

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

August 9, 1967

Edward M. Baldwin

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PRESENT: MR. JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
MESSRS. ALVIN OSER, CHARLES WARD, ANDREW
SCIAMBRA AND NUMA BERTEL, ASSISTANT
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

EDWARD M. BALDWIN

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Reported by:
Maureen B. Thiel
Secretary
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

EDWARD M. BALDWIN, after being duly sworn by the Foreman of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

MR. CHARLES WARD:

Q. For the record please state your name?

A. First of all, I would like to find out the subject of this interrogation?

Q. Ed, we would not be permitted to tell you that. If you wish to impose objections you can do that at the proper time.

A. For the record I would like to state that I am counsel of record for Mr. Walter Sheridan and I have also been counsel for Mr. William Gurvich so if any of the questions relate to any matters discussed with them I am going to invoke the attorney's privilege.

Q. State your name please?

A. Edward Baldwin

Q. What is your profession?

A. Attorney at Law.

Q. How long have you been licensed to practice as an attorney-at-law?

A. I graduated from the Tulane Law School in 1953.

Q. Were you a member of the law firm of Hubert & O'Hara?

A. Yes we were law partners.

Q. You are acquainted with Judge Malcolm O'Hara?

A. Yes, he was my former law partner.

Q. Are you also acquainted with Pershing Gervais?

A. I have met and know him, yes.

Q. Have you been an acquaintance of Mr. Zachary Strate?

"Red" Strate?

A. I have met Mr. Strate, yes.

Q. When did you become counsel for Mr. Walter Sheridan?

A. I am not sure of the precise date.

Q. Did you sign the record as counsel for Mr. Sheridan
July 19, 1967?

A. Yes, I believe so.

Q. Were you employed as attorney of record for Mr. Sheridan
prior to the time you signed the record on July 19, 1967?

A. Not for Mr. Sheridan, no sir.

Q. Then the effective date of your employment for Mr. Sheridan
is July 19, 1967?

A. I might have been employed - I met with Mr. Brener and
consulted with him before signing those pleadings.

Q. How long before you signed those papers?

A. I am not sure.

Q. Can you estimate the time, was it one week?

A. I would say - I don't know, I would say there was a date
when Mr. Sheridan received a subpoena from this Grand Jury.

Q. If you signed the record on July 19, 1967 were you the attorney for Mr. Sheridan on July 1, 1967?

A. July 1st - no, I was not.

Q. Were you the attorney for Mr. Sheridan on June 12, 1967?

A. No, I was not.

Q. Did you have occasion to meet with Judge Malcolm O'Hara on June 5, 1967 at the Fontainebleau and have lunch with him there?

A. I am not sure of the date - I have had lunch with Judge O'Hara, yes.

Q. Have you had lunch with Judge O'Hara at the Fontainebleau sometime during the early part of June, 1967 and discussed the matter of Walter Sheridan's appearance and work in New Orleans?

A. I am not sure.

Q. Did you ever meet with O'Hara in the Fontainebleau?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever have lunch with him there?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever at any time discuss Walter Sheridan and the purpose of Mr. Sheridan's visit to New Orleans?

A. I have discussed Walter Sheridan with Judge O'Hara as I have with a number of other people.

Q. Did you also discuss Walter Sheridan with Judge O'Hara in the chambers of Judge O'Hara? Any time during 1967?

A. I might have.

Q. Did you ever visit Judge O'Hara in his chambers during the month of June, 1967?

A. I am sure I did, I visit him there often.

Q. Did you, to your knowledge, discuss with Judge O'Hara in his chambers Walter Sheridan and the NBC program?

A. I don't know whether it was in his chambers - I know we agreed that we didn't think much of the show.

Q. Did you ever agree to meet with Judge O'Hara at lunch to discuss the show that was produced by Walter Sheridan?

A. Not particularly to meet him, no. Not in connection with it - I did not say I want to meet you for lunch and discuss the Sheridan show. No.

Q. Can you recall any time in June, 1967, prior to your employment by Mr. Sheridan, meeting with Judge O'Hara at the Fontainebleau for lunch and discussing the show? Or Mr. Sheridan?

A. I might have discussed them - I am not trying to fence with you, Mr. Ward, we talked about a lot of things.

Q. Do you recall ever speaking with Judge O'Hara and asking him

to arrange an appointment or meet you at the Bourbon-Orleans sometime in June of 1967?

A. I don't think I asked him to arrange the appointment, no.

Q. Did you ever discuss the possibility of meeting him at the Bourbon-Orleans in June of 1967?

A. There was such a matter discussed, yes.

Q. Did any such meeting ever occur?

A. There was a meeting which occurred between Judge O'Hara, myself, Mr. Strate I met for the first time that day,.....

Q. That was at the Bourbon-Orleans?

A. That is correct.

Q. Who else was present?

A. Mr. Sheridan was in the bar when I got there. I got there late and Mr. Strate and Judge O'Hara were talking together.

Q. Did you make arrangements with Mr. Sheridan to meet him at the Bourbon-Orleans? On that date that you met Judge O'Hara and Mr. Strate?

A. That is correct.

Q. You requested Mr. Sheridan to meet you at the Bourbon-Orleans on that date?

A. I told him that Judge O'Hara would be there and I did not know Mr. Strate was going to be there.

Q. Did you know, or rather had Judge O'Hara informed you that he would bring somebody to the meeting with you and Sheridan?

A. He did not.

Q. Were you surprised to see anybody with Judge O'Hara at the time you met him ?

A. I was.

Q. Did you recognize Mr. Strate when you saw him there?

A. I had never seen him or met him before.

Q. Did you introduce yourself to Mr. Strate?

A. No, I was introduced by Judge O'Hara to Mr. Strate.

Q. After the introduction did you also, or did you go to meet Walter Sheridan at the bar?

A. I went over to the bar and called Mr. Sheridan who came over to the table.

Q. Did you introduce Mr. Sheridan to Judge O'Hara?

A. I don't believe I did. As I remember it, Judge O'Hara said why don't we leave the table.

Q. Did Mr. Sheridan know Mr. Strate?

A. I don't know that.

Q. Do you recall whether there was any introduction between Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Strate?

A. I don't really remember, I remember when Mr. Sheridan came

over to the table Judge O'Hara said why don't we leave and he and I got up and left and went across the room.

Q. When you left were you in hearing distance of Strate and Sheridan?

A. No.

Q. When you left where did you go?

A. Across the room. Across the barroom.

Q. Did you order a drink or have a drink at the bar?

A. I think both the Judge and I had a drink, yes.

Q. Where, at this time, were Mr. Strate and Mr. Sheridan?

A. Sitting at a table.

Q. Were they talking at this time?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have occasion to hear any part of the conversation?
At that time?

A. I did not.

Q. How long did they converse?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Could you estimate the time, would you say it was 30 minutes?

A. I wouldn't think that long. On the other hand, I wasn't clocking it.

Q. Could it have been 45 minutes?

A. I would doubt that.

Q. Could it have been one hour?

A. I would doubt that.

Q. Could it have been an hour and a half?

A. I would doubt that, Mr. Ward, I don't think it was that long.

Q. More than an hour or less than an hour?

A. I would say less, less than a half hour.

Q. How did this conversation terminate between Mr. Strate and Mr. Sheridan terminate?

A. I think either, I am trying to remember, I don't know - either Mr. Sheridan or one of the two gestured to Judge O'Hara and me.

Q. Prior to the gesture did you hear any of the conversation between Mr. Strate and Mr. Sheridan?

A. No.

Q. After the gesture by either Mr. Strate or Mr. Sheridan did you go back to the table occupied by them?

A. Yes, I did, with the Judge.

Q. Did you recall any part of the conversation after you went back to the table, the conversation between Mr. Strate and Mr. Sheridan?

A. I was sitting there but I don't remember particularly what was talked about. It was obvious to me that whatever had been the subject of this conversation I had no way of knowing what it had been. I was unprepared for seeing Mr.

Strate. I didn't know what he and Mr. Sheridan had talked about. It was obvious that they had not been able to get together on whatever it was that they had talked about, that was my recollection.

Q. After the conversation, after you returned to the table, did you join Judge O'Hara, Mr. Strate and Mr. Sheridan in any conversation?

A. Yes, but as I remember it, it was fairly general.

Q. Did you order another round of drinks after that?

A. Some one might have, I am not sure.

Q. Approximately how long did you remain at the table in company of Mr. Strate, Sheridan and Judge O'Hara?

A. 15 or 20 minutes perhaps.

Q. After that conversation did you subsequently leave the Bourbon-Orleans in the company of Mr. Sheridan?

A. No.

Q. With whom did you leave?

A. By myself.

Q. Where was Mr. Sheridan when you left?

A. My recollection is that Judge O'Hara and Mr. Strate left first, and I think Mr. Sheridan and I lingered for a couple of minutes and I think we walked out in the lobby and then I went home. I don't know where he went.

Q. Did you have occasion to see Judge O'Hara after that in the chambers of the Court in this Building, the Criminal District Court Building?

A. I am sure I did. I don't know whether that was when he went on vacation or not, I am not sure.

Q. Did you at any time, if you saw Judge O'Hara in his chambers, tell Judge O'Hara, "Mac, did you hear what Sheridan said to Strate the other day, 'why won't you let me give you some help in Chicago?'" And Judge O'Hara answered "you are damn right I heard what Sheridan said."

A. I don't remember any statement like that.

Q. Did you ever have a conversation with Judge O'Hara after your meeting with O'Hara, Strate and Sheridan, in his chambers, in which you said to Judge O'Hara "Mac, did you hear what Sheridan said to Strate the other day, 'why won't you let me give you some help in Chicago'"

A. I don't think I said that. I asked him what the conversation had been about, as I remember it.

Q. Can you recall specifically what your words were?

A. It was my understanding that Strate wanted some help in Chicago, that was my understanding, and that Sheridan had told him no.

Q. Did you, when you spoke to O'Hara, rephrase the conversation

try to
or/recapitulate the conversation between Strate and
Sheridan?

A. I couldn't rephrase it because I did not know what it was.

Q. Did you at any time overhear Sheridan tell Strate 'why won't you let me help you in Chicago'?

A. I did not, nor did Mr. Sheridan say that to me.

Q. Did Malcolm O'Hara say to you, "Ed, you are damn right I heard what Sheridan said"?

A. No, I am almost positive that he didn't say that to me. I don't want to we couldn't hear what they were talking about. I remember one point, I think I said to Judge O'Hara something to the effect of wonder how long this is going to take, or something like that. I can tell you this, we were sitting some, I would guess, 40 feet across, or more.

Q. Who arranged the meeting between Strate, O'Hara, you and Sheridan?

A. Judge O'Hara indicated that he would like to talk to Mr. Sheridan. I was not informed ^{that} ~~if~~ Mr. Strate would be there. I then said, well if you want to meet with him I can arrange it, I will call him because I knew where he was staying, I knew he was staying at the Bourbon-Orleans.

Q. Did you ever initiate a meeting between Judge O'Hara, yourself and Mr. Sheridan?

- A. Initiate it? It was discussed. I don't know that anybody initiated it.
- Q. What was the purpose of the meeting?
- A. I didn't know what the purpose was. I know what Judge O'Hara told me.
- Q. What did he tell you the purpose was?
- A. He said that he had some information that was damaging to Mr. Garrison, which is what I knew Mr. Sheridan was working on.
- Q. Did you convey this to Mr. Sheridan?
- A. Of course I did.
- Q. Did he express an interest?
- A. At first, he did not.
- Q. Was he aware of Judge O'Hara's opposition to Mr. Garrison in the election?
- A. Oh, I think he knew that, yes.
- Q. He expressed no interest in meeting Judge O'Hara?
- A. Not particularly, not at first, he wasn't sure what Judge O'Hara wanted with him.
- Q. Did Mr. Sheridan ever at any time to you suggest that he would like to meet Judge O'Hara?
- A. Honestly speaking, I think that it came from the other source, I really do.

JURORS:

- Q. What made it obvious to you that the deal was not made between Strate and Sheridan?
- A. Mr. Sheridan told me right after he left. He said that Strate wanted some help on his trial in Chicago and that he wanted Sheridan to say there had been some wiretapping going on, and Sheridan told me he couldn't say that because it hadn't happened and that he had never done any such thing and that he couldn't help him. I then asked him what was Strate supposed to give you in return if you would do such a thing, and he said - Walter Sheridan answered me in one line, he said, "Give him Pershing Gervais". That's what Sheridan told me right there.

Q. BY MR. WARD:

- Are you testifying here that Judge O'Hara told you, or Mr. Sheridan that he was going to give you Pershing Gervais?
- A. No, I said that Mr. Sheridan told me after Judge O'Hara and Mr. Strate left, that we lingered for a few minutes and I said "what was it all about?", because I was as confused as anybody else, I didn't know what Strate was doing there, I know that Mr. Sheridan did not know that Mr. Strate was coming down there, he expected to meet with Malcolm O'Hara to hear what Malcolm O'Hara had to say to him.

When they left I said what was it all about and Sheridan said he wanted me to help him on the Chicago trial, something about that somebody had bugged telephones leading up - it was in the Hoffa case as I understood it - in which Mr. Strate was a co-defendant, and Sheridan said we could make no deal because I did not bug any phones, he said there had been particular orders there be no phone bugging. So I said what were they going to give you, what was Strate going to give you, and he said that he said he would give me Pershing Gervais. Now, that is ^{you,} coming from the lips of Sheridan. As I told/Charlie, I heard none of it.

MR. WARD:

When you were with Mr. Sheridan, where were you when you first saw Mr. Strate and Judge O'Hara?

A. As I first entered into the bar.

Q. Where was Mr. Sheridan?

A. He was sitting over at the bar, in other words, you come into a door, there was a table over to the left against the wall, there was a bar and down at the far end of the room, which is where Mr. Sheridan was sitting.

Q. Where was Mr. Strate and Judge O'Hara?

A. They were sitting at the table to the left by a wall.

I then walked over to the table, after gesturing to

Walter, and he came over to the table - I don't think we were there 30 seconds and Malcolm stood up and said why don't we go away. We then crossed completely opposite the room and sat at the table right next to the bar on this side of the room and completely across the room.

Q. Did Mr. Sheridan express surprise to you on recognition of Mr. Strate? At the time you first met Zachary Strate

A. in the lounge?

A. It happened too fast. I don't think he had time to register anything.

Q. Did he recognize Mr. Strate at that time?

A. I do not know. I don't know whether he ever^{knew}/Mr. Strate before, or had met him, I think he certainly knew the name.

JUROR:

You said that Malcolm wanted to come there and give information to Mr. Sheridan, when you all got there and Mr. Sheridan came over and Malcolm said let's leave. Then it seems like Mr. Sheridan was geared to meet Strate - because Malcolm didn't talk to him. It didn't seem like that was the plan at all. It seemed like Sheridan knew who he was going to meet and what he was coming there for.

A. Well, I didn't. I can tell you that. And I am under oath. I didn't know that Strate was going to be there.

Q. But Malcolm didn't talk to him at all

A. Unless Malcolm called Walter Sheridan and told him who he was bringing, I don't know how he could have known.

Q. Obviously he didn't come to talk to O'Hara, he came to talk to

A. He did come to talk to O'Hara.

Q. Then why did O'Hara say to you let's leave, and you all walked away, knowing that the plan was for them to talk.

A. I didn't know the plan was for them to talk. I don't think Judge O'Hara would say I did. I did not know that Strate was going to be there.

Q. Obviously it was that you all did what you did.

A. No. It appeared to me that Judge O'Hara got up and said, 'Ed, let's go over to this table' because apparently Mr. Strate had said he wanted to talk to Mr. Sheridan alone. I didn't know, in other words when I got there Malcolm said let's go over to the other table and I just went over. I just figured that Strate wanted to give some information to Mr. Sheridan.

Q. What did you think the purpose of the meeting was, before you went to the Hotel?

A. I thought Judge O'Hara had some information to give to Mr. Sheridan.

Q. He told you this?

A. Yes. He indicated to me that he did, but he did not tell me the nature of it, and I still didn't know at the time the whole thing was over with what it was.

Q. What did O'Hara tell you when he talked to you about arranging the meeting? You arranged the meeting with Sheridan you said.

A. After Malcolm and I discussed it.

Q. What did he say after the discussion with you?

A. You mean the Judge now?

Q. He just called you and said

A. No, that's not the way it worked. We had discussed it before.

Q. What?

A. Walter Sheridan and the investigation Sheridan was making of the District Attorney's office.

Q. For NBC?

A. Whether this meeting took place before the show or after I

am not positive. I don't know when the show was.

Q. This was the same investigation he was making generally.

A. The show was what, on the 17th? There was a discussion between the Judge and myself that he had, he said "I can't tell you who this person is, I would have to have his clearance in order to be able to give this to Mr.

Sheridan". I didn't know who he was talking about. I remember when they both left I asked Sheridan what were they going to give you and he said 'Pershing Gervais'.

Q. Did Judge O'Hara set up the meeting originally? Who promoted the meeting?

A. I would say it was a discussion between Judge O'Hara and myself in which he mentioned to me that he had some information which could be very damaging to Mr. Garrison. I said what is it and he wouldn't tell me. He said what kind of guy is Walter Sheridan? and I said I think he is a pretty straight guy and he said 'do you know him well, do you trust him', and I said 'yes I do'.

MR. WARD:

Q. Ed, did you know that Zachary Strate was convicted in Chicago for conspiracy to commit mail fraud?

A. Charlie, I never heard of Strate in my life. I found out

afterwards who Strate was, I never even heard of the man. I have learned since that he is from New Orleans and that he had something to do with the Fontainebleau, but as of the day that we met at the Bourbon-Orleans - I may be naive, but I had never heard of Red Strate.

Q. It was all over the front page of the papers. It was quite a case.

A. I am sorry, sir. It did not ring a bell with me. I did not know who Red Strate was.

Q. When did you first come in contact with Walter Sheridan? How long do you have an acquaintance with him?

A. I don't remember. I don't know when he got down here to tell you the truth.

Q. Did you assist him in any way in this documentary for NBC?

A. Assist him? I know that he discussed what I thought of Mr. Garrison. I told him.

Q. Did you tell him any leads, or witnesses he should talk to or see?

A. Now, this is going to get into the area of my client relationship.

Q. I think Mr. Ward asked you a question that you are not following too well. He was asking you about a comment

made as the group was breaking up, you were there, Judge O'Hara, Mr. Strate and Mr. Sheridan, just prior to their leaving and you lingering, at that time did you hear any remark made by Mr. Sheridan relative to let me help you, or why won't you let me help you in Chicago - Mr. Sheridan speaking to Mr. Strate?

This did not happen when you were talking to Judge O'Hara, this happened perhaps when you were all together and you would have been able to hear it. Just as if to say, well I'll see you next week, or - the group was breaking up at that time - do you remember any remark

A. Is that what you are talking about, before we left there, a remark - is that what you

Q. Yes.

A. As I remember it, there was something like this, Strate said something to the effect 'I only want to help myself'. I remember a line like this coming from Strate. Sheridan then said 'but you are not saying that you only want to help yourself, you are saying you want to help a whole bunch of other people'. I remember a line like that, and he said it in a sort of laughing way, there was some banter about it. Then when they left that's when I - frankly, I was curious. I did not know who this man was, but when his name was mentioned it rang a bell. Red

Strate. It rang a bell at the point of which either Malcolm had told me he knew Red Strate, or something.

I am not sure.

MR. WARD:

Q. Ed, did you ever discuss with Malcolm after that what Sheridan said to Strate in your presence? Did you ever discuss with O'Hara the statement by Sheridan to Strate why wouldn't you let me help you in Chicago?

A. I never heard him say that. I drew, as an implication, from what Strate asked Sheridan if Strate had been making a pitch for more people than himself, that was my understanding of what Strate said.

Q. Did you ever discuss any part of that conversation that you overheard with Judge O'Hara after the meeting at the Bourbon-Orleans?

A. I did not know what Strate had told him. I asked Malcolm what was Strate asking for.

Q. What did Judge O'Hara say?

A. I am not sure.

Q. What did Judge O'Hara tell you?

A. I don't even remember. My understanding was that Strate wanted

help on his case, Sheridan wouldn't give it to him, if Sheridan had given it to him he would have been guaranteed that Pershing Gervais would tell certain things he knew about Garrison. That was my understanding of the whole thing and that they hadn't gotten together on the whole arrangement.

Q. Mr. Baldwin, do you remember subsequent to the meeting at the Bourbon-Orleans, do you remember being in Judge O'Hara's chambers shortly after the meeting, and just prior to the time when the Judge was in a hurry to get into Court, and the Judge said "you are damn right I heard what he said".

A. I do not.

Q. You do not remember? You do not remember the Judge walking hurriedly out of the chambers to go into Court and saying

A. You must remember that I see Judge O'Hara in chambers on a number of occasions, but I never remembered Judge O'Hara expressing any indignation to me, if that is the implication of what you are saying. From what I understood of the thing Judge O'Hara had put Strate in contact with Sheridan, that he was not trying to perfect anything, he was not trying to ^{get them to} make a deal, he wanted to know if Sheridan was a regular guy by which I seemed to feel that he thought that would he be the sort of person who would try and bug the conversation between Strate.

Q. But you also said that the Judge had some ~~xxx~~ information which

he would like to give Sheridan about Mr. Garrison which would be damaging.

A. That is right. But I didn't know what it was. I later found out what they were talking about - what Strate was saying was that he could get Pershing Gervais to cooperate with Mr. Sheridan.

Q. Mr. Baldwin, did anyone in the group mention anything about wrecking the Garrison investigation at any time that you know of?

A. I was not there long enough, Mr. Kramer. I went in there for maybe a minute and Malcolm and I walked off to a table and when we got back, it seemed to be obvious to me that whatever they talked about had not gotten anywhere. I heard nothing about wrecking any investigation at all. I can tell you this quite frankly. I know that Mr. Sheridan was interested if Judge O'Hara had something which was damaging to Mr. Garrison and I am sure Mr. Sheridan would have wanted to get it.

Q. Do you know if Judge O'Hara had any additional contact with Mr. Sheridan?

A. I do not know.

Q. Did you indicate that you did know Pershing Gervais prior to this?

A. Oh yes, everybody did.

Q. Did Mr. Sheridan arrange or discuss with you the possibility of getting Pershing Gervais to help in this?

A. No sir.

Q. The discussion of Pershing Gervais never came between you and Mr. Sheridan prior to this meeting?

A. I think I might have told him that if Pershing Gervais would tell what he knew about Mr. Garrison it would be very damaging to him, I think I might have told him that.

Q. Then Pershing Gervais' knowledge of pertinent information would have been discussed by you and Mr. Sheridan prior to this meeting?

A. I just spoke about it as a generality. I don't know what Pershing can say if he were to tell what he knows.

Q. But you indicated that he could give some very good information/

A. He was the closest man to Garrison that I knew anything about.

Q. And Mr. Sheridan was aware of this before he went there to the meeting? With you three gentlemen?

A. I am sure he knew who Pershing Gervais was, but I don't think he had any idea at that time that what Mr. Strate

would offer was Pershing Gervais because I asked him after they left what was so important, what was the information, and he summed it up by saying they wanted to give him Pershing Gervais.

Q. Let me ask you one question. Pershing Gervais was a valuable man before he went down there apparently.

A. I am sure Mr. Sheridan did a thorough investigation on Mr. Garrison and checked back for a number of years as to who his friends were, and his confidants.

Q. You didn't arrange this meeting, neither did Mr. Sheridan?

A. I think it was arranged - you use a word that calls for an opinion from me, Mr. LaBiche. Judge O'Hara and I discussed generally what Mr. Sheridan was doing down here. Malcolm said if he had something - and he wouldn't tell me what it was at that time, he said he had to check it with somebody else, but he didn't tell me who that person was - which would be very helpful to Mr. Sheridan, so when you say who arranged the meeting I don't know how

Q. And you told that to Mr. Sheridan?

A. Certainly I did.

Q. And Mr. Sheridan agreed to meet with him and discuss that?

A. Not at first. He said well, I don't know whether I want to meet with the Judge - and there was some discussion

about the Judge meeting with Mr. Sheridan. He didn't know who Sheridan was, what he was trying to get, and but what he would try and embarrass the Judge.

Q. And after a few telephone calls he agreed to meet?

A. I forget how many.

Q. And you put the meeting together? Down at the Bourbon-Orleans Hotel?

A. Well, if you want to say I arranged the meeting in that sense, yes. I talked to the Judge, I said I talked to Mr. Sheridan, he hasn't gone back to Washington today, he is in town, and I think Malcolm said I can meet him at 5:00 o'clock, and there was some discussion as to where to meet him.

Q. You knew Malcolm was bringing someone with him?

A. No, I did not. And I don't think Mr. Sheridan did either, if he did he did not learn it from me.

Q. The Judge did not know Sheridan?

A. To my knowledge no, he had never met him.

Q. You knew Sheridan and you knew the Judge?

A. That is correct.

Q. And you arranged the meeting between the Judge and Sheridan?

A. In the way I have described, yes. On the theory that the Judge had information which I thought, based on what he

told me about it, that Mr. Sheridan would be interested in.

Q. Did the Judge ask you to arrange the meeting?

A. Ultimately yes. There was a lot of discussion about it. Over a couple of days.

Q. But it got to a point where you made a decision that you were going to have a meeting and did the Judge say I want to meet Sheridan will you arrange a meeting for Sheridan with me?

A. Yes, he say arrange the meeting, see if he is still in town, and

Q. And the purpose of this meeting was that the Judge would give Sheridan information?

A. Might, he did not tell me for sure that he was.

Q. Well, you being part of it, you being the intermediary, you knew both people, you had absolutely no idea as to what this meeting was about?

A. I did not know what it was that Malcolm had to give Mr. Sheridan and I was the most surprised person in the world when I saw Strate sitting there. Because I thought Malcolm was coming down there alone.

Q. I gather from what you said that Malcolm initiated this whole thing? Are you saying that?

A. I don't think that it was anybody who initiated anything. He and I were discussing the Sheridan program

Q. Well if we are going to talk about something that happened somebody had to initiate it. Things just don't happen.

A. I will say this is your interpretation of it. We discussed the program, Malcolm knew the purpose of the thing,

Q. Well, who first said, who first brought up the subject of having a meeting, if you don't like the term initiated it.

A. I am not positive. Malcolm was asking me what kind of man Sheridan was. I was not trying to get him to meet Sheridan if he did not want too. As a matter of fact, Mr. Sheridan was reluctant to meet with him.

Q. Did you suggest the meeting? Or did Malcolm suggest it?

A. I am under oath and I am not positive how it ended up whether Malcolm said is Sheridan in town. I remember one time I said no, he is not in town he is in Washington, and he said when will he be back, and I said in two or three days, something like that. Finally he came back and I called Malcolm and I said he is back.

Q. At that point, what did he say? Can you arrange a meeting, can you arrange for us to get together?

A. Something to that effect, yes.

Q. Wouldn't you say that is initiating a meeting?

A. But there had been so much discussion about it before.

I don't want to tell you that Malcolm sought me out and said look, I have an idea, why don't I meet with Sheridan, because that's not the way it happened.

Q. We are not trying to trap you.

A. I get the feeling you are.

Q. But somebody had to initiate the meeting. Like you said when the man came back to town and you called up Malcolm you said "Malcolm, Sheridan is in town". At that point somebody had to say do you want me to arrange a meeting - or he would say Ed, how about setting up a meeting.

A. It was my understanding that when Sheridan came back to town that there was going to be a meeting. All I can tell you is that Sheridan had some reluctance about it and insisted on it being there at the Bourbon-Orleans where he lived.

Q. When you called Sheridan did you say Judge O'Hara wants to meet with you?

A. He knew Judge O'Hara was going to meet with him.

Q. How did he know?

A. I told him.

Q. The arrangements of the meeting?

A. I had discussed it with him earlier. That Judge O'Hara had some information which would be damaging to Garrison, I told him that. He didn't initiate a meeting with Judge O'Hara, that's for sure.

Q. Are you Mr. Sheridan's attorney, or Mr. Brener, or both of you?

A. Both of us.'

Q. I am under the assumption that Mr. Sheridan wanted to talk to Mr. Strate and he wanted to work a deal with Strate for information. Now you are telling us something different -

A. I don't think Mr. Sheridan had any idea Mr. Strate would be there that day. I think it was his understanding, it was certainly mine, that we would meet with Judge O'Hara.

Q. On that day what did you feel, that who wanted to see who?

A. You mean at the end of it?
beginning

Q. No, the ~~beginning~~ or the end or any part of it. Who was anxious to talk to who? Red to talk to Sheridan, or vice versa? You must have had a little bit of knowledge as to who wanted to talk to who.

A. Frankly, I was so surprised if you are talking about the first part of it, the meeting, that Strate was there - I sat there after Mr. Sheridan came over and Malcolm immediately said, Ed, let's blow, go over to the side of the bar. They

hadn't said anything at that point. O'Hara and Strate had been there.

Q. Later on did it look like Sheridan was trying to bargain with Strate or vice versa?

A. I didn't hear what was said, all I can tell you is what Sheridan told me about the thing, that Strate wanted help on his Chicago trouble involving something about wiretapping and he said I couldn't give it to him because because I didn't tap any wires.

Q. Mr. Baldwin, you have indicated that you were amazed and curious after you walked up to the table and were introduced and invited to leave the table, you and O'Hara were at the bar

A. No, I did not say that. I said Strate and O'Hara were sitting at a table. I said Mr. Sheridan was at the bar.

Q. Now everybody was at the table and O'Hara motioned to you and said let's blow, let's get somewhere else, now you were real curious as to what was going on

A. Yes, I was.

Q. There was no discussion between you and O'Hara at the bar?

A. Well, I am sure I said what's going on and he said I think its best for us not to be there, let's try to talk to Sheridan later

Q. He did not discuss the subject, he evaded the subject?

A. He didn't tell me what Strate was going to . . . I did not know what Strate was going to give Sheridan what would be of assistance to him in his investigation of Garrison.

Q. What did you talk about at the bar? The weather?

A. I don't know whether you know Judge O'Hara, but if he is not going to tell you something, he is not going to tell you something.

Q. What did you talk about?

A. I think I ... I think I remember Judge O'Hara saying look, I don't want you to have your feelings hurt, but I think it better to have those two talk together.

And I said well, its all right with me.

Q. When the Judge and Strate had left the Bourbon-Orleans did you ask Mr. Sheridan what he was bargaining for with Mr. Strate?

A. I asked him, I said "what did Strate say he could give you?" And he said Pershing Gervais.

Q. Did you ask him why he wanted Pershing Gervais?

A. You see the tenor of every one of your questions indicates that Sheridan asked me to set up this meeting and this is not true.

Q. No, that is not the tenor of the question. Did you ask

Mr. Sheridan why he wanted Pershing Gervais?

A. I did not get that interpretation of it to ask him that question. I don't think Mr. Sheridan knew what the purpose of the conversation was other than what I had told him which was that the Judge said he had something that could be extremely useful and damaging to Garrison.

Q. You said when the thing was over and they left the two
for
of you were left together, / a few minutes and he said
that he wanted a wiretap in Chicago which he didn't have
and didn't know anything about, for Pershing Gervais.

Now his question is to you: did he talk to you about what he wanted Pershing Gervais for?

A. I am not telling you that Mr. Sheridan wanted Pershing Gervais. According to Sheridan that is what Strate offered him - that is all I know about it.

Q. Did you hear Mr. Sheridan say, at any time of your association with him in New Orleans, or tell you that one of his purposes for being here was to stop this probe?

A. No sir.

Q. Did he at any time indicate that

A. He said that he thought the probe was a fake.

Q. Did he at any time tell you or anyone else, to your knowledge, that Bobby Kennedy would like to have the probe stopped?

A. No. Positively not.

Q. We are talking before June 12th.

A. He never did say anything about Bobby Kennedy. He was down here working for NBC, as I understand it.

Q. When the meeting was arranged, regardless of who arranged it, did the Judge indicate to you that he was bringing a friend or another party to the meeting?

A. I did not have that understanding, no sir.

Q. And when you walked in and saw Mr. Strate, this was a surprise?

A. It was to me, yes. He had mentioned that there was someone else relating to the information that he would have to clear with before he could talk to Sheridan, that was an earlier discussion. I did not know who he was talking about. I didn't know whether it was Gervais, I didn't know who he had to talk to.

Q. Were you surprised at seeing a third person there or because it was Mr. Strate?

A. A third person, period. I thought Malcolm wanted to talk to Sheridan himself.

Q. You were introduced to Mr. Strate when you entered the

lounge?

A. Yes. My recollection is that Malcolm stood up and I don't know whether - I can't be sure of the exact treatment. I saw them together, I saw Mr. Sheridan sitting at the bar, in other words, the three of them were there before I got there, whether Malcolm, I think he stood up, I think I may have called Mr. Sheridan over to the table - the exact order of this wouldn't have any reason for me to remember it - whether the Judge said 'this is Red Strate' ~~to me~~, I am really not sure. I remember very quickly ... the thing stuck out in my mind - the Judge said let's blow, or let's go across the room, it was obvious to me that whatever was going to be discussed Malcolm and Strate had decided that they wanted us both to be away from the table.

Q. Was he introduced to you as 'Red Strate'?

A. I wouldn't swear to that and I am under oath. I don't know what Malcolm said, he might have said that.

Q. Could you have said 'how do you do, Red?'

A. I did not know Mr. Strate, I had never met him to my knowledge. I wouldn't have called him 'Red'. I had heard Malcolm talk about him as 'Red'.

Later when I got to represent Mr. Gurvich I heard him refer to him as 'Red'. But if Malcolm introduced him to me as 'Red', I might have referred to him later on as 'Red', I am not going to swear that I didn't, but I don't think I did.

- Q. In the preliminary discussion, was there some concern evidenced by Sheridan that a man of the stature of the Judge would be seen or conversing with people such as Edward Partin in Baton Rouge or Red Strate here in New Orleans?
- A. I think Mr. Sheridan did express some surprise.
- Q. Did you convey this to the Judge?
- A. Yes, I did. And the Judge said that he had nothing whatsoever to worry about on that meeting. He said I know Sheridan knows about that meeting and he said I have nothing whatsoever to worry about. I didn't do anything wrong.
- Q. Was this a possible reason for the reluctance of Sheridan to meet with the Judge?
- A. It might have been, sir. I don't know. I am not sure.

FOREMAN:

Thanks a lot, Mr. Baldwin.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the preceding transcript is a true
and correct copy of the testimony given, under oath,
before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, on the 9th day
of August, 1967, and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thif

