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ComposedDate: 06/18/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 11:58:57 AM
Subject: Assassination records with CIA and Miami Police Department
INTERVIEW REPORT ISSUE # 100 DOCUMENT'S AUTHOR: ANNE BUTTIMER/ARRB Date Created: 06/29/95 INTERVIEW
Logistics Date: 06/29/95 Attendees: Anne Butt timer, Gus Russo, David Marwell, Cinda Elser Topic: Assassination
records with CIA and Miami Police Department Summary of the Interview NOTE: The Identity of Russo's source
(Martin Underwood) is to remain confidential. No attempt should be made to contact him. -- David Marwell
met with Gus Russo, David Marwell and Cinda Elser on June 26, 1995. Cinda is an independent private
investigator who specializes in finding hard to locate individuals. She is a friend of Russo's and has performed
investigative work for him, Tony Summers, the Frontline program on PBS, and a number of public and private
organizations. Cinda was in Washington for a meeting (she lives in Ohio) and she took the occassion to meet
with me in the event the Review Board needs to hire her investigative skills. She bills at \$25.00 an hour, plus
computer on-line time and expenses. She said that some cases, which involve extraordinary amounts of time
or other efforts, additional costs may be assessed (ie. a flat rate in lieu of an hourly rate) but that she would
discuss all of this with a client before proceeding. Russo provided information concerning Marty Underwood
and his knowledge of Fabian Escalante, the alleged "mystery passenger" on flights in and out of Mexico City
and Havana in September, 1963 and just after the assassination. According to Russo, Underwood became a
Kennedy family confidante and assistant when he helped Kenny O'Donnell, in conjunction with Mayor Dailey,
to rig the Chicago elections in JFK's favor. Prior to that time Underwood had been associated with Sam
Giancana. Underwood allegedly (based on what he told Russo) assisted Joe Kennedy in setting up telephone
lines from Milwaukee to Chicago which were used to facilitate vote rigging and the buying of votes. Russo
claims Underwood, who is now 80 years old but looks and acts 60, has never spoken with a journalist or
anyone else about his exploits for the Kennedy's and LBJ before this time, although he received "one line"
mentions in William Manchester's book about JFK and in Jack Valente's book. After the 1960 election
Underwood was brought to the White House/Kennedy family staff although his name never appeared on any
White House personnel lists. He was given a title and position in the Commerce Department, although he told
Russo that in the eight years he worked for Commerce he "never once did anything for them." Rather,
Underwood's work for the White House involved acting as an advance man for Kennedy's trips. During an
advance/planning trip to Mexico City in 1962 he claims to have met Win Scott. When JFK was assassinated
Underwood moved to the Johnson White House and continued to work as an advance man and became a
confidante of LBJ's. In 1968, during the "height of feuding between RFK and LBJ" the latter was concerned
about "two cancers; Vietnam and allegations I killed JFK." LBJ allegedly told Underwood to find out "what your
Record
Body:
recstat:
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: