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Fair Play for Cuba Committee materials on one uneventful occasion in Dallas sometime during the period April 6-24, 1963,³⁴ Oswald's first public identification with that cause was in New Orleans. There, in late May and early June of 1963, under the name Lee Osborne, he printed a handbill headed in large letters "Hands Off Cuba," an application form for, and a membership card in, the New Orleans branch of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.³⁵ His first distribution of his handbills and other material went unfruitfully in the vicinity of the S.S. Yrap, which was berthed at the Duamine Street wharf in New Orleans on June 16, 1963.³⁶ He distributed literature in downtown New Orleans on August 9, 1963, and was arrested because of a dispute with three anti-Castro Cuban exiles, and again on August 16, 1963.³⁷ Following his arrest, he was interviewed by the police, and at his own request, by an agent of the FBI.³⁸ On August 17, 1963, he appeared briefly on a radio program³⁹ and on August 21, 1963, he debated over television station WDSU New Orleans, with Carlos Bringuier, one of the Cuban exiles who had been arrested with him on August 9, 1963.⁴⁰ Bringuier claimed that on August 5, 1963, Oswald had visited the anti-Castro organization with which he was associated.⁴¹ While Oswald publicly engaged in the activities described above, his "organization" was a product of his imagination.⁴² The imaginary president of his nonexistent chapter was named A. J. Hidell,⁴³ the same name that Oswald used when he purchased the assassination weapon.⁴⁴ Marina Oswald testified that she signed that name, apparently chosen because it rhymed with Fidel,⁴⁵ to her husband's membership card in the New Orleans chapter.⁴⁶ She testified that he threatened to beat her if she did not do so.⁴⁷ The chapter had never been chartered by the national FPCC organization.⁴⁸ It appears to have been a solitary opera-

tion in which Oswald took part in spite of his misstatements to the New Orleans police.⁴⁹ It had 35 members, 5 of which were usually present when meetings were held once a month.⁵⁰ Oswald's Fair Play for Cuba activities may be viewed as a very personal operation in which one man single handedly created a public image for himself. It is also evidence of Oswald's reluctance to face events accurately and of his need to present himself as well as to himself in a light more favorable than was justified.⁵¹ This is suggested by his misleading and sometimes untruthful statements in his letters to Mr. V. T. Lee, the national director of FPCC. In one of those letters, dated August 1, 1963, he stated that an office which he had previously claimed to have rented for FPCC activities had been "properly closed 3 days later for some obscure reasons by the renters," they said something about "politics."⁵² "I'm sure you understand." He wrote that "thousands of circulars were distributed" and that he continued to receive inquiries through his post office box which he endeavored to "keep alive as long as I can financially."⁵³ In his letter to Mr. V. T. Lee, he admitted that he was then alone in his efforts on behalf of FPCC, but attributed his lack of support to an attack by Cuban exiles.