's got a lot of balls... K

(re clicks on line) "That's probably the FBI bugging me, ha, ha, ha. I hope they got a court order. Hey, you know, that's how Nixon lost his 18 minutes of tape, you know the ~~xxx~~ gap. You know I know who did it, I know who ordered it. I was told who ordered it, and I believe I know the man who ~~x~~ erased it. It was erased electronically. (Why?) Well, you remember there were statements I made to you and then it came out in the press about Nixon ~~x~~ was trying to cover himself about the files he wanted from CIA about the Bay of Pigs and the missiles and the Kennedy assassination, he ordered Helms to give it to him and Helms wouldn't give it to him. Three times he wouldn't give it to him and then Nixon fired him for it. Well, in that 18 and half minutes tape I think there were conversations on that, that pertained to what I was talking about, and this ex-agent told me, he says, 'Frank, you're right, with the statements that you made, you know, that I read about what you said about Nixon being set up and so forth and about the files and all that, well, I want to tell you something, I was hired to erase those tapes.'" And he says, "It was done electronically. And the man who hired me was so and so." And I got the tape recording of it, too. (Of the guy telling you this?) Yes, sir. Hopefully, it's still here. I mean, hopefully it's still in my possession, ~~xxxxxx~~ you know what I mean, if I don't go ahead and get it all erased, ha, ha. But he told me, and whether it was bullshit or a lie I don't know, but this guy was an ~~x~~ ex-CIA agent. Well, after a period of time these people get a little disgusted with their government, with what goes on and so forth times, and sometimes people will tell other people, you know, which is limited to the people they tell, of so and so and so and so. Who knows, it's a funny world. I suspect one of these days I'm gonna ~~xxx~~ wake up and somebody is gonna shoot my ass. But, hey, ~~xx~~ it's the name of the game. I don't worry about it. But sometimes I think Pedro is right. You know he thinks the Agency is gonna kill him. He says, "I know too much about the Agency." You know, he thinks Artime is a K

double agent. (Have you heard from Arttime?) Hell, no, Arttime wouldn't call me. You know who called me yesterday? Howard. (Hunt?) Yeah, ha, ha, ha, Howard. Here comes all these press people inside the doors and Howard calls me on the phone and says, 'Hey, sorry to hear about this, so on and ~~xxx~~ so forth. I saw you on television, you really did a good job.' Yeah, I says, Howard, I got all the press walking ~~x~~ in the front door right now. (It's a wonder she didn't put him in this thing, too, huh?)

Well, she pulled a boo-boo by saying that when she came from Cuba she met Howard Hunt and myself. And I called her up and I says, "You never met Howard Hunt and me! It was not Howard Hunt!" She says, 'Well, I thought it was Howard Hunt.' I says, 'If you saw Howard Hunt today ~~xxx~~ you wouldn't know who the hell the man was! How ~~x~~ could you go ahead and say that?' She says, 'Well, it don't make no difference, what difference does it make?' I says, 'It makes a lot of difference!' I says, 'I never knew Howard at that time.' I says, 'Now I'm under oath telling these people, the Senate Watergate Committee that ~~xxx~~ I didn't know Howard, I never met -- which is true, you know -- I never personally met Howard until either late '71 or '72 -- and you come up with a cockamania story that Frank arranged for my escape out of Cuba and the first people I meet in Miami is Frank Sturgis and E. Howard Hunt. You gotta be crazy! To say shit like that, oh God. But she wants to get in the goddamn papers. You know Howard's been hittin' the papers quite a bit. But I says, "Why do you want to put the man in the jackpot for? That's a lie." I says, "Them people ever ask you to take a polygraph, for Christ's sake, they'll make a goddamn liar out of you. Because you never met Howard Hunt because I never knew Howard Hunt." She never met Howard Hunt. At least the best as I know. Maybe in bed someplace she met him, you know, ha, ha, ha. She sure as hell didn't meet Howard Hunt with me!"