

INTERVIEW OF ALEXANDER PHILIP GRUBER REQUESTED
BY PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, BY LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR,
FBI DATED JUNE 1, 1964

other war materials for use in Cuba, or the smuggling of refugees out of Cuba. He is not aware of and has never heard Ruby mention making any trips to Cuba. He considers Ruby to be a highly emotional person and he feels that the shooting of Oswald was a spur-of-the-moment action on the part of Ruby. Ruby comes from a very fine family, and is in his opinion, a loyal American. Ruby has never, to his knowledge, been involved in anything illegal prior to the shooting of Oswald.

The following description of Alexander Philip Gruber was obtained from observation and interview:

Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Date of birth	February 1, 1911
Place of birth	Chicago, Illinois
Height	5' 10 1/2"
Weight	180
Eyes	Gray
Hair	Black, greying
Social Security Number	347-09-0696

- 4 -

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2284—Continued

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(240-43)

PROGRAM NUMBER 131
7/17/63
SUBJECT: Free Federal Money

54

OPEN: This is LIFE LINE, Sam Scudder from Washington.

The greatest myth in American history is the myth of so-called "free federal money." Because it is so palpable on the surface, and so utterly false in fact and truth, no stone should be left unturned in the constant effort to expose it for what it is. Every idea for exposing it should be tried, however curious or even "crazy." This is not a case where there is need for care not to slander persons or offend minority groups. Nobody can possibly be hurt by learning the truth about "free federal money."

Nobody can possibly deny that truth, even those who benefit most from the myth. There can be no argument about this kind of exposure. There is only the selfish hope on the part of the statist that the myth will survive because it is not attacked vigorously enough.

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We'll have more to say about "free federal money" following this message from our LIFE LINE sponsor. (COMMERCIAL.....45 seconds)

A deep yearning to find some way to get something for nothing is a fundamental if not very creditable element in human nature. It explains the popularity of gambling in all ages. It explains the fantastic financial hauls of famous confidence men down through the ages. Carlos Ponzi of Boston collected nine million dollars by the simple plan of promising everyone a fifty per cent profit on their investment every 45 days. He paid off the earliest "investors" with the money flooding in from later ones -- the same sort of success on a grand scale that has been obtained on a small scale by those cryptic ad saying "Last Chance to Send Your Dollar to P. O. Box 1111." Some people will always send a dollar to anybody if informed it is their last chance to do so.

This almost universal weakness, so cleverly exploited by the Carlos Ponzis and the "last chance to send your dollar" boys throughout history, is the reason so many otherwise sensible people can persuade themselves that tax money grants from Washington are a simple gift of "free federal aid" even when rationally they know better. Why look a gift horse in the mouth? In their feeling, to use an old and revealing proverb. Heavy pressure and committees which oppose federal handouts on principle, are complain vigorously against high federal tax rates, still cannot bring themselves to reject a so-called "gift" when offered it.

Consider the choice recently offered to the voters of Duluth, Minnesota. Duluth wants and needs a large new building for holding conventions in the city. It is expected to cost over six million dollars. The Area Redevelopment Administration offered Duluth an outright grant (for that word, read "gift") of three million dollars -- half the total cost -- if the city would approve a loan, spread over a period of no less than forty years, for the other three million. What an opportunity! Three million "free" dollars plus three million more not to be repaid until the majority of those voting on the issue were dead! Why not? What did the voters have to lose -- but their self-respect? They approved the plan.

The hard fact of the matter is that this project was never approved by anyone whose money was being used to pay for it. The taxpayers of the United States who were to furnish three million dollars of the cost were not consulted. The citizens of Duluth now in their childhood, or yet unborn or in other parts of the country, who will have to pay back the other three million forty years from now -- in the year two thousand and three -- were not consulted, because they can't vote yet. This is the kind of blatant intellectual dishonesty, half silly, half tragic, which can come from the great delusion about "free federal money." No money in this world is ever free. It is the product of the labor and the thought and the ingenuity of men and women. Whenever money is spent, someone, somewhere, sooner or later must pay it. And his right to be consulted and to give approval to commitments for such payment is at the very heart of the republican form of government. It was for this that we went to war against Great Britain and won the American Revolution.

There are just two sources from which any so-called "free federal money" can ever come. One is simple and obvious: taxes. Taxes are not just a matter of payments by the taxpayer. They require a vast bureaucracy to collect and administer. As a means of financing any project, they entail an enormous overhead cost. They are probably the most inefficient and costly method of investment ever known. And they are never enough. A government which accepts handouts as a way of life must always fall back upon deficit spending. This is borrowing against the future, obtaining money now from private sources which the government pledges to pay back, with interest, from future taxes which can be expected to be just as inefficient and just as costly as those we now have.

The case of the Duluth Convention Hall is a perfect example of both of those methods in their very worst forms -- a tax-money grant for a strictly local purpose of no value to the nation, and deficit years into the future.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2285

Far from being "free," money obtained in this way is little better than a fastening of chains upon every citizen. Ask any man deeply in debt, or without control over his money he earns, how free he feels; and you may begin to learn how it is that "free" money paves the quickest and easiest road to slavery.

Subscribe now to our patriotic newspaper LIFE LINES, published three times a week, \$5 a year. Send cash or check to LIFE LINE, Washington 1, D. C., or LIFE LINE will bill you at your request.

I'll be back in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL.....45 seconds)

Another great problem in creating public awareness of the truth about so-called "free federal money" is the withholding system for collecting federal taxes. By this system, the employers of most Americans act as tax collectors for the federal government. The employee never sees the money that is taken from him as taxes and finds it easy to forget that he ever earned it. The majority of Americans pay most of their annual tax bill to the federal government in this painless way. They are hardly aware of how much they are losing; therefore it is easy for them to think of whatever benefits they or their community may receive from Washington, as coming out of someone else's pocket and thus "free" as far as they are concerned.

We do not wish to give the impression, by these remarks or any others, that we oppose the fair and just payment of taxes by Americans. Taxes are a necessary part of civilization; as long as there have been civilized societies and governments there have been taxes; and there will be taxes as long as there are still civilized societies and governments. Taxes are the price we pay for law and order, for the essential services that government everywhere must provide. Americans should be willing and even proud to pay taxes for this purpose, and most Americans are. But a responsible attitude toward the payment of taxes is encouraged, not discouraged, by each taxpayer being vividly aware of just how much he is paying and for what purposes. Arrangements such as the withholding tax which so hide tax payments that they can almost be ignored, are a danger to free and responsible government and work against informed public opinion on the issue of government spending. Let it not be forgotten that wage earners pay 80 per cent of all income taxes collected in this country.

There is a simple test which any American can use to judge whether the federal government is following a fiscal policy which he as a voter and taxpayer could approve. This same test, if consistently applied, could be one of the best weapons against the myth of "free federal money." The test is this: would you, if this government money was yours, spend it in this way? Would you collect it in this way? Would you bind yourself and your children to debt in this way? Would you risk your home and your future in this way? If the answer to any of those questions is "no," then you can be sure that the government is playing fast and loose with your money and your future, that any benefits you receive from this kind of expenditure will do you no more good in the long run than the money that was handed out by Carlos Ponzi.

Some persons, pessimistic and discouraged, will say that the American people will never apply this kind of test, that they will never be able to tear themselves away from the lure of "free federal money." According to this argument, Americans simply will not put truth and principle ahead of immediate material gain. We can never accept this argument and we hope that no constructive anywhere will accept it. The American people have proved time and again throughout a proud history that they can and do put truth and principle ahead of material gain, at least when the truth and principle are great and strong enough and freedom is at stake. If the ever-growing dangers of uncontrolled federal spending can be made clear, and the dishonest kind of thinking which is used to justify it can be exposed, the American people will refuse to take more floods of "free federal money" in exchange for the personal freedom to live and earn and enjoy the fruits of productive work which is our most splendid heritage from an heroic past. Americans have often been fooled in the little things of life; but they have never been fooled about the biggest things. They may, like all men, too often seek something for nothing. But no charlatan or demagogue has ever been able to convince Americans for long that nothing is something, that freedom is not freedom, that slavery to an all-powerful state is the royal road to security and happiness. On that independence of spirit we must rely for the final understanding and the final rejection of the poisonous myth of "free federal money."

This is program number 121. Two typewritten copies for 25c, cash, check or stamps, or 10c each in larger quantities. Write LIFE LINE, Washington 1, D. C. Our three-times-a-week patriotic newspaper, LIFE LINES, \$5 a year.

To keep freedom programs on the air, those who approve and listen to them should ask their friends to commend sponsors who advertise with patriotic media.

In just a moment, a final thought.

(COMMERCIAL.....45 seconds)

Until we meet again, remember: Without the freedom to earn and to own, all other freedoms become a mockery and will soon perish.

This is LIFE LINE, Gene Scudder from Washington.

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(170-63)

PROGRAM NUMBER 31
6/19/63
SUBJECT: Heroism

OPEN: This is LIFE LINE, Gene Scudder from Washington.

Personal heroism is a vital part of the American character and the American dream. The building of this nation from a trackless wilderness, its struggles that won freedom, its war for union, its rise to greatness -- all required the leadership and achievement of heroes. Without heroes, the America we know today would not exist. Without heroes, our America will not survive the threatening years ahead.

Yet how often have we heard it said, in scornful scoffing, to someone, usually quite young, who plans a brave and noble act: "What are you trying to do, be a hero?" The question is asked in a way which leaves no doubt that the questioner can think of nothing sillier than wanting to be a hero -- or being one.

Snearing and scoffing at heroism, downgrading it in our thought and forgetting it in our hearts, lead down an old well-trodden road of national decay. No great nation has ever fallen so long as it still prized its heroes. But nearly all nations, when they do fall, have forgotten what heroism is.

We will continue our discussion after a message from our LIFE LINE sponsor.

(COMMERCIAL.....43 seconds)

Heroism is both an ideal and a reality. It is an ideal because it is something we look up to and strive for, but only rarely attain. It is a reality because all down through history men have from time to time attained it -- often men never suspected of heroic qualities until some great crisis.

But the fact that men and women can be heroes does not insure that they will be. If we do not value heroism there will be less and less of it among us, and what there is will accomplish little in the long run. If we do not remember and celebrate the heroism in our heritage, we will have lost the key to a priceless treasure-house of the spirit.

Heroism is not confined to battle and war, although some of its brightest moments have come during the clash of arms. It is not even confined to emergencies. Every man comes to moments in his life when heroism is called for. Whether he answers the call depends on his character, his values, and the strength of his will. In any case, the decision to act heroically is a decision each man must make for himself, in the innermost recesses of his own mind. Heroism may be mass-admired (though all too often it is not, today); but it can never be mass-produced.

The hero, or the man who aspires to heroism, is first and last an individualist. He relies on his own strength and not the support of any group. The highest goal of any group is and must be a colorless "adjustment." The highest goal of the hero is victory -- not over other men (except in self-defense), but over nature, and over the weaknesses all human beings share.

Consider the man who gives up a safe, comfortable job that will assure him a decent living, convenient fringe benefits and enough to get by on in his old age, but which leads nowhere, offers him no chance to create or produce on a high level, does not begin to challenge his real abilities. To give up that safe but meaningless job and strike out in some new and almost unknown field, perhaps in a new and almost unknown part of the country, is a genuine act of heroism -- sometimes of very great heroism. And heroism is shown also by that man's wife when she supports him in his choice and assumes the risk willingly, as he does. My friends, all life is a risk. But only the hero dares to take the risks of life knowingly, making his own opportunities instead of being shaped by the people around him and the familiar ways of doing things.

It is no accident that our times which have seen such great changes in the American way of life, the shift in goals from victory to security, from self-reliance to grasping dependence, from pride to need -- it is no accident that these times have also seen the decline of the hero, for the two trends go together and are closely connected. A nation and a people which truly value their heroes have no use for a paternal government which always claims to know best. Such a nation and a people cannot be coaxed or conned out of their fundamental liberties. But a nation and a people which find heroism funny, or worse still see it as no better than a fraud, will far more readily surrender freedom to authority. When we value ourselves and our freedoms less, we cannot expect our government to value them more.

Notice how carefully our young men are trained today always to give the most credit for any accomplishment of theirs to the group, to "teamwork." Now, teamwork is very desirable and often very important. But there comes a time in any great undertaking when one man must face a dark and uncertain future boldly, and make a personal decision to carry on the torch. That decision has nothing whatever to do with teamwork. It concerns nothing but one man's soul.

Such a moment came for Admiral Rickover in the early days of the atomic submarine. Such a moment came for Admiral Lewis Strauss when he was chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and alone against the unanimous opposition of a board of scientists swayed by pacifist and mistaken thinking, ordered the building of the hydrogen bomb. Such a moment came for John Glenn when he rode the Mercury capsule through the searing flare of re-entry, expecting at any moment to lose his heat shield and be burned alive.

Men do not survive such moments with honor and victory unless they find in themselves at least a touch of heroism. Every scolding and every scoffing which kills the roots of that heroism in our people, make it less likely that America as a nation will know honor and victory in the years to come.

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*We'll be back in a minute.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2285--Continued

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(COMMERCIAL.....45 seconds)

Heroism in war, though it is not the only kind, is not a heroism we can ever afford to forget. To honor it in no way implies that we enjoy war and do not love peace. Americans have never wanted any war and they have never started one. But when war comes, only American heroism has made victory possible. Through most of our history we remembered that victorious heroism proudly, and sang its praises. Today there is more often only a great and echoing silence.

Did you know that a recent survey found not one textbook in common use in our elementary and high schools which included the immortal battle cry of John Paul Jones: "I have not yet begun to fight!" Fifty years ago, not one textbook on our history left it out.

Think back a moment -- those of you who are old enough to remember -- to a dark autumn 21 years ago, when a war for the world hung in the balance. The mighty armies of freedom-hating tyranny -- ruthless, victorious, unbeaten -- battered like crashing waves at the last lines of defense still standing against them. There were three outstanding points of encounter: in Russia, at Stalingrad; in Egypt, at Alamein; in the Pacific, at Guadalcanal. Defeat at those points would have meant we would have lost the war. But defeat did not come, victories were snatched out of those terrible encounters.

In Russia the anniversary of Stalingrad is celebrated every year, and is used as one of the strongest popular props for a new tyrant enemy. In England Alamein is a name to conjure with, the last decisive victory Britain won and perhaps the last she will ever win.

In America, not so long ago, 35 bright young university students in a history class were asked to identify Guadalcanal. Less than one third of them had ever heard of it.

They had never heard of a band of Marines who landed in a steaming fever-haunted jungle and were cut off the next day by the Japanese navy, yet survived and hung on and fought like fiends through five terrible months until victory was theirs. They had never heard of a colonel named Edson who held a place called Bloody Ridge with a single company of 200 exhausted men and beat off a final decisive attack against odds of 10 to one -- an attack believed certain to succeed. They had never heard of a cruiser called the San Francisco with just one man left alive on her shell-shattered bridge, and how that one man, a young lieutenant named McCandless, held her on course to fire a point-blank broadside into a Japanese battleship, and then to struggle through to survival. They had never heard of a tropic night hideous with the scream of fourteen-inch shells that spelled what seemed surely the end of hope for the Marines who had fought for the island so long, and of the next night after when an admiral named Halsey sent in all he had left, and the last American battleship able to fire a gun in the South Pacific turned back the Japanese fleet singlehanded from the smoking waves round Savo Island.

They had never heard of any of it. Three thousand years of military history tell no story more splendid than the blazing heroism on Guadalcanal, every bit of it American, as truly American as the log cabin frontier and the open range. But nobody hears of it now. United Nations Day each year gets a hundred times the publicity.

We will not find the courage to survive the long years of our still mightier struggle today, by refusing to look upon the heroism in our past. Yet that heroism is there, in the treasure-house of folk memory and the pages of history. All we have to do is remember it.

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Corpus Christi	1030-KCTA	8:30 a	Greenville	1440-KGVL	7:15 p
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Dallas	730-KFCN	11:00 a	New Orleans	870-WWL	9:15 p
Denton	1440-KDNT	11:45 a	Cincinnati	700-WLW	11:05 p
			Tulsa	1170-KV00	11:45 p
Tyler	600-KTEB	12:45 p	Shreveport	1130-KMKH	12:45 a
Corpus Christi	1030-KCTA	4:45 p	Nashville	1510-WLAC	2:45 a
Tulsa	1170-KV00	4:45 p	Nashville	650-WSM	4:45 a

Many are preparing and reproducing flyers, of this nature, in quantities for their city, with a commendation of the product advertised by sponsors of LIFE LINE in their city. There is a good slogan promoting Patriotism: "ASK WHERE YOU CAN BUY PRODUCTS ADVERTISED WITH FREEDOM."

SOME OF THE OTHER 311 LIFE LINE STATIONS

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Phoenix	550-KDY	7:30 p	St. Louis	1010-KXEN	8:30 a
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San Diego	860-KEHO	12:15 p	San Antonio	1200-WOAI	10:45 p
Jacksonville	600-WPDQ	7:05 p	Salt Lake City	1160-KSL	8:10 p
Atlanta	1480-WYZE	7:00 a	Wheeling	1170-WWVA	4:15 a
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