

INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
OF THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

SEPTEMBER 27, 28, AND DECEMBER 29, 1978

VOLUME V

Printed for the use of the Select Committee on Assassinations



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INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1978

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met at 9:35 a.m., pursuant to recess, in room 345, Cannon House Office Building, Hon. Richardson Preyer, presiding.

Present: Representatives Preyer, Stokes, Dodd, Fithian, Ford, Edgar, Devine, and Sawyer.

Present also: G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel; G. Cornwell, deputy chief counsel; D. Purdy, staff counsel; Elizabeth Berning, chief clerk; I. Charles Mathews, special counsel; S. Jonathan Blackner, staff counsel; Mr. J. McDonald, staff counsel; and Howard Shapiro, attorney.

Mr. PREYER. The committee will come to order. The Chair recognizes Mr. Blakey.

NARRATION BY G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Congressman Preyer.

During yesterday's hearings, the committee heard a report on a computer survey of Jack Ruby's telephone calls in 1963. One conclusion that seemed to flow from it is that Jack Ruby must have had reason to call a number of individuals who are reportedly connected to the hierarchy of organized crime, the American mafia. Since there is no way of being certain of the topic of the conversation, what is known just from the fact of a phone call or calls is itself not certain.

In some cases, we have the testimony of the persons called. Generally they either don't remember being called by Ruby at all, or it was about the AGVA, American Guild of Variety Artists, dispute, or whatever.

In the committee's final report, the Ruby associates, that is, those who have been identified by the telephone survey or by other means as in some way connected to Jack Ruby will be examined in detail. But to illustrate the investigative process the committee has followed in this important area, one of Ruby's associates has been selected for public examination at this hearing this morning. That associate is Lewis J. McWillie who was in 1963, as he is today, a Las Vegas casino employee.

The committee's investigation has shown that Mr. McWillie's friendship with Jack Ruby goes back to the fifties, in Dallas. Since

that time, Mr. McWillie has worked in gambling casinos in Havana, Cuba, as well as Las Vegas, Nev.

Mr. McWillie has entered under the rules of the committee a specific request that there be no photographic coverage of his appearance and no electronic coverage. That means no one is to photograph or keep lights on or use any tape recorder to record Mr. McWillie's voice or face. Mr. Chairman, it would be appropriate if an order be entered into that effect.

Mr. PREYER. Pursuant to rule 16 which reads in pertinent part, at the request of any witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio, television or still photography coverage, all lenses shall be covered and all microphones used for coverage turned off.

At this time, the Chair directs that all lenses be covered and that all microphones be turned off.

Mr. BLAKEY. It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Lewis J. McWillie.

Mr. PREYER. The committee calls Lewis McWillie.

TESTIMONY OF LEWIS McWILLIE, LAS VEGAS, NEV.

Mr. PREYER. Will you stand and be sworn, Mr. McWillie. Do you solemnly swear the evidence you are about to give in this hearing will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Mr. McWillie, pursuant to your request, all microphones and lenses, broadcasting equipment, have been cut off.

The Chair recognizes counsel Donald Purdy for questioning of this witness.

Mr. PURDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. McWillie, what is your full name and where do you live?

Mr. McWILLIE. Lewis J. McWillie.

Mr. PURDY. Where do you live?

Mr. McWILLIE Las Vegas, Nev.

Mr. PURDY. How long have you lived there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, off and on since 1963.

Mr. PURDY. What is your present occupation?

Mr. McWILLIE. I work in a gambling house.

Mr. PURDY. Prior to your present employment, where did you work?

Mr. McWILLIE. Binion's Horse Shoe Club.

Mr. PURDY. Have you been involved in working in gambling casinos since you moved to Las Vegas in 1963?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. PURDY. For how many years have you been involved in gambling casinos and gambling operations throughout the country?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would say 46 years.

Mr. PURDY. In what cities have you been involved in gambling operations or casinos?

Mr. McWILLIE. Oh, what cities?

Mr. PURDY. Yes, sir.

Mr. McWILLIE. In this country?

Mr. PURDY. Or in other countries.

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I started off in Memphis, Tenn., and then I was in Mississippi.

Mr. PURDY. Approximately when? Please give the years in which you were in those cities also.

Mr. McWILLIE. Oh, I would say Memphis, 1932-36.

Mr. PURDY. What city were you working in gambling casinos after that?

Mr. McWILLIE. Prior to that?

Mr. PURDY. After that.

Mr. McWILLIE. After that?

Mr. PURDY. Subsequent to 1936?

Mr. McWILLIE. Then I was in Jackson, Miss. after that.

Mr. PURDY. How long were you working and living in Jackson, Miss.?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, a short while, and then in Osyka, Miss.

Mr. PURDY. Were you also involved in gambling there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes sir.

Mr. PURDY. When did you leave there and where did you go?

Mr. McWILLIE. I left there, lets see, I would say 1939 or 1940. I don't know exactly.

Mr. PURDY. What cities did you work in since then?

Mr. McWILLIE. Dallas.

Mr. PURDY. Were you involved in gambling in Dallas?

Mr. McWILLIE. I was a dealer there, yes.

Mr. PURDY. During what years did you live in Dallas?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would say from 1940 to 1958.

Mr. PURDY. Where did you go after you lived in Dallas?

Mr. McWILLIE. After I left Dallas?

Mr. PURDY. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. I went to Cuba.

Mr. PURDY. Were you involved in gambling in Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. I managed the Tropicana Night Club.

Mr. PURDY. Were you involved in gambling?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes sir.

Mr. PURDY. Subsequent to your work in Cuba, where did you move to?

Mr. McWILLIE. Subsequent. That means afterwards?

Mr. PURDY. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. I went to Miami and stayed until the first of June.

Mr. PURDY. The first of June of what year?

Mr. McWILLIE. 1961.

Mr. PURDY. Were you involved in gambling in Miami?

Mr. McWILLIE. No.

Mr. PURDY. Where did you live after you left Miami?

Mr. McWILLIE. After I left Miami I went to Lake Tahoe.

Mr. PURDY. Were you involved in gambling in Lake Tahoe?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, I was a pit boss.

Mr. PURDY. When did you leave Lake Tahoe?

Mr. McWILLIE. I left Lake Tahoe in September of 1961.

Mr. PURDY. Did you move to Las Vegas from Lake Tahoe?

Mr. McWILLIE. I moved to Reno.

Mr. PURDY. Were you involved in gambling in Reno?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes sir.

Mr. PURDY. How long were you in Reno?

} Did he
get in
trouble
in Tahoe

Mr. McWILLIE. 1961. I left there, let's see, right before Christmas of 1963, I believe.

Mr. PURDY. And you moved to Las Vegas?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I went back to Miami to visit with my mother.

Mr. PURDY. How long were you there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Oh, 3 weeks.

Mr. PURDY. Where did you go after you visited Miami?

Mr. McWILLIE. I went back to Las Vegas.

Mr. PURDY. Have you lived in Las Vegas since?

Mr. McWILLIE. Off and on yes.

Mr. PURDY. You have been involved in gambling casinos while you have been in Las Vegas?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well the first, you want me to tell you the casinos?

Mr. PURDY. I don't think we need to cover the specific casinos at this time.

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, I was involved in casino work.

Mr. PURDY. What has been the nature of your involvement in casino work over these years?

Mr. McWILLIE. Working in the gambling part of it, overseeing the gambling.

Mr. PURDY. Mr. McWILLIE, what were the circumstances surrounding your first encounter with Jack Ruby?

Mr. McWILLIE. What were the circumstances?

Mr. PURDY. Yes, how did you meet Jack Ruby?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I told you that in this. I met him in a restaurant.

Mr. PURDY. Approximately when?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would say 1951.

Mr. PURDY. Someone introduced you to him in a restaurant in Dallas in 1951?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes sir.

Mr. PURDY. Do you remember who introduced you?

Mr. McWILLIE. He introduced himself to me.

Mr. PURDY. He just walked up to you?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I noticed him at the counter. We went into this restaurant every night to eat and three or four nights he was at the counter and staring at fellows and myself and I asked someone who he was and I don't know, one of them knew him or not, they said he had a night club or something.

Anyway, about the third or fourth night when we got up to leave he walked over and introduced himself to me and I said nice to meet you and what do you want, Mr. Ruby? And, he went on to tell me about he was having trouble with his night club and had some kind of curfew put on him and I asked him, I said, Mr. Ruby, you are Jewish, aren't you, and he said, yes. I said well, there is a gentleman here in town by the name of Julius Schepps that might be able to help you, if there is nothing bad wrong with you, so I suggested that he go see Mr. Schepps, and he did, and he seemed to get his trouble straightened out.

Mr. PURDY. Mr. Schepps was able to help Jack Ruby?

Mr. McWILLIE. Evidently, because he didn't have any more trouble.

Mr. PURDY. What was the nature of your next few meetings with Jack Ruby. How did you happen to see him again after he came up and introduced himself?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, he called me on the phone and he thanked me and I met him back in the restaurant, and from then on he was just around me every time he got a chance he would be around.

Mr. PURDY. How would you characterize your relationship with Jack Ruby in the 1950's in Dallas?

Mr. McWILLIE. 1950's, I wasn't around him a real lot, you might say, he would come out to my apartment and swim in the pool and he was a kind of a leech, you might say.

Mr. PURDY. Kind of a leech?

Mr. McWILLIE. Leech. And he was just a hard fellow to get rid of.

Mr. PURDY. You say he came over uninvited?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, he came over uninvited after so long a time and he would hang around the pool everyday and swim and have dinner with me and different things.

Mr. PURDY. Did you ever have to ask him to leave?

Mr. McWILLIE. I don't recall. I could have. I don't recall it, though.

Mr. PURDY. Were you and Jack Ruby friends during the 1950's?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, we were friends.

Mr. PURDY. Were you aware that Jack Ruby considered you one of his closest friends?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would have to say so, yes, on account of the favors I had done him.

Mr. PURDY. What was the reason?

Mr. McWILLIE. The favors I have done him.

Mr. PURDY. So he liked you because you had done favors for him?

Mr. McWILLIE. I helped him.

Mr. PURDY. How had you helped him other than getting Mr. Julius Schepps to help him? Did you help him in any other way?

Mr. McWILLIE. I helped him with, he had a union problem, he called me in Las Vegas in the early part of 1963.

Mr. PURDY. We will go into that in more detail in a little while.

Mr. McWILLIE. All right.

Mr. PURDY. Were you aware that Jack Ruby included you on a list of people who might dislike him?

Mr. McWILLIE. He put me on a list of people that might dislike him?

Mr. PURDY. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I am not.

Mr. PURDY. Was there any reason that you could think of that Jack Ruby might think that you disliked him?

Mr. McWILLIE. No way.

Mr. PURDY. Did Jack Ruby idolize you?

Mr. McWILLIE. In a sort of way I would think so, yes.

Mr. PURDY. Why did he idolize you?

Mr. McWILLIE. I guess because I had helped him keep his business open.

Mr. PURDY. What contacts, if any, did you have with Jack Ruby's family, friends and business associates?

Mr. McWILLIE. I didn't even know his family or friends, I didn't know his family. He told me that he had a brother who was sick and his sister was ill, someway. He didn't elaborate.

Mr. PURDY. Did you have any mutual friends?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Mr. PURDY. Did you have any mutual friends?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, we had friends, a friend named Meyer Panitz, and Jake Rifkin, they were good friends of his.

Mr. PURDY. They were also good friends of yours?

Mr. McWILLIE. Oh, yes, they were friends of mine in Memphis.

Mr. PURDY. Is there anyone else you can think of that was a friend of both you and Jack Ruby?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I don't. He probably knew everybody in town on account of this night club he had.

Mr. PURDY. Did you know a lot of people in Dallas also?

Mr. McWILLIE. Quite a few, yes.

Mr. PURDY. Other than what you have mentioned, did you do anything else with Jack Ruby, such as travel with him?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, no, never traveled with Jack Ruby.

Mr. PURDY. What knowledge do you have of Jack Ruby's possible involvement in any criminal activities?

Mr. McWILLIE. None whatever, sir.

Mr. PURDY. What is your opinion of Jack Ruby's personality? What kind of a man was he?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, Jack was a man that, he wanted to be a big man in the entertainment field, I would say, the biggest, and he was kind of an egotist, I guess, and I don't know.

Mr. PURDY. Was he a thoughtful man, was he a gentle man?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, he was, he was as far as I know.

Mr. PURDY. Was he ever a violent man?

Mr. McWILLIE. Not around me, no sir.

Mr. PURDY. Mr. McWILLIE, did you give a deposition to staff members of this committee on April 4, 1978?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes sir.

Mr. PURDY. Mr. Chairman, I ask at this time that that deposition be entered into the record as JFK exhibit No. F-572.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, it will be admitted into the record at this point.

Mr. PURDY. Mr. Chairman, I also ask at this time that two FBI interviews of Mr. McWILLIE be entered into the record as JFK exhibits F-573 and F-574.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, they will be admitted into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK exhibits F-572, F-573, and F-574 follow:]

Transcript of McWillie
deposition, 4.4.78

P. 7

Stenographic Transcript Of

HEARINGS

Before The

ORIGINAL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEPOSITION OF LEWIS J. MCWILLIE

~~WASHINGTON, D.C.~~

Los Vegas, Nevada

April 4, 1978

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc.

Official Reporters

300 Seventh St., S. W. Washington, D. C.

JFK EXHIBIT F-572

To: G. Robert Blakey
From: Howard Shapiro
Re: Summary of Deposition of Lewis McWillie
Taken by Jim Wolf and Andy Purdy, 4/4/78

011171

A. McWillie biographical data

McWillie was born May 4, 1908 in Kansas City, Missouri (p. 4). His current address is 3627 Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada (p. 3). He is currently employed as a floorman at the Holiday Inn casino in Las Vegas (p. 4) and has worked at various casinos for many years.

McWillie worked at the Blue Bonnet Hotel in Dallas in 1941 and 1942 (p. 8), and then worked at the Top of the Hill Terrace in Arlington, Texas for eight or nine years (p. 7). Then he ran a gambling house in Fort Worth for several years called the Four Duces (p. 6).

Following this he worked at the Tropicana and Capri Hotel in Cuba (p. 6), and spent some time working in Aruba and Curacao (p. 5). In 1961 he began working in Nevada, at the Cal-Neva Lodge (p. 5), and then at the Riverside Hotel, Thunderbird Club, Carousel Club (Las Vegas), Horseshoe Club, and finally the Holiday Inn casino (pp. 4-5).

B. Relationship with Jack Ruby

McWillie met Ruby in 1951. He would see Ruby occasionally in a late-night restaurant and was told that Ruby ran the Vegas Club. "Finally, one night we got up to go out into the lobby of the hotel and he walked up to me and said, 'Is your name McWillie?' I said, 'Yes.' And he explained who he was and that he was Jewish and that he was having a problem with his night club" (p. 9).

Ruby's problem apparently concerned a curfew and possible discriminatory enforcement by somebody (p. 11). McWillie advised Ruby to

speak to an individual named Schepps (p. 9). Between 1951 and 1958 McWillie could not get rid of Ruby and they became pretty good friends (pp. 9, 23).

The last time McWillie saw Ruby was in 1961 when McWillie was driving from Miami to Las Vegas and he stayed overnight in Dallas (p. 80). While in Las Vegas McWillie received several letters from Ruby which concerned Ruby's Carousel club in Dallas and how nice it was and items of this nature (p. 79).

Early in 1963 McWillie called Ruby and wanted Ruby to go to a gun dealer in Dallas (Ray Brantley) and purchase a handgun and send it to Las Vegas, as McWillie stated that he didn't know where to go in Las Vegas to get a gun (pp. 19-20). McWillie did not recall asking Ruby to send him four guns (to Cuba) in 1959 (pp. 21, 69).

In 1963 Ruby called McWillie to see if he could help out with Ruby's labor and union (AGVA) problems. McWillie suggested contacting William Miller, who was in the entertainment field. Ruby did this and later called McWillie a number of times to express his thanks for McWillie's aid (pp. 17, 71). McWillie had no familiarity with AGVA's operations in Dallas (p. 71).

McWillie several times denied making statements to the FBI in 1963 and 1964 (p. 113) concerning Ruby.

C. McWillie in Cuba

McWillie was in Cuba from the middle of 1958 until January 1, 1961. Johnny Williams contacted McWillie about a possible job at the Tropicana in Cuba (p. 82), so McWillie went to Cuba and met with the Tropicana's owners, Martinez and Pedro Fox (p. 83). He got the job and

Ruby's Carousel club. Ruby himself would never gamble on anything and was not involved with gambling in any way (pp. 33, 36, 54). Ruby did not know any of the prominent Dallas gambling figures (pp. 45-46).

Ruby was a frugal individual (p. 36). He was always courteous to Dallas policemen and gave them whiskey as Christmas presents (p. 72). McWillie believes that Ruby had wanted to be a big man around Dallas and that he shot Oswald in order to become a martyr of some sorts (pp. 30, 129-130).

G. Ruby associates

McWillie says that two of Ruby's closest friends were Jake Rifkin, a gambler, and Mark Panitz, although this may be Meyer Panitz (pp. 27-28), whom McWillie later describes as one of Ruby's closest friends (p. 101). Panitz is described as a bookmaker.

Ruby knew W.C. Kirkwood, but not his son Pat Kirkwood (p. 33). Ruby knew the Campisi brothers in Dallas and thinks that Ruby knew Jack Todd (pp. 59, 62). Ruby knew Gordon McLendon very well (p. 73).

About four months ago Earl Ruby introduced himself to McWillie in Las Vegas and said he was in town working on a documentary about Jack Ruby. McWillie told Earl Ruby that he wasn't interested in talking to him and that his relationship with Jack Ruby had already caused him enough problems (pp. 38-39).

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

3 SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

4
5 DEPOSITION OF LEWIS J. MC WILLIE, a witness pro-
6 duced, sworn, and examined on Tuesday, the 4th day of April,
7 in the year of our Lord 1978, between the hours of 8 o'clock
8 in the forenoon and 6 o'clock in the afternoon of that day,
9 in Room 4-003, Federal Courthouse, 210 Las Vegas Boulevard,
10 before the Select Committee on Assassinations, House of
11 Representatives of the United States of America.

12 APPEARANCES:

13 For the Committee:

14 JAMES WOLF,
15 Deputy Chief Counsel,
16 Select Committee on Assassinations,
17 U. S. House of Representatives,
18 Washington, D. C.

19 DONALD A. PURDY,
20 Staff Counsel,
21 Select Committee on Assassinations,
22 U. S. House of Representatives,
23 Washington, D. C.
24
25

1 LEWIS J. MC WILLIE

2 of lawful age, being produced, sworn, and examined on the
3 part of the Committee, depose and saith:

4 MR. WOLF: The record should note that the witness
5 has been sworn by Magistrate Ward.

6 My name is Janes Wolf. My co-counsel today is
7 Donald Purdy and we both have been, pursuant to House
8 Resolution 222 and Committee Rule 4, designated counsel
9 empowered to take statements under oath.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. WOLF:

12 Q. Will the witness please state his name for the
13 record?

14 A. Sir?

15 Q. Will the witness please state his name for the
16 record?

17 A. Lewis J. McWillie.

18 Q. And, Mr. McWillie, you have been subpoenaed by
19 the House Committee but instead of an appearance in
20 Washington, you requested that this deposition take place
21 in--

22 A. (Interrupting) Yes, I just had an operation on
23 my eye.

24 Q. Excuse me, sir.

25 A. I just had an operation on my eyes. I had a de-

1 tached retina in my left eye, right eye, too.

2 Q. And this deposition is taking place at your re-
3 quest, then, to avoid an appearance in Washington, is that
4 correct?

5 A. I wanted to be close to my doctors, yes.

6 Q. Mr. McWillie, you are aware that under our
7 Committee's rules, you have the right to have counsel with
8 you at this deposition.

9 A. I don't need any counsel, I don't think.

10 Q. And, Mr. McWillie, you have been given a copy of
11 our Committee Rules and House Resolutions 222, 433 and 760,
12 is that correct?

13 A. To tell you the truth, I didn't read it. I just
14 knew it was a subpoena.

15 Q. Well, are you aware of Committee Rule 4, which is
16 about the designated counsel taking your statements under
17 oath? You have been given a copy of the Committee Rules, is
18 that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 BY MR. PURDY:

21 Q. Mr. McWillie, could you please state your present
22 address?

23 A. 3627 Eastern Avenue.

24 Q. In Las Vegas?

25 A. Las Vegas, yes.

1 Q. What is your date and place of birth?

2 A. Kansas City, Missouri, 1908.

3 Q. What was the month and day?

4 A. May 4th.

5 Q. What is your present occupation?

6 A. I'm a floorman in a casino.

7 Q. What casino is that?

8 A. Holiday Inn.

9 Q. How long have you worked there?

10 A. I've worked there a little over a year, about
11 14 months.

12 Q. Where did you work before that?

13 A. I worked before that at the Horseshoe Club.

14 Q. How long did you work there?

15 A. I worked there on and off many years, since '67, I
16 believe.

17 Q. Do you recall where you worked prior to that?

18 A. I worked at the Carousel Club.

19 Q. How long did you work there?

20 A. Let me see, about three years, I guess.

21 Q. That would be 1964 to 1967?

22 A. I would say so. I'm not sure but I would say
23 that's about the date.

24 Q. What city was that?

25 A. Here in Las Vegas.

1 Q. Where did you work prior to 1964?

2 A. 1964 I worked at the Riverside Hotel in Reno.

3 Q. How long did you work there?

4 A. I worked there the latter part of '61 through '62.

5 Q. What was your job prior to that?

6 A. What was my job, where did I work prior to that?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. I worked at the Thunderbird Hotel. I left there
9 and went to the Thunderbird Hotel.

10 Q. How long did you work there?

11 A. I worked there about a year.

12 Q. Where did you work prior to that?

13 A. I went to an island named Arruba, the Netherland
14 Antilles. I stayed there maybe a month and then was trans-
15 ferred to Curacao. I stayed there about nine months.

16 Q. Who transferred you to Curacao?

17 A. Jay Kosloff, K-o-s-l-o-f-f.

18 Q. Prior to working in Arruba, where did you work?

19 A. I went from Arruba to Curacao, last place I
20 worked.

21 Q. No, I mean prior to Arruba, where did you work?

22 A. Prior to Arruba I worked at the--wait a minute
23 now. Wait just a minute. I skipped one place I didn't tell
24 you. Before I went to the Riverside, I worked at the Cal-
25 Neva Lodge. In '61 I was at the Cal-Neva Lodge.

1 Q. So you worked--

2 A. (Interrupting) Then I went to the other places.

3 Q. Then you went on to Arruba and Curacao?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Prior to working at the Cal-Neva Lodge, where did
6 you work?

7 A. Prior to that I worked in Cuba.

8 Q. Did you work in Havanna at that time?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Did you work at the Tropicana then?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Did you work at any other--

13 A. (Interrupting) I worked in the Capri Hotel, I
14 don't know how long, it wasn't very long, though.

15 Q. Where did you work prior to working at the
16 Tropicana and the Capri Hotels?

17 A. In Dallas.

18 Q. Where did you work in Dallas?

19 A. Well, I had a little gambling house, let me see,
20 in Fort Worth.

21 Q. How long did you run that gambling house?

22 A. We had it a couple or three years, I guess. I
23 don't exactly remember how long.

24 Q. What was the name of that gambling house?

25 A. The Four Duces we called it. Prior to that I

1 worked at the Top of the Hill Terrace in Arlington, Texas.

2 Q. How long did you work there?

3 A. Oh, I'd say eight years, nine years.

4 Q. Who did you work for there?

5 A. Who did I work for? I worked for a man named
6 Fred Browning and I worked for Earl Dalton, Ivy Miller and
7 a fellow named Scarborough.

8 Q. What kind of work did you do at that club?

9 A. I was a manager.

10 Q. You managed the gambling activities?

11 A. The gambling, yes.

12 Q. When did you begin the gambling operation at the
13 Four Duces?

14 A. Doggone if I know. I think it was '51, I'm not
15 sure, not positive.

16 Q. What kind of gambling went on there?

17 A. Dice games and 21 game.

18 Q. Just dice and card games?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Was there any numbers operation working out of
21 there?

22 A. No, no, it was a little place.

23 Q. Where did you work prior to the Four Duces?

24 A. I told you that, at the Top of the Hill Terrace.

25 Q. Where did you work prior to that?

1 A. Let me see. I worked in Dallas at a place called
2 the Blue Bonnet Hotel, I believe it was.

3 Q. Was there a gambling operation there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What kind of gambling was there?

6 A. Dice game.

7 Q. Who did you work for there?

8 A. I worked for Miller.

9 Q. Ivy Miller?

10 A. Ivy Miller and Earl Dalton, the only two I
11 know I was working for.

12 Q. When did you begin your work at the Blue Bonnet?

13 A. Let me see. It was so long ago. I'd say '41 or
14 '42, I'm not sure.

15 Q. So you worked at the Blue Bonnet from 1941 to '42
16 until you worked at the Four Duces?

17 A. I don't think I worked for the Blue Bonnet but
18 about a year. Then I went out to the Top of the Hill.

19 Q. So you worked in Dallas at the Blue Bonnet, then
20 the Top of the Hill, then the Four Duces?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. So the first club that you owned, what was the
23 first club that you owned? Was that the Four Duces?

24 A. That was the Four Duces, yes.

25 Q. So the other places you worked for other people,

1 is that right?

2 A. Other people, yes.

3 Q. Mr. McWillie, when did you meet Jack Ruby?

4 A. Jack Ruby, I've tried to think what year it was.

5 Do you want me to tell you the whole story about Jack Ruby
6 from the beginning to the end?

7 Q. I think that would be a good idea, yes, sir.

8 A. I believe it was when I was at the Four Duces
9 and a couple of dealers and myself would stop in an all-
10 night restaurant and get a bite to eat when we come in, may-
11 be 2 o'clock, 1 o'clock, 3 o'clock. I noticed a fellow at
12 the counter with a hat on, which was very unusual to see a
13 fellow with a hat on around Dallas. I asked one of the
14 fellows, I said, "Who is that fellow?" He kept looking at
15 us. He said, "That's a fellow named Jack Ruby that runs a
16 club named the Vegas Club out on Oak Lawn", I believe it
17 was. About three or four nights he was there.

18 Finally, one night we got up to go out into the
19 lobby of the hotel and he walked up to me and said, "Is
20 your name McWillie?" I said, "Yes." And he explained who
21 he was and that he was Jewish and that he was having a prob-
22 lem with his night club. He talked like a real nice fellow.
23 I said, "Why don't you go see Mr. Schepps, a man named
24 Julius Schepps." He owned a big liquor distributing place
25 there and he used to play with us at the Top of the Hill, a

1 real nice man.

2 MR. WOLF: Could you spell the name Schepps?

3 THE WITNESS: I'd have to say it was S-c-h-e-
4 p-p-s.

5 BY MR. PURDY:

6 Q. Do you remember his first name?

7 A. Julius.

8 BY MR. WOLF:

9 Q. Also for the record, what year was this that you
10 first met Jack Ruby?

11 A. I don't know. I think it was around '51, I be-
12 lieve. I would have to say it was around '51, I don't
13 know exactly. I tried to think what year it was.

14 BY MR. PURDY:

15 Q. What was the name of the restaurant you say you
16 saw him?

17 A. It was a place called Webb's Coffee Shop in the
18 Southland Hotel.

19 MR. WOLFE: Continue.

20 A. And then I suggested that he go see him. He was
21 a big Jewish leader in the city. And he did. From then on
22 I could never get rid of Jack Ruby. Jack Ruby was at my
23 apartment. He was around me all the time. He just appre-
24 ciated, I guess, what I had done for him.

25 So, finally, I went to Cuba, I think, in '58, I

1 believe.

2 BY MR. PURDY:

3 Q. Could we back up just a little bit before we move
4 on to '58.

5 What was the nature of the problem that Jack Ruby
6 was having with his club?

7 A. They were making him close early or something.

8 Q. Was this a curfew?

9 A. They enforced a curfew on him, so he said, I don't
10 know.

11 Q. Was it your impression that they were enforcing
12 a rule against him that they were not enforcing against other
13 clubs?

14 A. That's what he said.

15 Q. Why did you refer him to Mr. Schepps?

16 A. He said he was Jewish, therefore, Mr. Schepps was
17 a big leader in the Jewish community, and I didn't know if he
18 could do him any good or not, to tell you the truth. But
19 he evidently did him good. He didn't have no more trouble
20 after that.

21 Q. Did Mr. Schepps have good connections with the
22 authorities in Dallas that could help Jack Ruby?

23 A. He was a well-known man and a well-liked man. He
24 was just a fine man, Mr. Schepps was.

25 Q. What was his occupation?

1 A. He had a liquor distributing, I think it's Sea-
2 grams.

3 Q. Do you want to proceed with your story about Jack
4 Ruby?

5 A. If you want me to.

6 Q. Please, sure.

7 A. So when I go to Cuba in, I believe it was the
8 middle of '58, I'm not positive of what date it was, and I
9 get this job at the Tropicana Hotel, managing the Tropicana
10 Hotel with a promise of a percentage of the place when it
11 got to doing good, which it never did much good on account
12 of the revolution coming up and all that. I stayed there
13 until, I don't know how long I stayed there. I stayed there
14 after Castro got there anyway, '59, maybe in the latter part
15 of '59 or '60. And then I went up--they didn't close it,
16 the government took it. And from there I went up to the
17 Capri and stayed there a very short while, I don't know how
18 long, before the government took it. And from then on I
19 wasn't doing anything until I went to Miami.

20 Q. Could you continue on your contact with Jack Ruby
21 over those years?

22 A. When I was in the Tropicana, they were hunting for
23 business, trying to get business, and I suggested that I
24 call Jack Ruby and have him get ahold of Tony Zoppi. Tony
25 Zoppi is a well known columnist like Bishop, Earl Wilson,

people like that. That's the kind of a man he was in Dallas and all society people read his column. He wrote me back that they'd come over on a certain date. So I sent him two tickets, which the place paid for. Then I explained to him we would pay for their room. We figured we would get a lot of publicity from it and people from Dallas would come to Cuba.

Later on, if I remember right, Jack came and said that, what's his name, Tony couldn't make it. That's the cause of all my problems. Here's a letter. Would you care to see this? It's from my brother to me. A fellow had written my brother a letter and put a piece in there where Zoppi had--my brother's letter is kind of a personal letter.

BY MR. WOLF:

Q. Is this the letter you would like us to read?

A. That's from my brother. It explains that he's sending me this piece. It's just a personal letter but in it he states where he's sending me a--would you like me to come over there?

Q. Yes, if you would, to explain these.

A. This is part of the letter and this is the man that sent my brother the letter. This is really what I wanted you to see (indicating).

Q. This is a copy of a portion of a letter that

1 Tony Zoppi sent to--

2 A. (Interrupting) That's the original letter.

3 Q. This is the original letter?

4 A. That's the original part. The other part of the
5 letter didn't mean a darn thing to me.

6 Q. Tony Zoppi sent this to whom?

7 A. To the man's name you've got there in your right
8 hand.

9 Q. To Matty Brescia Enterprises?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Mr. McWillie, could we retain these for the
12 record?

13 A. Could you make a copy of it and give me back
14 that part?

15 MR. WOLF: For the record, Mr. McWillie has
16 given us part of a letter allegedly sent by Tony Zoppi to
17 a Matty Brescia, B-r-e-s-c-i-a, Enterprises at 4990
18 Poplar, Suite 331, Memphis, Tennessee 38117, and I will
19 read that portion of the letter which Mr. McWillie has
20 given us.

21 It states, "Give my regard to McWillie next time
22 you are in touch. Jack Ruby and I were supposed to visit
23 him in Havana but I got side tracked. Jack went on ahead
24 and it has caused Mac/ a lot of trouble over the years.
25 The quick buck artists are saying Jack went down there to

1 plan the assassination. He couldn't have planned a gas
2 station holdup in those days. All of a sudden, he's a CIA
3 agent, a Mafiadon, et cetera, et cetera, sickening. Keep
4 in touch and God bless. Keep up the good work and I will
5 say another prayer for Buddy."

6 THE WITNESS: That's his kid that got killed

7 MR. WOLF: "Sincerely, Tony."

8 Buddy is Tony's son who got killed.

9 THE WITNESS: They're good friends, both in the
10 same kind of work. This fellow writes for a variety maga-
11 zine.

12 MR. WOLF: You're speaking of Matty Brescia?

13 THE WITNESS: Tony is a published man at the
14 Riveria Hotel.

15 BY MR. PURDY:

16 Q. Who is Buddy?

17 A. Read it over about Buddy.

18 MR. WOLF: "Keep up the good work and I will say
19 another prayer for Buddy."

20 A. Buddy was his son, young son. He was sitting in
21 a window and he fell out of the window and it killed him.

22 BY MR. WOLF:

23 Q. Is that Mat Brescia's son?

24 A. Matty Brescia's son.

25 You can keep that if you want to if you give me a

1 copy of it.

2 MR. WOLF: Surely, thank you.

3 BY MR. WOLF:

4 Q. You've not given us the top of the letter. Do
5 you know approximately what date this was written?

6 A. It's on the envelope with the date I received the
7 letter from my brother.

8 Q. It's stamped Memphis, Tennessee, 18 August 1976.

9 A. It must have been right around that time, I guess

10 Q. To the best of your knowledge, your brother for-
11 warded this to you as soon as your brother had received it?

12 A. I'm sure he did, yes.

13 Q. And how did your brother get the letter from Mr.
14 Brescia?

15 A. Brescia gave it to him.

16 Q. And your brother's located in Memphis, Tennessee?

17 A. Isn't there a yellow piece of paper in there from
18 Brescia, a white piece maybe? I think there's a letter in
19 there from Brescia.

20 Q. Yes, there's a portion of a letter that says,
21 "Hi, Jim." Is that your brother's name, Jim?

22 A. Jim, yes.

23 Q. It says, "Thought you'd want to see this letter
24 from Louie's and my friend, Tony Zoppi, former columnist in
25 Dallas, now big executive at the Riveria in Vegas. Show

1 this Louie when you see him. He would like it. Pray for
2 our dear son and us. It was a tragic loss. Jim, Monsignor
3 Clunen, C-l-u-n-e-n, delivered the mass and eulogy. God
4 bless you always. Your friend and Louie's and your family,
5 Matty Brescia."

6 Thank you, Mr. McWillie, we'll make copies and
7 return them back to you.

8 BY MR. WOLF:

9 Q. If you could continue, you were talking about
10 inviting Jack and Tony down to visit you at the Tropicana.

11 A. Tony didn't come and he came. I think he stayed
12 around there about six days. I was at the Tropicana at
13 the time. He was there every night that he was in Havana
14 and after that he went back to Dallas. That's the last time
15 I've seen him in Havana. He never came back to Havana.

16 Q. And if you would continue your relationship to
17 Jack after you came back.

18 A. He'd write me letters. Oh, I'll tell you another
19 thing about him. In, I believe it was the early part of
20 1963, he called me up and he was having some trouble with
21 the AGVA. That's the American Guild of Variety Artists.
22 He said, "Mac, do you know anybody that knows the president
23 of the company?" I explained all of this to the FBI. You
24 can check with them. I don't think I told them about Zoppi.
25 I forgot about it. I didn't tell them.

1 He said, "If you can find somebody that knows the
2 president, I'm having a lot of trouble with my competition."
3 I understand he'd had another place. At that time he had
4 a place up town right next to this other place. I said,
5 "Well, I know a man that might know him", a man named Bill
6 Miller who was an entertainment director at the Hilton
7 Hotels. I called Bill and I said, "Bill, there's a friend
8 of mine that's having trouble with the AGVA." I knew he
9 knew the president because I had heard him speak of it. I
10 ran the place in Reno for him. I said, "Is there anything
11 you could do for him?" I gave him Jack's number. I said,
12 "Call him and see what you can do for him."

13 So another day or two went by and Jack called me.
14 If he called me once, he called me five times thanking me,
15 thanking me, thanking me, like to ran me crazy. Then I
16 got letters from him. Prior to that he got into some kind
17 of razor blade deal, some kind of razor blade that came out
18 in England, what do they call it, but it was supposed to be
19 a terrific razor blade. So he sent me three or four packages
20 in an envelope, just stuff like that.

21 Jack was a kind of a, he wanted to be a big man,
22 do you know what I mean. He was kind of an egotist. That
23 was about it with Jack. He just wanted to be around me for
24 some reason. I don't know why. He just did.

25 Q. What were the nature of your contacts with Jack

1 Ruby after he left Havana other than that one phone call
2 where he called you for help with the union?

3 A. I called him one time, I was working the grave-
4 yard, they call it the graveyard, at the Thunderbird at the
5 time. That's from 2 to 12 in the daytime, I think it was
6 2 to 12. And there were a bunch of people holding people
7 up around there. If they didn't have any money on them,
8 enough for them, they would beat them up. So I called
9 Ruby and asked Ruby to send me a gun. At that time the
10 kids were just little kids, six and five, seven or six.
11 I never did take the gun out. I just let it go back. My
12 wife was scared the kids would get ahold of it some way
13 and maybe get hurt.

14 BY MR. PURDY:

15 Q. When was that that you asked him to send you a gun?

16 A. Let me see, the gun came, you can check the gun,
17 check the place where he got it from. It must have been
18 around August, I would say. I wouldn't know for sure, though.

19 Q. August of what year?

20 A. Let me see, I think I was here, the first time I
21 was here was in '60. I would say the early part of '63 is
22 when he sent it.

23 Q. Why did you ask Jack Ruby to send you a gun?

24 A. I didn't know where to buy one here. I didn't
25 even know you could buy a gun in a store. I hadn't been

1 here long enough to know that.

2 Q. You had been here about two years before you asked
3 him to send you a gun?

4 A. I had been here a very short time, '63. I think
5 I came here in '63. I think when I went to work at the
6 Thunderbird, I came down from Reno. I think it was the first
7 part of '63, I think, February of '63. This might have
8 happened in March, I believe, I don't know. You can check
9 that out.

10 Q. What made you think that Jack Ruby could get you
11 a gun?

12 A. Because I told him to go to this place because I
13 had always bought shotguns to hunt with and rifles to hunt
14 deer with and everything and I knew the man.

15 Q. Do you know if Jack Ruby had been there before?

16 A. No, I don't.

17 Q. Was it Ray Brantley?

18 A. It was Ray's place.

19 Q. Do you know whether or not Jack Ruby had a gun
20 prior to that time?

21 A. Jack always had a gun, he always carried a gun.
22 He didn't carry it. He had it in his car. He would have
23 his receipts every night to go drop it in the bank depository.

24 Q. Did he have more than one gun in his home?

25 A. I don't know how many he had. I wouldn't think he

1 had more than one. I never did see more than one.

2 Q Do you recall telling the FBI that Jack Ruby had
3 a number of guns in his home?

4 A No, I don't, I don't remember. I don't remember
5 the FBI even asking me if he had any guns in his house.

6 Q Can you presently recall whether or not Jack Ruby
7 had more than one gun?

8 A No, sir, I don't.

9 Q Did you ask Jack Ruby to send you four guns in
10 1959?

11 A No, sir, I don't recall anything like that. I've
12 been asked that a lot of times. I don't recall that, no.

13 Q Did you ever ask Jack Ruby to obtain a gun for
14 you other than the incident you previously testified to to-
15 day?

16 A The only gun I ever had him get was the one that
17 I told you about just now.

18 Q Did you ever ask him to get you other guns?

19 A No, I don't recall anything like that

20 Q Did you ever discuss with him how to obtain a gun
21 other than that particular incident?

22 A I knew how to obtain a gun. At this Ray's place,
23 like I say, I bought a lot of guns, rifles and shotguns.

24 Q But you never bought pistols there?

25 A Not that I recall.

1 Q. Did you take any of the guns that you'd bought at
2 Ray's place with you to Cuba?

3 A. I left them in Dallas. My wife and I separated
4 and she took the guns and everything.

5 Q. Mr. McWillie, between the time that you asked
6 Julius Schepps to help Jack Ruby or you suggested to Jack
7 Ruby that he go to Mr. Schepps for help--

8 A. (Interrupting) I suggested that he go and talk
9 to Mr. Schepps.

10 Q. (Continuing) --what was the nature of your re-
11 lationship to Jack Ruby after that prior to the Cuba inci-
12 dent? What kind of a relationship did you have?

13 A. I never could get rid of him. He was around me
14 all the time. I'd have to insult him to get rid of him
15 Do you know what I mean? He'd come by the apartment and
16 he'd swim and eat dinner at the house a lot of times. I
17 just couldn't get rid of him that's all I can tell you.
18 Not that I wanted to. He was a nice fellow. Whoever
19 thought he would do anything like this, I didn't.

20 Q. Did you get to be pretty good friends with him?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What kinds of things did you do together?

23 A. Went out to dinner. I dropped by his club maybe
24 once or twice when he had it out on Oak Lawn. At that time
25 rock and roll had just started.

1 Q. Which club was that?

2 A. The Vegas Club.

3 Q. What kind of operation did he have at the Vegas
4 Club?

5 A. Let me think. He had a band and he was the emcee
6 and he served, I think he served beer. I don't believe he
7 served whiskey, beer. That's about all there was to it.
8 He had this other club after I left Dallas. I never did
9 even see that place. That was the one up town.

10 Q. Was that the Carousel Club?

11 A. Yes, I never saw that.

12 Q. You've never been in the Carousel Club?

13 A. No, never in my life.

14 Q. Did any gambling go on at the Vegas Club, to your
15 knowledge?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What can you tell us about Jack Ruby's political
18 views? Did you ever discuss politics with him?

19 A. No, I never did. When I was around Jack Ruby, I
20 think Eisenhower was president, I believe he was.

21 Q. That would be the 1950's?

22 A. When was Truman president, do you remember?

23 Q. Prior to 1952.

24 A. Truman was president. And I met Jack right around
25 the first part of the '50's, I'd say the first part of the

1 '50's and Truman was president and Eisenhower was president.

2 Q. How did he feel about Truman and Eisenhower?

3 A. I never discussed politics with him.

4 Q. Do you know how he voted?

5 A. He wouldn't bet anything. I don't think he ever
6 bet a nickel on anything

7 Q. I was asking who he voted for. Do you know who
8 he voted for?

9 A. I don't know. There would be no way I'd know.

10 Q. Did you discuss with Jack Ruby any major events
11 in the country that went on in the 1950's? Did you discuss
12 the Korean War, for example?

13 A. Nothing. We never discussed politics.

14 Q. Did you ever discuss Cuban-American relations?

15 A. No, I did not.

16 Q. Did you ever discuss Castro or Batista with Jack
17 Ruby?

18 A. No; I never discussed any kind of politics with
19 Jack Ruby at all.

20 Q. Do you ever recall Jack Ruby talking about the
21 Kennedys, how he felt about the Kennedys?

22 A. Just what I read, I think it was in Tony Zoppi's
23 office right after it happened and he was crying and carrying
24 on, what I read in the paper and you did, too, I'm sure. But
25 I never recall him saying one word about the Kennedys.

1 Q. You don't recall him expressing a great love
2 for the Kennedys?

3 A. No, I don't, because Kennedy wasn't president.
4 Eisenhower was president, I'm sure.

5 Q. What kind of man was Jack Ruby toward people?

6 A. Like I said, Jack Ruby wanted to be a bigman. He
7 wanted to be the biggest night club operator in Dallas.
8 That's my assumption. Like I said before, he was kind of
9 an egotist and wore a hat all the time, which was very un-
10 usual I thought at the time. Nobody else ever wore a hat
11 around Dallas.

12 Q. Did you find him to be a violent man?

13 A. No, sir, he sure wasn't. Now, in his club if
14 someone got out of line, that means fighting or something,
15 he would just take them and put them out. I never saw him
16 hurt anybody

17 Q. You never saw him even strike anyone?

18 A. No, I never did.

19 Q. Did you ever know of him beating up anyone?

20 A. I don't recall ever hearing him beat up anyone.

21 Q. Did Jack Ruby ever get in any arguments with you
22 or anyone else over any subject?

23 A. He never got in an argument with me for sure. I
24 can't recall him ever having an argument. He had a lot of
25 friends around Dallas, different people.

1 Q. Do you remember him getting in any arguments
2 about his union troubles?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you remember him getting in any arguments about
5 paying his employees?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Do you remember him getting in any arguments about
8 the strip-tease shows?

9 A. Like I said, when I was there, he didn't have a
10 strip-tease joint. I don't think it was strip tease. I
11 don't think he ever had strip tease out at the place.

12 Q. Please continue.

13 A. I think all he had was a stage in the middle of
14 the place, a room a little bigger than this one. He had
15 a stage up against one wall and he would come out and do the
16 emcee and everybody would laugh because he didn't know how
17 to talk, you know.

18 Q. That was the Vegas Club?

19 A. Yes; he had a band and as far as I can recall, I
20 don't believe he had any strip tease. I'm almost positive
21 he didn't.

22 Q. How successful was the Vegas Club?

23 A. He said it was doing all right. I wouldn't have
24 any way of knowing. It was full all the time.

25 Q. Did he ever ask you for money?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Do you remember if he ever got money from any
3 other individuals?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you remember that he had any business partners?

6 A. No, I don't think he did, to tell you the truth.
7 No, I'm sure he didn't

8 Q. Do you remember if he ever got in any financial
9 trouble?

10 A. What, sir?

11 Q. In financial trouble.

12 A. No, sir, I don't think he ever did as long as
13 I knew him, he didn't. At least he never said anything
14 about it

15 Q. Did Jack Ruby have problems with his income taxes?

16 A. Not that I know of. I didn't know him that well
17 to know all his business, you know, his personal business.
18 He could have had anything and I wouldn't know it.

19 Q. Did he ever propose any business deals with you?

20 A. Never, never

21 Q. Do you know any people who were particularly good
22 friends with Jack Ruby?

23 A. Well, I know two real good friends of his. One
24 fellow named Jake Rifkin, he's dead. He died a year or so
25 ago. And another one named Mark Panitz, P-a-n-i-t-z. They

1 were two of his close friends.

2 Q. What did Jake Rifkin do for a living?

3 A. He was a gambler.

4 Q. Where did he gamble?

5 A. Around Memphis, around, let's see if he ever dealt
6 any gambling houses, yes, he has dealt in gambling houses,
7 I don't recall which one, around Memphis years and years
8 ago, many years ago.

9 Q. How did Jack Ruby get to know him?

10 A. Through me. They were friends of mine.

11 Q. Did Jake Rifkin gamble in Dallas?

12 A. I think he worked around Dallas, I believe dealing
13 around there some.

14 Q. Do you know who he worked for?

15 A. He might have come out and worked for me a couple
16 of times up at the Top of the Hill, a few times.

17 Q. During what period of time did he get to be good
18 friends with Jack Ruby?

19 A. Did he get to be? I'd say about the same time I
20 did. They were both my good friends.

21 Q. So that would have been late '40's or early '50's?

22 A. I'd have to say the early '50's. I'm pretty sure
23 it was early, it could have been the late '40's, but I think
24 it was early '50's.

25 Q. For how long a period of time was Jake Rifkin and

1 Jack Ruby good friends?

2 A. Let me see, I'd say six or seven years, eight
3 years maybe.

4 Q. Why did they stop being good friends?

5 A. I don't really know. They were still good
6 friends as far as I know. I don't know. Jake left there.
7 Let me see, I think he went to Hot Springs. He used to go
8 to Hot Springs every year.

9 Q. Do you know--

10 A. (Interrupting) And he could have worked over
11 there, too, I don't know.

12 Q. Who were some of the people Jake Rifkin gambled
13 with in Dallas?

14 A. I really wouldn't know. I wouldn't know, differ-
15 ent gamblers. I wouldn't know.

16 Q. What type of gambling would he have been involved
17 in?

18 A. Oh, hell, he'd do anything, shoot dice, bet on
19 horses, baseball games, football games. He'd bet on any-
20 thing.

21 Q. Did Jack Ruby have any other friends who were in-
22 volved in gambling?

23 A. I can't think of any, no. But these two fellows,
24 they were friends of his.

25 Q. How did you know they were good friends of his?

1 A. They would be at my apartment and we would
2 swim and they would be there all the time.

3 Q. I believe you stated that Jack Ruby thought very
4 highly of you?

5 A. He did. On account of me doing him so many favors
6 I guess. Like I told you about the union, straightened
7 that out, Bill Miller. And he called me later and said,
8 what kind of people are you having me call, calling me.
9 Well, what the hell, pardon me, I didn't know that Jack
10 Ruby was going to do what he did. There wasn't any way in
11 the world I would know that. I thought he was harmless.
12 And I still think that he did it. I thought he thought it
13 would make him a big man, that's all I can say. And I've
14 told everybody that. And that's exactly the reason I think
15 he did it. He thought it would make him a martyr or some-
16 thing.

17 Q. Was Jack Ruby very interested in money for what
18 it could buy for him?

19 A. I didn't get that, sir.

20 Q. Was Jack Ruby very interested in money for what it
21 could buy for him?

22 A. He didn't seem to be, no, he really didn't. When
23 I was around him, he seemed to be perfectly happy with his
24 place.

25 Q. You're saying he was much more interested in be-

1 coming a big man around town?

2 A. That's what I think, yes. I really think that,
3 in the entertainment field.

4 Q. Did he see you as a big man in Dallas?

5 A. I guess he might have thought that.

6 Q. Why would he have thought that?

7 A. I don't know why he thought that. He evidently
8 did think that the way he hung around. I always conducted
9 myself in the proper manner.

10 Q. Who were some of the influential people in Dallas
11 that you had good connections with?

12 A. That I had good connections with? I didn't have
13 any good connections with any of the big legitimate people.
14 I did know a man named Sidney Fruhman. We used to play gin
15 at his house a lot of Sundays. That was about the extent
16 of my running with the legitimate people, if you know what
17 I mean.

18 Q. Did you say with illegitimate or with legitimate?

19 A. Legitimate, with legitimate people, I mean
20 business people.

21 Q. How do you spell his last name?

22 A. F-r-u-h-m-a-n.

23 He's dead, too.

24 Q. What was his occupation?

25 A. He had a chain of hat stores named Rhelle, Rhelle

1 Hat Stores. I don't know if they're still in operation.

2 I'm sure they are.

3 Q. Did Jack Ruby frequent the Top of the Hill Club?

4 A. No, I think the Top of the Hill Club was closed
5 when I met Jack Ruby. I'm pretty sure, I'm positive it
6 was, almost positive.

7 Q. Did any gambling go on at the Top of the Hill Club?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that was the dice and the cards that you spoke
10 of before?

11 A. We had a roulette wheel or two and dice games,
12 maybe three, and one twenty-one game.

13 Q. Did Jack Ruby frequent the Cellar Club in Fort
14 Worth?

15 A. The Steller Club, I never heard of it.

16 Q. The Cellar Club.

17 A. Costello?

18 Q. Cellar, C-e-l-l-a-r.

19 A. I never heard of it.

20 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Pat or Fay Kirkwood?

21 A. Yes, that's where I was at in Fort Worth. Don't
22 get them mixed up. One of them is the son and one is the
23 old man. The old man that I was with was named W. C. Kirk-
24 wood. Pat is kind of a hippie type young fellow. He was
25 young then. He's not young now.

1 Q. Did Jack Ruby know W. C. Kirkwood?

2 A. Just to say hello to him. He may have been out
3 there maybe once or twice.

4 Q. What was the name--was it a club that Mr. Kirkwood
5 ran?

6 A. It was a home. We were sneaking gambling is
7 what we was doing.

8 Q. Over what time period was there gambling in Mr.
9 Kirkwood's home?

10 A. I'd have to say, I believe from '51 to '53, I'm
11 not sure. While I was there, he had some gambling there
12 before. But when I was there '51 to '53, I'm not positive
13 but I think so.

14 Q. And you say you think Jack Ruby may have gone
15 there once or twice?

16 A. That's all.

17 Q. Did Jack Ruby gamble there?

18 A. No, he wouldn't gamble. I told you he wouldn't
19 bet anything, on anything.

20 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Pat Kirkwood?

21 A. No, I'm sure he didn't.

22 Q. What occupation was Pat Kirkwood in?

23 A. Last I heard of Pat Kirkwood, he had a hippie,
24 we call it a joint, a hippie joint where they lay on the
25 floor on pads. I never was in it but I heard about it.

1 He grew a beard and long hair and prior to that he had been
2 a race driver but he opened this place and kind of went, I
3 don't know, it was during that hippie period, wasn't it,
4 around the '50's.

5 Q. What time period did Pat Kirkwood operate that
6 place?

7 A. Pat Kirkwood, I just don't know. Let me see, I
8 left there in '53. I'd say he must have started around '56,
9 I believe. I'm not positive, though. I couldn't say for
10 sure.

11 Q. What was the name of Pat Kirkwood's place?

12 A. I don't know. I just heard about it.

13 Q. Where was it located?

14 A. It was in Fort Worth in the city, I think.

15 Q. Now, you said Pat was W. C. Kirkwood's son?

16 A. His son, that's right.

17 Q. Do you know where he is now?

18 A. I have no idea.

19 Q. When was the last time you had communication with
20 Pat Kirkwood?

21 A. I haven't had communication with Pat Kirkwood, I
22 haven't heard from Pat Kirkwood in years, even thought about
23 him. I've seen his father. His father's been out here maybe
24 once or twice. He's half blind.

25 Q. Where does W. C. Kirkwood live now?

1 A. I'm sure he still lives at the same place. He's
2 been there many, many years.

3 Q. Where is that?

4 A. 2222 Jacksborough Highway.

5 Q. In what town?

6 A. Fort Worth.

7 Q. You were describing the place that Pat Kirkwood
8 ran as having pads on the floor.

9 A. I just had people telling me about it. I was
10 never in there, don't even know what street it was on and
11 where it was at. But I heard people laughing about it
12 and talking about it

13 Q. Basically they were talking about the fact that
14 he had sexual activity going on in his place?

15 A. No, they were just talking about what a bunch of
16 crummy looking people patronized it, you know. At that
17 time everybody was growing a beard. It was the start of the
18 hippie period.

19 Q. What were the pads on the floor for?

20 A. I don't know, to sit on, I guess. I mean that's
21 hearsay to me. I haven't been there so I couldn't tell you
22 for sure. But I'm sure that you could find out very easy.

23 Q. Did you know a Fay Kirkwood?

24 A. That was W. C.'s wife, a very nice lady. She had
25 a dancing horse and she'd ride in rodeos every once in a

1 while at that time.

2 Q. Did she ever run a club?

3 A. No; she was strictly a rodeo performer.

4 Q. You stated previously that you didn't know any
5 times when Jack Ruby was in particular financial trouble.
6 Were there any times when he was particularly successful
7 financially?

8 A. No, I think he just made a certain amount of
9 money. I have no idea what he made but he couldn't have
10 made too much money. He made a comfortable living. It
11 was nothing to brag about

12 Q. Would you describe him as a free spender or was
13 he frugal?

14 A. I'd have to say he was frugal. He wasn't a free
15 spender.

16 Q. Are there any incidents you can describe that
17 demonstrate that he was frugal?

18 A. Like I'd go out to eat with him and he'd never
19 offer to pay a check. That's one way he was frugal. That's
20 the only way I would know he was frugal. I never saw him
21 throwing any money away

22 Q. Did you and Jack Ruby ever go out for drinks to-
23 gether and he offered to pay?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did Jack Ruby drink?

1 A. I don't Jack Ruby even drank, to tell you the
2 truth. I never did see him take a drink.

3 Q. Did you ever travel outside of Dallas with Jack
4 Ruby?

5 A. No, not that I know of

6 Q. Do you know of Jack Ruby traveling outside of
7 Dallas other than the Cuba trip?

8 A. The only trip I know is right there. The FBI
9 asked me if he had been out here. He's never been out here
10 as far as I know.

11 Q. During the time that you knew Jack Ruby, did he
12 ever travel to Chicago?

13 A. I don't recall him ever going to Chicago. I've
14 heard him talk about Chicago. I think he was from Chicago.
15 I'd have to say he was. I don't recall him ever going any-
16 where.

17 Q. What do you recall Jack Ruby saying about Chicago?

18 A. Nothing. That he come up in a poor neighborhood
19 and how rough it was for him. He had a tough young life.
20 That's about it.

21 Q. Do you recall him talking about his family living
22 in Chicago?

23 A. I think his family lived in Dallas. His sister
24 out there and he always said she was sick or something. He
25 had a brother. I think he had two brothers. One of them

1 was a little, I don't know, he said he was sick.

2 Q. He said who was sick?

3 A. The brother, the brother and sister both he said
4 were a little sick some way, I don't know.

5 Q. Was he talking about them being physically ill?

6 A. He just said they were sick.

7 Q. Did you ever meet any of Jack Ruby's brothers or
8 sisters?

9 A. I want to tell you something that happened here
10 about, it's been about four months ago. I don't think I
11 ever saw any one of his family in Dallas. I might have
12 seen his sister.

13 Q. His sister was Eva Grant.

14 A. Eva Grant, yes, that's the one I'm talking about.
15 I think I saw her in a restaurant one night with him and I
16 didn't even go, I went to the counter to keep from going
17 around them. He's got a brother named Earl Ruby. He was
18 out here about four months ago and he came by to see me.
19 I was working. He came in the pit. We call it the pit, you
20 know. He said, "Mr. McWillie?" I said, "Yes." He said,
21 "I'm Earl Ruby." Well, I like to fell down.

22 I said, "Earl Ruby?" I said, "What do you want,
23 Earl?" Well, "I just want to say hello to you." I've
24 never seen him in my life before. I said, "What are you
25 doing out here?" He said, "We're going to make a docu-

1 mentary", NBC or one of the others. I said, "Listen,
2 will you do me a favor? Would you just get on out of
3 here and get away from me. I've got enough problems about
4 your brother already uncalled for." I don't know if he
5 got mad or not but he left. He was there about five
6 minutes. That's the first time I had ever laid eyes on
7 him.

8 Didn't he have two brothers?

9 Q. Yes, he had a brother named Sam. Did you ever
10 meet Sam Ruby?

11 A. No, I didn't meet him. Have you ever seen any
12 of them? It seemed like he had a little bitty skinny
13 brother. What the hell was his name? But I didn't meet
14 him anyway. I've seen him. But this Earl, I had never laid
15 eyes on him. And when he came into the pit and said, "I'm
16 Earl Ruby", well, I like to fell out. I didn't want to see
17 any Rubys any more.

18 Q. Did Jack Ruby ever travel to New Orleans?

19 A. To New Orleans? If he did, he traveled after I
20 left Dallas. I don't ever recall Jack Ruby ever leaving
21 Dallas the whole time I knew him.

22 Q. Do you know whether or not Jack Ruby knew Carlos
23 or Vincent Marcello?

24 A. Is that the fellow in New Orleans? I wouldn't
25 think so, no. I wouldn't think he'd know him.

1 Q. Did you know Carlos or Vincent Marcello?

2 A. No, sir, I sure don't.

3 Q. Never met them?

4 A. Never met them in my life.

5 Q. Did Jack Ruby know a man named Pete Guarisco?

6 A. Who?

7 Q. Pete Guarisco.

8 A. Not that I know of.

9 Q. Did you know Pete Guarisco?

10 A. No, never heard of him.

11 Q. Did Jack Ruby travel to Shreveport, Louisiana?

12 A. Not that I know of.

13 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Elizabeth Anne Matthews?

14 A. Elizabeth Anne who?

15 Q. Matthews.

16 A. Elizabeth Anne, no. I mean I don't know whether
17 he knew them or not. He could have known all of them, I
18 don't know, but I don't think he did.

19 Q. Do you know R. D. Matthews?

20 A. Oh, yes.

21 Q. Did you know his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Anne
22 Matthews?

23 A. No; I met her just I think one time.

24 Q. Do you recall when you met her?

25 A. I met her at the Horseshoe, I think.

1 Q. Was she married to R. D. Matthews at the time?

2 A. I really wouldn't know. I'm sure this is the
3 lady he's married to now. I don't know. I didn't know
4 R.D. too well, I mean not intimately, do you know what I
5 mean. He worked there a while.

6 Q. Do you recall when Jack Ruby came from Chicago
7 to Dallas?

8 A. I have no idea.

9 Q. Do you know how long after he came to Dallas you
10 met him?

11 A. No, I don't have any idea. The first time I ever
12 saw him in my life was like I told you sitting there with
13 that hat on, and it just attracted my attention and I kept
14 looking at this fellow.

15 Q. Does it refresh your memory to know that Jack Ruby
16 came to Dallas around 1947?

17 A. No, I wouldn't know when he came there because I
18 didn't know him, hadn't heard of him.

19 Q. What is your best recollection as to when you met
20 Jack Ruby?

21 A. I'd say the first part of the '50's because I
22 think I was in Fort Worth. I either went over there in
23 '51 to '53 or '53 to '56. I don't recall the exact dates.
24 I met him while I was at the Four Duces.

25 Q. Prior to Jack Ruby's arrival in Dallas in 1947,

1 what was the status of gambling in the Dallas area?

2 A. I don't understand what you mean, the status.

3 Q. What kinds of gambling was going on in the Dallas
4 area in the time, say, 1945 to 1947?

5 A. Well, there were a few crap games and a few horse
6 books is all I know of.

7 Q. Was there any betting on sporting events?

8 A. Not that I know of. I never bet on them myself.
9 It could have been, I don't know.

10 Q. Who was involved in this gambling that you de-
11 scribed in 1945 to 1947?

12 A. In Dallas?

13 Q. In the Dallas area, Dallas-Fort Worth area.

14 A. I don't really know. I knew a fellow named
15 Scarborough, Red Scarborough, and like I said, Miller and
16 Earl Dalton.

17 Q. How much numbers activity was there in Dallas?

18 A. I have no idea about the numbers. At the time
19 I was a dice dealer when I was in Dallas.

20 Q. Did you know of any numbers activity in Dallas?

21 A. No, sir, I wouldn't have any way of knowing that
22 because--

23 Q. (Interrupting) Were you aware of Benny Binion's
24 numbers operation in Dallas prior to 1947?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Did you know Benny Binion at that time?

2 A. Know him to see him.

3 Q. You knew him to see him at that time?

4 A. Just to see him.

5 Q. Did you know that Ivy Miller and Red Scarborough
6 worked for Benny Binion in a numbers operation?

7 A. No, I didn't.

8 Q. What gambling activity did you know that Ivy
9 Miller and Red Scarborough were involved in?

10 A. They were involved in the Southland Hotel and
11 could have been involved in the place where I worked, Blue
12 Bonnet, and they were involved in the Top of the Hill.

13 Q. What gambling activity was Benny Binion involved
14 in at that time?

15 A. I have no idea.

16 Q. Was Benny Binion involved in any gambling at that
17 time?

18 A. I don't know. There's no way I'd know.

19 Q. Did you ever see Benny Binion gamble?

20 A. Ever see him gamble, no, never did,

21 Q. Did you know Johnny Avon?

22 A. Johnny Avon, not well. He had had a gambling
23 place around there before I ever got there. He wasn't in
24 gambling when I was there.

25 Q. Did you know Berle Cheek?

1 A. Who?

2 Q. Berle Cheek.

3 A. Berle Cheek, yes, I knew him, too. He had been
4 in gambling prior to my going to Dallas.

5 Q. What kind of gambling was he involved in?

6 A. I don't really know but I knew he was a gambler.

7 Q. Was he involved in gambling while you were there?

8 A. No. Let me see, wait a minute now. We borrowed
9 some money from Berle Cheek, I think, while I was at the
10 Top of the Hill, I don't know, \$10,000 or something.

11 Q. When you say we, you mean you and Fred Browning?

12 A. Me and Kirkwood at the Four Duces.

13 Q. You and W. C. Kirkwood?

14 A. Yes.

15 In two or three days we gave it back to him
16 because we didn't want his money.

17 Q. Was there any loan sharking activity going on
18 in the Dallas area at that time?

19 A. Not that I know of.

20 Q. Did you know Benny Bickers?

21 A. Yes, very well.

22 Q. What gambling activity was Mr. Bickers involved
23 in?

24 A. I don't know. I really don't know what he was in-
25 volved in.

1 Q. Did you know that he worked with Benny Binion in
2 a numbers activity in that area?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you know Ben Whittaker?

5 A. Very well.

6 Q. What kind of gambling activity was Mr. Whittaker
7 involved in?

8 A. Mr. Whittaker had race horses and all he did, that
9 I knew of, was bet on his own horses, go to the track, a
10 very nice man.

11 Q. Did he run a gambling operation?

12 A. Not that I know of. He didn't run one while I
13 was there.

14 Q. What kind of gambling was Fred Browning involved
15 in?

16 A. He was involved in the Top of the Hill Terrace.

17 Q. Was he involved in any other gambling?

18 A. No, he had the Top of the Hill for years.

19 Q. Did he ever work with Benny Binion in gambling?

20 A. Fred Browning?

21 Q. Fred Browning.

22 A. Not that I know of.

23 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Benny Binion?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Ivy Miller?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Would Jack Ruby have known of Benny Binion?

3 A. I don't think so. I wouldn't know why he would
4 have known him.

5 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Johnny Avon?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Berle Cheek?

8 A. No, not that I know of. I have to say not that I
9 know of because I'm positive he didn't.

10 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Red Scarborough?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Benny Bickers?

13 A. I don't think so.

14 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Ben Whittaker?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Fred Browning?

17 A. I think we were closed. I don't believe he did
18 know Fred Browning. We were closed when I met Jack, I'm
19 positive of it.

20 Q. How organized was gambling in the Dallas area?

21 A. I really don't know. There's no way I'd know
22 how it was organized.

23 Q. Was Dallas an open or a closed city?

24 A. It had a few crap games in it. I don't know if
25 you'd call that open or closed or whatever it was. But it

1 had a few crap games like more cities in the United States
2 at that time.

3 Q. Did the individual who was running a particular
4 crap game have to get anyone else's permission to do it?

5 A. Have to do what, sir?

6 Q. Get anyone else's permission.

7 A. I really don't know. I was just working there.

8 Q. When you ran your gambling places in the Dallas
9 area, did you have to pay any money to anyone?

10 A. No, sir, we were sneaking as I told you a while
11 ago.

12 Q. You were what?

13 A. We were sneaking, what we call sneaking. I don't
14 know how to explain it. We were doing it against the law
15 I guess you'd call it.

16 Q. Did any of these secret gambling operations have
17 troubles with the police?

18 A. Yes, they got raided every once in a while. The
19 Rangers would raid them. Hell, the sheriff would raid them
20 a lot of times.

21 Q. When you say the Rangers, you mean the Texas
22 Rangers?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did anyone ever have to pay off the police?

25 A. Not that I know of. I wasn't in a position to

1 know that but I wouldn't think so. I really don't know
2 about that because I wasn't involved in it.

3 Q. Did anyone have to pay off the prosecutor?

4 A. I wouldn't think so.

5 Q. Were you aware of a crackdown on gambling in the
6 Dallas area in 1947 when a new prosecutor came into office?

7 A. Yes, there was a crackdown, sure was. I don't
8 know if it was the prosecutor.

9 Q. Would that have been when Steve Guthrie became the
10 sheriff?

11 A. I really don't recall.

12 Q. What effect did this crackdown have on gambling?
13 How successful was the crackdown?

14 A. There just wasn't any more gambling. I thought it
15 was Kefauver that did it. I'm not sure. What time was
16 Kefauver, '58? Was it that late, '58?

17 MR. WOLF: Early '50's.

18 MR. PURDY: Kefauver was early '50's.

19 A. As I understand that was the crackdown in gambling
20 everywhere.

21 BY MR. PURDY:

22 Q. But you recall a crackdown in Dallas in 1947
23 either with the new sheriff or when Will Wilson came in?

24 A. I remember we got closed up, we got raided around
25 Dallas.

1 Q. Did this crackdown cause anyone to leave Dallas?

2 A. I'm sure all the dealers left.

3 Q. Do you recall people leaving Dallas and going to
4 Las Vegas around 1947?

5 A. A number of them, yes, a number of people came
6 out here. Most everybody came out here.

7 Q. Do you remember Benny Binion leaving at that
8 time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Who else do you remember left at that time?

11 A. I don't know if it was at that time or not, but
12 I remember Benny Binion left there. Who else left there?
13 Let me see, a fellow named Jess Zilliack.

14 Q. How do you spell his name?

15 A. I don't know, Zilliack.

16 Q. Who else left Dallas and went to Vegas, do you
17 remember?

18 A. Fred Browning even came out here but he didn't
19 come out here to do business. He brought race horses
20 out here. He had a track out here about that time. There's
21 a lot of people. Everybody came out here over the years
22 because there wasn't any place to gamble but here

23 Q. After the crackdown on gambling in the Dallas area,
24 could you please describe for us how much gambling went on
25 in the Dallas area between 1947 and, say, 1958 when you last

1 had contact with Jack Ruby in Dallas?

2 A. Well, they had stag parties. We did have stag
3 parties for a while where they run them in the country
4 clubs. That was the extent of the gambling around Dallas.

5 Q. What type of gambling went on at these stag
6 parties?

7 A. Dice games.

8 Q. How often were they held?

9 A. Maybe once a month, most every two months.

10 Q. Did Jack Ruby ever go to any of those stag
11 parties?

12 A. Never

13 Q. Did you ever go to them?

14 A. Sure, I went to them.

15 Q. If Jack Ruby had gone to them, would you have
16 known about it?

17 A. Oh, yes, I would have seen him. If you saw him
18 once, you'd never forget him with the hat on.

19 Q. If Jack Ruby had gone to the stag parties, would
20 you have seen him there?

21 A. Yes, I wouldn't have known him, but I would have
22 seen him, I would have remembered him because I do remember
23 faces.

24 Q. Was there any link between Dallas and Las Vegas
25 in terms of gambling between, say, '47 and 1960?

1 A. I'd have to say no.

2 Q. Did you know Harry Urban?

3 A. Didn't know him intimately I knew him to speak
4 to him.

5 Q. Did you know he was a partner of Benny Binion?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Was Harry Urban involved in any gambling in
8 the Dallas area?

9 A. I don't think so.

10 Q. Were you familiar--go ahead.

11 A. I forgot what I was going to say.

12 Q. Which clubs were the stag parties held in?

13 A. The stag party was held at the, let's see, it was
14 the country club out on, there was one downtown. I can't
15 think of the name. The Main Street Club or something. It
16 was at the corner of Field and Main. We held them there.
17 I mean I ran them a pretty good while, maybe six or seven
18 times There was a country club out on the, kind of a
19 freeway there. They changed the name of it since then. I
20 don't recall the name of it. Then there was one named the
21 Cipango Club.

22 Q. Who ran the operation at the Cipango Club?

23 A. Ivy Miller and Earl Dalton. Scarborough was dead.

24 Q. During what time period did they run that?

25 A. Like I said, I don't recall. I think it was the

1 late '40's maybe, I don't know.

2 Q. Did they run the Cipango Club at all during the
3 '50's?

4 A. The club is still there, I think, but not gambling.

5 Q. Did they have any of the stag parties at the
6 Cipango Club during the '50's?

7 A. That's what they call stag parties but they let
8 their wives come, too. They just called it stag parties.

9 Q. Did that go on during the '50's?

10 A. No, it stopped, I'd say, in the late '40's.
11 There wasn't too many out there, maybe five or six.

12 Q. Who ran the operation in the country club when
13 they had the stag parties?

14 A. Who ran the gambling? I ran it myself but the same
15 two people I mentioned, Scarborough and Miller.

16 Q. You had said Dalton and Miller?

17 A. I meant Dalton and Miller. Scarborough was
18 dead

19 Q. Did you also run the operation at the Cipango Club
20 with them?

21 A. Yes, I ran the stags for them.

22 Q. And did you also run the operation at the club on
23 Main Street with them?

24 A. Gambling, yes.

25 Q. Were any of the stag parties held during the

1 1950's?

2 A. No, I'd have to say no. I'm not for sure, but
3 I'd have to say no for sure.

4 Q. What kind of gambling went on at the stag parties?

5 A. Just dice games.

6 Q. I believe previously in response to my question
7 about gambling between 1947 and 1958, you said stag parties
8 were held. Are you now changing that and saying that they
9 didn't go on in the '50's?

10 A. I don't recall, to tell you the truth. It could
11 have gone on in maybe '51. I don't know for sure. There's
12 no way I can remember. But I told you that I did run them
13 for them. That's all I can tell you. I don't know what
14 years exactly. The last years I don't know. I just don't
15 know. It could be and it could not be, I just don't know.

16 Q. Did any gambling go on in Dallas in the 1950's?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Was there any gambling in private homes in the
19 '50's?

20 A. There could have been, I don't know about that.

21 Q. You left for Cuba, you said, in 1958?

22 A. '58.

23 Q. So if there was no gambling in the '50's, that
24 means that--

25 A. (Interrupting) It was in the '50's in Fort

1 Worth. I told you that I was running this place sneaking
2 over in Fort Worth.

3 Q. Was Jack Ruby involved in any gambling in the
4 1950's?

5 A. He was involved in nothing in the way of gambling,
6 no way.

7 Q. Were you interviewed by the FBI in Las Vegas on
8 November 25, 1963?

9 A. Yes, sir. I don't know if it was the exact date
10 or not. They like to ran me crazy. I'd be working and they
11 would call me out of the pit to talk to them. I finally
12 asked them, I said, "Please come out to my home and let me
13 talk to you." I was interviewed by them many times.

14 Q. Did you tell the FBI on November 25, 1963, that
15 Jack Ruby had been involved in gambling as a player?

16 A. No, I did not because he never had been involved
17 in gambling as a player. Like I say, Jack Ruby wouldn't
18 bet 25 cents on anything.

19 Q. The FBI report dated November 27, 1963, which is
20 a report of your interview with the FBI on November 25, 1963,
21 which was conducted in Las Vegas, Nevada, by special agents
22 Stevens and Salisbury, that report says that you stated, the
23 report says, "He stated he does not know Ruby to have ever
24 been involved in any bookie activity or in any gambling of
25 any nature other than as a player."

1 A. He never played in his life. I never saw him
2 play.

3 Q. Does that accurately reflect what you told the
4 FBI on November 25, 1963, that Ruby was involved as a player?

5 A. No, sir, I didn't tell them that. I did not tell
6 them that. I have never seen Ruby gamble on anything.

7 And, incidentally, when I went to Arruba, the day
8 I left, the FBI went to my mother, went to my sisters, my
9 brothers, and Jack Ruby had happened to be visiting me in
10 my apartment when my mother and sister were visiting me, and
11 they thought he was the finest man in the world and that's
12 what my mother told the FBI, I'm sure. So I asked Mr.
13 Stevens, I said, "If you don't mind, my sister has been with
14 the Veterans Hospital for many years and she's the head
15 nurse there in the operating room, charge of the operating
16 room", I gave him a number at home, and I said, "If you
17 will call her after 5:30, she'll invite you out to the
18 house and talk to you." Well, they went up there and like
19 to scared her to death.

20 So the day I went to Arruba, Mr. Stevens, I'm glad
21 to remember that name, he came out to the house and told my
22 wife I had been cleared of any wrongdoing and my wife asked
23 him, "Well, what's he been cleared of, he hasn't done any-
24 thing." "Just known this nut", which it turns out he was.
25 I didn't know he was that nutty.

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1 Q. When was that that your family members met Jack
2 Ruby?

3 A. I don't know, it was in the '50's. It was in the
4 '50's. I can only recall the year. I'm sure they have a
5 record of it, my mother and my sister both. He had a
6 habit of, if he met anyone, like he'd meet you, he'd want
7 to know your name, he'd want to know your address, what your
8 birthday was, and he would send you a birthday card, a
9 Christmas card. I don't know why he did that but that was
10 a habit he had.

11 Q. When was it that you went to Arruba?

12 A. Arruba in '64, I believe.

13 Q. Was it just a coincidence that the FBI came to you
14 the day you were leaving for Arruba?

15 A. It was after I went to Arruba and Mr. Stevens told
16 my wife that I had been cleared of anything. I don't know
17 what the devil he was talking about.

18 Q. Do you know any oilmen in Dallas, the Dallas area?

19 A. A lot of oilmen played at the Top of the Hill,
20 quite a few.

21 Q. Who were some of those oilmen?

22 A. Hell, I don't recall the names any more. Let me
23 see, there was a fellow named Carraway, he was an oilman,
24 Sid Richardson would come out there, he didn't do much
25 playing. I don't think he played at all. Billy Byers, a

1 man named Billy Byers, he played out there. Big oilmen,
2 H. L. Hunt, he played out there.

3 Q. How often did H. L. Hunt gamble out there?

4 A. Not very often. He would go upstairs and eat.
5 We gave away the food. And he would take 12 people up
6 there and wouldn't tip the waiter but he would gamble, he
7 did gamble.

8 Q. Was Jack Ruby ever there when any oilmen were
9 there?

10 A. No, I never knew Jack Ruby when the Top of the
11 Hill was open. I'm almost positive that I met Jack Ruby
12 after it was closed.

13 Q. Did you know Harry Hall?

14 A. I knew a dealer years and years ago by the name
15 of Harry Hall. Hell, he's been dead 30, 40 years.

16 Q. He also went by the name Harry Sinclair, Jr.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Or Harry Haler, H-a-l-e-r?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Regarding Mr. Bill Byers, do you recall an inci-
21 dent when a number of people considered robbing him?

22 A. No, I didn't know he ever got robbed. He lived
23 in Tyler, Texas. He didn't live in Dallas.

24 Q. Did Jack Ruby know H. L. Hunt?

25 A. No, I'm positive he didn't.

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1 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Bill Byers?

2 A. No, he never knew any of those people that I'm
3 talking about.

4 Q. Did Dick Anconi ever come to the Top of the Hill
5 Club?

6 A. No, I knew Dick Anconi. Dick Anconi was a big
7 oilman. He died a number of years ago.

8 Q. Did Jack Ruby know him?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Were you familiar with the Petroleum Club?

11 A. No, I know where it was but you couldn't go in
12 there unless you were an oilman.

13 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Sid Richardson?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Dewey Groom?

16 A. Who?

17 Q. Dewey Groom.

18 A. How do you spell it?

19 Q. C-r-o-o-m.

20 A. I don't know. I don't know who he knew. I've
21 never heard of him.

22 Q. You've never heard of Groom?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you know Marty Field?

25 A. Marty who?

1 Q. Marty Field.

2 He used to work at the Sands a few years ago,
3 also used to work in Cuba, also went by the name of Marty
4 Schwartz when he was a fighter.

5 A. No, I don't think I knew him.

6 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Joe Civello?

7 A. Joe Civello, I don't think he did.

8 Q. Did you know Joe Civello?

9 A. I knew him, yes. I didn't know him intimately,
10 but I knew him to speak to him.

11 Q. What did Joe Civello do for a living?

12 A. I have no idea. He had a whiskey store, that's
13 where I met him, in a whiskey store.

14 Q. Did he ever gamble, to your knowledge?

15 A. Not to my knowledge.

16 Q. Did he ever go to any of your clubs?

17 A. No, never did.

18 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Joe or Sam Campisi?

19 A. I'm sure he did, yes. They have a restaurant
20 there.

21 Q. What restaurant did they run?

22 A. Egyptian Lounge.

23 Q. Were you ever with Jack Ruby when he was with
24 either of the Campisis?

25 A. I could have eaten out there with Jack Ruby but

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1 that was all.

2 Q. There might have been a time when you all ate
3 together?

4 A. They would come over and say hello probably or
5 something like that. They were pretty good hosts.

6 Q. Do you recall having dinner with Jack Ruby and the
7 Campisis in 1954 or '55?

8 A. I don't recall it but it's possible.

9 Q. Were you ever present with either of the
10 Campisis when Jack Ruby was present when business deals were
11 discussed?

12 A. No, they would have no business dealings with
13 Jack Ruby.

14 Q. Do you know whether or not the Campisis ever went
15 to Ruby's club?

16 A. Everybody went to Ruby's club to see those hippies.
17 I don't know that they did, but I'd have to say they had
18 been.

19 Q. Were the Campisis ever involved in gambling?

20 A. Not that I know of.

21 Q. Did they ever come to your club?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you know Johnnie Grizzaffi?

24 A. No, not that I recall him. I don't recall knowing
25 him. What did he do?

1 Q. Johnnie Grizzaffi was an associate of Lois Green
2 and Beeny Binion.

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did you know Sidney Siedband?

5 A. Who?

6 Q. Sidney Siedband, S-i-e-d-b-a-n-d.

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you know Jack Todd?

9 A. Jack Todd, yes, I knew Jack Todd.

10 Q. What did Jack Todd do?

11 A. Jack Todd, to tell you the truth, I don't know
12 what Jack Todd did. He was in Cuba, too.

13 Q. What did Jack Todd do in Cuba?

14 A. Just came over there visiting.

15 Q. Did he see you when he was in Cuba?

16 A. I saw him once or twice, yes.

17 Q. When was that that he visited Cuba?

18 A. I don't know. I don't have any idea.

19 Q. Would that have been the late '50's?

20 A. It had to be the late '50's.

21 Q. Was Jack Ruby there at the time Jack Todd was
22 there?

23 A. I don't think he was. I'm positive he wasn't. I
24 can't say for sure but I'm positive he wasn't.

25 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Jack Todd?

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1 A. I'm sure he did. I'm not positive he did but I
2 would say he did. Everybody who went to that club knew
3 Jack Ruby.

4 Q. Was Jack Todd a safe cracker?

5 A. I don't really know. I wouldn't have any way of
6 knowing.

7 Q. Did Jack Todd gamble?

8 A. I don't recall ever seeing him gamble.

9 Q. Did he have any business dealings with you?

10 A. Not any with me, no.

11 Q. Do you know anyone he had business dealings with?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Are you familiar with Sue's Used Car Lot?

14 A. Whose?

15 Q. Sue's Used Car Lot.

16 A. What city is that in?

17 Q. In the Dallas area?

18 A. No, never been around a car lot in my life.

19 Q. Do you know that Jack Ruby and Jack Todd often
20 frequented Sue's Used Car Lot?

21 A. No, I didn't.

22 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Izzy Miller?

23 A. It's possible. They're both Jewish, it's possible.

24 Q. Did you know Izzy Miller?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. What did he do for a living?

2 A. I don't know what he did. He was a crap dealer
3 for awhile.

4 Q. Did he ever gamble at your club?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did Jack Ruby know John Eli Stone?

7 A. Who?

8 Q. Johnny Eli Stone.

9 A. Not that I know of.

10 Q. Do you know him?

11 A. I wouldn't know. I don't know who he knew. But
12 I wouldn't think so. I never heard of him.

13 Q. You never heard of Johnny Eli Stone?

14 A. How do you spell the last name?

15 Q. S-t-o-n-e.

16 A. I know Johnny Stone, yes, but Jack Ruby would
17 never know Johnny Stone. Johnny Stone, when I knew him,
18 ran a bar up on, called it the Turf Bar.

19 Q. Was there any gambling at the Turf Bar?

20 A. Not that I ever saw.

21 Q. Do you know why Jack Ruby moved to Dallas?

22 A. I have no idea.

23 Q. Did you and Jack Ruby ever discuss why he came to
24 Dallas?

25 A. No, never.

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1 Q. You said before that Jack Ruby discussed Chicago
2 with you generally.

3 A. He said he came up in Chicago and he came up in
4 a poor neighborhood and he would talk about what a rough
5 time he had when he was a kid and that's the extent of his
6 talk about Chicago.

7 Q. Did he ever discuss anyone he grew up with?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did he ever discuss any people he still knew in
10 Chicago?

11 A. No, never.

12 Q. Do you know if Jack Ruby knew Barney Baker?

13 A. Barney Baker? Barney Baker, no.

14 Q. Did you know Mr. Baker?

15 A. No, I did not.

16 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Lenny Patrick?

17 A. Lenny Patrick, I have no idea. He could have. I
18 don't even know who Lenny Patrick was myself.

19 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Dave Yaras?

20 A. I don't know. I don't think so.

21 Q. Did you know Dave Yaras?

22 A. I knew who he was.

23 Q. Had you ever met him?

24 A. I don't think so. I knew his brother. He had a
25 brother named Sam Yaras. I don't think I ever met Dave.

1 Is his name Dave? Is that the name? I don't think I ever
2 met him. I met his brother. His brother had slot machines.
3 He was a slot machine man, repaired slot machines.

4 Q. Where did he repair slot machines?

5 A. Right in his building.

6 Q. What city was that in?

7 A. I believe it was Field Street, I'm not sure. I
8 wouldn't say for sure.

9 Q. What city was that in?

10 A. Dallas.

11 In fact, his brother died in Dallas.

12 Q. Do you remember when Sam Yaras came to Dallas?

13 A. Who?

14 Q. Do you know when Sam Yaras came to Dallas?

15 A. I have no idea.

16 Q. Do you know if Jack Ruby knew Sam Yaras?

17 A. No, he didn't know him.

18 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Paul Dorfman?

19 A. I have no idea. I don't know who Paul Dorfman is.

20 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Lawrence Meyers?

21 A. Lawrence who?

22 Q. Meyers.

23 A. I don't know. I don't know him.

24 Q. Did anyone from outside of Dallas consider moving
25 to Dallas to get into gambling operations?

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1 A. I don't know. I really don't know.

2 Q. Did you ever hear of outside gamblers wanting to
3 come into Dallas?

4 A. No; it's a possibility that it would happen and I
5 wouldn't know anything about it because it wasn't any of my
6 business.

7 Q. Was Jack Ruby involved in any prostitution related
8 activities?

9 A. Prostitution?

10 Q. Related activities.

11 A. No.

12 Q. Were any of his employees involved in prostitu-
13 tion?

14 A. Not that I know of, no. I don't know about the
15 Carousel, that's a different proposition. I don't know about
16 that. I don't think he would be, no.

17 Q. Was it common in Dallas for club employees to be
18 involved in prostitution?

19 A. No, I don't think so. I never heard of it.

20 Q. Was there much prostitution in Dallas?

21 A. Not too much, by George, there wasn't too much.

22 Q. Where was the prostitution that there was?

23 A. I don't know where it was.

24 Q. Did it operate out of hotels?

25 A. It's a possibility they worked out of hotels.

1 Q. Did you know a woman named Helen Alfonse Roan?

2 A. Helen Alfonse what?

3 Q. Roan, R-O-a-n.

4 A. Not that I recall, no.

5 Q. Do you know if Jack Ruby had close relations with
6 any of his employees?

7 A. No, I don't.

8 Q. Do you know whether or not there was any narcotics
9 activity in the Dallas area?

10 A. Never heard of it, never.

11 Q. Did you know Paul Rowland Jones?

12 A. No, I didn't know of him. I've read about him.
13 It seemed like he got into some trouble in Mexico. It seemed
14 like when I read about him, he got into some kind of trouble
15 in Mexico. I never knew him.

16 Q. Did Jack Ruby know him?

17 A. No; I couldn't say for sure but I wouldn't think
18 so.

19 Q. Did Jack Ruby know James or Bunny Breen, B-r-e-e-n?

20 A. I never heard of them. See, a lot of these people
21 you're asking me if Jack Ruby knew, he could have known
22 them and I didn't know it. But as far as I know, I didn't
23 know them myself.

24 Q. Was there any illegal gun sales in Dallas when
25 you were there?

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1 A. No, not that I know of.

2 Q. Was there any transportation of guns to or from
3 other places?

4 A. Not that I know and I'm positive that there
5 wasn't.

6 Q. Did you know Robert Ray McKeown?

7 A. No, I never heard of him either. I read about
8 him in some of those articles about him but I never heard
9 of him.

10 Q. You didn't know if Jack Ruby knew him?

11 A. No. If he had, I think he would have told me if
12 he knew of those people you said about. He's that kind of
13 a fellow. I never heard of any of these people you're asking,
14 most of them.

15 Q. Did you know of a John Thomas Mason?

16 A. No, John Thomas Mason.

17 Q. Did Jack Ruby know of him?

18 A. I don't believe so. Like I tell you, I don't know
19 who he knew. He could have known several of those people
20 and I wouldn't know it, you know.

21 Q. Did you know Joseph Merola, M-e-r-o-l-a?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did Jack Ruby know him?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. To your knowledge.

1 A. I have to keep telling you I don't know who Jack
2 Ruby knew, but I wouldn't think so. Maybe he did, I don't
3 know.

4 Q. You stated previously that you did not ask Jack
5 Ruby for four guns in 1954?

6 A. I don't recall that, no. I've been asked that
7 several times and I don't recall it.

8 Q. Does it refresh your recollection to know that
9 Jack Ruby said that you requested four Cobras in 1959?

10 A. No, it doesn't. The only gun I can remember is
11 a gun he sent out here and I let it go back, didn't take
12 it out of the--

13 Q. (Interrupting) Can you think of any reason you
14 would have wanted guns in 1959?

15 A. No reason I would have wanted guns in '59, I was
16 in Cuba. I'd get myself killed if I had guns over there.

17 Q. You stated previously that, to your knowledge,
18 Jack Ruby only owned one gun?

19 A. One gun as far as I know. He could have owned
20 two or three but I didn't know about it. There wouldn't
21 be any way I'd know it.

22 Q. Do you recall being interviewed by the FBI in
23 June of 1964 by special agents McPaul and Stevens in Las
24 Vegas?

25 A. I remember being interviewed by the FBI a lot

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1 of times. I don't know the exact dates.

2 Q. Did you tell the FBI in June of 1964 that Jack
3 Ruby kept a couple of guns at his residence although he was
4 not a gun collector?

5 A. If I did, I don't recall that. The only gun I
6 ever saw that Jack Ruby had was a gun that he carried in a
7 sack, when he closed up at night, he'd take his gun out of
8 his sack and put it in his pocket and go deposit his money
9 and then put the gun in his glove compartment. That's all
10 I recall.

11 Q. If you told the FBI in June of 1964 that you had
12 seen a couple of old guns in Jack Ruby's residence, would
13 that have been the truth at that time?

14 A. That I saw a couple of old guns? It's a possibili-
15 ty that he had two guns. I don't remember, to tell you the
16 truth. But I do remember the gun that he always had on
17 him when he went out to his club.

18 Q. You mentioned earlier a couple of times when Jack
19 Ruby asked you for help. One was with reference to the
20 curfew problem and one was with reference to AGVA.

21 Did he ever call you for help on any other matter?

22 A. No, not a thing.

23 Q. Did you ever ask him for help on anything?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Why did Jack Ruby think to call you long distance

1 to ask about his problems with AGVA?

2 A. He was just like that. He would call me on most
3 any of his darn problems. He was just like that.

4 Q. Did he call about any other problems?

5 A. That's the only problem he had, I guess, was the
6 AGVA and Miller, he got it taken care of that same day, I
7 believe. It must have been a minor thing or something.

8 Q. Did you have any previous contacts with AGVA that
9 would make him think that you could help him?

10 A. No, I don't think he would know I had any con-
11 tacts. He just called me and asked me if I knew anyone that
12 knew the president of AGVA. It just happened that I did
13 know Miller and I called Miller to help him.

14 Q. Were you familiar at all with AGVA in Dallas?

15 A. Not at all.

16 Q. While you were there.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you know Vincent Lee?

19 A. Who?

20 Q. Vincent Lee who worked for AGVA in Dallas.

21 A. Vincent Lee, no, I didn't.

22 Q. Did you know James Henry Dolan who worked for
23 AGVA in Dallas?

24 A. It seems like I met him. Did he work for AGVA?
25 Was that the union he worked for?

1 Q. He did for a while.

2 A. He worked for some union. I didn't know what
3 union it was. I met him once or twice, I think.

4 Q. Do you know anything about his activities with the
5 union?

6 A. Nothing. I didn't even know it was AGVA. I knew
7 it was a union.

8 Q. Did you ever have any dealings with any other
9 unions?

10 A. None whatsoever.

11 Q. Do you know Tony Pappa?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Do you know Mike Shore?

14 A. No.

15 Q. What can you tell us about Jack Ruby's relations
16 with the Dallas Police Department?

17 A. I can just tell you--I've been asked that before,
18 too. He was always, I don't know, I guess he thought it
19 would help his place. He was always courteous to them. At
20 Christmas time I think he would give some of them presents,
21 whiskey or something. That's my idea. I don't know for
22 sure. He was very close with them. A TV announcer there
23 named, I can't think of his name, but one of the TV
24 announcers, he just liked to get everywhere.

25 Q. Was it Gordon McLendon?

1 A. I think that's the name, yes. He knew Gordon
2 very well. I'd hear him speak of him all the time.

3 Q. I'm sorry, you would hear Jack Ruby speak of
4 McLendon?

5 A. Yes; maybe he ran ads with him or something, I
6 don't know. Just like Tony, I think the reason he knew
7 Tony was on account of his ads in the papers and things, I
8 would say.

9 Q. Did you know Gordon McLendon?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Did Jack Ruby ever talk to you about Gordon
12 McLendon?

13 A. To tell you the truth, he either introduced
14 Brescia, in that letter I gave you, to Gordon. or Brescia
15 introduced him to Gordon McLendon. I'm not sure which way
16 it was. But Brescia used to come to Dallas with a pro-
17 fessional basketball team. What's the name of that trick
18 team?

19 Q. Globetrotters?

20 A. It was another one. It was a well-known team.
21 And Brescia was a publicity man for them.

22 Q. Did Jack Ruby have any friends with the Dallas
23 Police Department?

24 A. I really don't know. I have no idea. I wasn't
25 that familiar with him to know who his friends were.

1 Q. Did Jack Ruby ever tell you that he had pull with
2 the Dallas Police Department?

3 A. No, he didn't.

4 Q. To your knowledge, did Jack Ruby ever exercise any
5 pull with the Dallas Police Department?

6 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

7 Q. Were you familiar with the Dallas Police Associa-
8 tion?

9 A. No, sir. I don't think I knew many policemen in
10 Dallas.

11 Q. Did you know Lieutenant George Butler who formerly
12 headed the Dallas Police Association?

13 A. I didn't know him intimately. I knew who he was.

14 Q. What did you know about Lieutenant Butler?

15 A. I think he was the head of the vice squad, I be-
16 lieve. I'm not sure.

17 Q. How did you happen to know him?

18 A. I don't remember how I met him.

19 Q. Was he an associate of H. L. Hunt?

20 A. I wouldn't think so.

21 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Lieutenant George Butler?

22 A. Did Jack Ruby know Butler? I wouldn't think so.
23 He could have, I don't know.

24 Q. Did Jack Ruby ever complain that he had some prob-
25 lems with the police other than that one curfew incident?

1 A. That's the only time I ever heard of. I think
2 it was about a curfew. I sent him to Schepps. He said
3 he was being harassed because he was Jewish and I said the
4 man for you to go to see is go see Mr. Schepps and explain
5 it to him. Maybe he can straighten it out.

6 Q. Did members of the Dallas Police Department ever
7 come to Jack Ruby for information?

8 A. Not that I know of.

9 Q. Did members of the FBI office in Dallas ever come
10 to Jack Ruby for information?

11 A. I don't know but I wouldn't think so.

12 Q. During the time you were in Dallas, did organized
13 crime have any impact on activities in Dallas?

14 A. Organized crime, no. Like I told you, the people
15 that had the gambling there was Miller and Scarborough and
16 Dalton, as far as I know.

17 Q. So it was your impression that it was a local
18 operation?

19 A. Local operation.

20 Q. Was there anyone from outside who had an influence
21 on Dallas that you know of?

22 A. Not that I know of. I would have to say no.

23 Q. On November 20, 1963, what contact did you have
24 with an agency of the federal government?

25 A. On what?

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1 Q. On November 20, 1963, did you have any contact
2 with any agency of the government?

3 A. Maybe it was the FBI questioning me.

4 Q. That was prior to the assassination.

5 A. Was that prior?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I don't know of any in '63, no.

8 Q. Do you recall on November 20, 1963, that you
9 applied for the renewal of a work card in Nevada?

10 A. Sure.

11 Q. Do you remember around that time that you had to
12 get a renewal?

13 A. '63, let me see, '63, that was when I got into the
14 Thunderbird, yes.

15 Q. What did you have--

16 A. I got a sheriff's card.

17 Q. A what?

18 A. A sheriff's card. You had to get a sheriff's
19 card. I've got one in my pocket. Do you want to see it?
20 Would you like to see it?

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. Everybody that works here has to have one of
23 these.

24 Q. So the fact that you were applying for the work
25 card was not because you were in any kind of trouble?

A. Of course not.

Q. Did you have a card previously?

A. I had a card. I've got it somewhere. Here's one I had downtown (indicating).

MR. PURDY: Mr. McWillie is showing me a Las Vegas Police Department registration card, A-58376, which is a permanent card. He's listed as a pit boss. His address and signature and the signature of the Chief of Police are listed.

THE WITNESS: That's a sheriff's card. I got that in '63 when I came here.

MR. PURDY: He's also handed me a Clark County Sheriff's Department ID card, No. 63658, which is dated February 15, 1963. His name is listed. He has signed it and it is signed by Sheriff Ralph Lamb, L-a-m-b.

THE WITNESS: And it shows where I worked at the Thunderbird, they scratched it out. This other card was a permanent card. When you work downtown, you have to have one of these (indicating), it was permanent. Now you have to have one of these (indicating). You don't have to have this combined now with the sheriff.

BY MR. PURDY:

Q. So right now all you need is a card from the police department and you don't need a card from the sheriff's office?

1 A. You have to have a card from the sheriff's office,
2 not this card (indicating).

3 Q. Not the Las Vegas Police Department card.

4 A. The sheriff is more or less a police chief now.

5 Q. Since you still have and obviously had or was
6 issued in February of 1963, what reason would you have had
7 in November of 1963 to apply for any other kind of card?

8 A. 1963, maybe that was when I was going to Arruba.
9 I had to go to the police chief, I think, and I had to get
10 a letter from the police chief to get cleared down there be-
11 cause they cleared you through Scotland Yards and the FBI
12 and the local here. That's the only thing I can recall.

13 Q. Do you recall a Mr. Robert Kellerer, an identifi-
14 cation officer with the Reno Sheriff's Office?

15 A. No, I don't.

16 Q. Did you--

17 A. (Interrupting) I had a card up there, too. I
18 threw it away I think.

19 Q. On November 20, 1963, would there have been any
20 reason that you would have needed to contact the Reno
21 Sheriff's Office for a renewal of a card or for any other
22 reason?

23 A. Maybe they contacted them down here. That's
24 probably what happened.

25 Q. By November 20, 1963, you had already moved from

1 Reno to Las Vegas, is that right?

2 A. November '63, yes, I came here in '63 at the
3 Thunderbird. Now, it's a possibility that checking me out,
4 they checked with the Reno Police Department. I would have
5 to say that they might do that. They would do that, wouldn't
6 they?

7 Q. Mr. McWillie, you stated previously that you re-
8 ceived a phone call from Jack Ruby sometime in 1963 about
9 his problems with AGVA?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. About when in 1963 was that?

12 A. It was the early part of 1963, I think. Let me
13 see. '63 now. I went to the Thunderbird in '63. It had
14 to be the early part of '63. Doesn't the FBI have it on
15 its report? I told them about it. I'm sure they do. It's
16 hard for me to remember dates.

17 Q. We understand. I think you're doing very well.

18 Now, that communication had been in the form of
19 telephone calls, right?

20 A. He must have called me three or four times. The
21 FBI even asked me why he called me.

22 Q. After that contact with Jack Ruby, what other
23 contact did you have with him prior to the assassination?

24 A. He would write me letters about his club, the new
25 club he had and how beautiful it was and about the razor

1 blades, he sent me some razor blades once or twice,
2 Sheffield razor blades I think they called them.

3 Q. Did you and Jack Ruby ever talk again on the
4 phone prior to the assassination?

5 A. Prior to the assassination?

6 Q. Right.

7 A. Just about the AGVA.

8 Q. Did you see Jack Ruby again after those phone
9 calls about the AGVA and prior to the assassination?

10 A. No, never saw him again.

11 Q. When was the last time that you saw Jack Ruby
12 prior to the assassination?

13 A. The last time I saw Jack Ruby prior to the
14 assassination, I was driving from Miami to Cal-Neva Lodge
15 where I was going to work in June in 1961. I stopped at
16 his house and slept there that night and then drove on.

17 Q. Did you see Jack Ruby again after the assassina-
18 tion?

19 A. Never, never seen Jack Ruby after that time I
20 saw him.

21 Q. Did you and Jack Ruby ever exchange any letters
22 after the assassination?

23 A. No, sir. I had all I wanted of Jack Ruby. Every
24 time I turned around the FBI was questioning me about him.
25 You know I wouldn't write him. I'm not that silly.

1 Q. Did you and Jack Ruby ever talk on the phone
2 after the assassination?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Did you and Jack Ruby ever send any messages of
5 any kind to each other after the assassination?

6 A. No, sir. After the assassination I didn't want
7 to hear his name again.

8 MR. WOLF: Let the record reflect that we've re-
9 turned to Mr. McWillie the original letters that he received
10 from his brother concerning Tony Zoppi and the trip to Cuba.

11 THE WITNESS: My brother got it from Matty Brescia
12 and Matty Brescia got it from Tony Zoppi.

13 BY MR. WOLF:

14 Q. Mr. McWillie, I'd now like to question you con-
15 cerning the time when you were in Cuba and several indivi-
16 duals you may have met while you were there.

17 You've testified that you moved to Cuba in approxi-
18 mately the middle of 1958, is that correct?

19 A. I went there in '58, yes, right.

20 Q. Was that your first trip to Cuba?

21 A. I had been to Cuba, I took my mother and wife and
22 daughter to Cuba in the '40's, just for a trip overnight on
23 a boat. We took a ship over there, the Florida, I think
24 they called it.

25 Q. Had you been there any other time prior to the

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1 middle of 1958?

2 A. No.

3 Q. On your first trip in 1958, how long did you
4 stay in Cuba?

5 A. I stayed until we broke relations with Cuba in
6 '61, January 1, 1961.

7 Q. And you testified that when you moved to Cuba,
8 you went to work at the Tropicana Hotel, is that correct?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. And how did you obtain the job at the Tropicana
11 Hotel while you were in Dallas?

12 A. A fellow called me from Cuba and asked me if I'd
13 be interested in going over there to work and I set up an
14 appointment and went there and talked to them and then went
15 back to Dallas and went back to Cuba in about a week, I
16 believe.

17 Q. So you did return to Dallas after the first trip
18 to Cuba?

19 A. I think maybe a week, ten days.

20 Q. Who was that who called you?

21 A. A fellow named Johnny Williams.

22 Q. How did he get your name?

23 A. I met him in Dallas. I don't know how I met him
24 but I did meet him and he found out I was in the gambling
25 business and he said, "Maybe I can get you a good job over

1 in Cuba." Sure enough, he called me a week or so after he
2 left Dallas.

3 Q. Where did Mr. Williams work?

4 A. Mr. Williams didn't work. I don't know what Mr.
5 Williams did, to tell you the truth.

6 Q. Where did he live?

7 A. He lived in Boston.

8 Q. And where did you first meet Mr. Williams?

9 A. I met him in Dallas.

10 Q. He was just visiting at that time?

11 A. Sir?

12 Q. He was just visiting at that time?

13 A. He was just visiting Dallas. I don't recall how
14 I met him, but I met him in Dallas.

15 Q. And who did you see when you first went to Cuba
16 for the interview?

17 A. I went to see the Foxes. They had a meeting and
18 there was Martinez Fox and Oscar Cheninder.

19 Q. Was Pedro Fox present?

20 A. Pedro Fox, that's Martinez's brother. There were
21 several Cubans there and an interpreter.

22 Q. Were the Foxes the owners of the Tropicana?

23 A. They were the only owners. I was the only
24 American in there.

25 Q. Do you know Mr. T. W. Richardson?

A. Yes, sir, sure do.

1 Q. And how do you know Mr. Richardson?

2 A. How long have I known him?

3 Q. How long have you known and how do you know Mr.
4 Richardson?

5 A. I've known Mr. Richardson since I started dealing
6 dice about 40 some odd years ago, 47 years ago.

7 Q. You met him in Dallas?

8 A. No, I met him in Mississippi. I was dealing dice
9 in Mississippi then.

10 Q. Did Mr. Richardson have any connection with Cuba?

11 A. I think T. W. had something to do with the
12 managing the Capri.

13 Q. Did you see him while you were in Cuba?

14 A. Didn't see him too much. I did see him in Cuba.

15 Q. Did you see him that first time when you went over
16 to take the job at the Tropicana?

17 A. No, I didn't see him. He didn't know I was there.
18 T. W. was in the Riverside Hotel and he left. He was the
19 manager of the Riverside Hotel. I took his place when he
20 resigned in '62, I think. But I've known T. W. for years.
21 He's a very nice man.

22 Q. You stated that you met the Foxes when you first
23 went over to interview for your job with the Tropicana and
24 you also stated that you were promised a percentage of the
25 Trppicana if things were successful.

1 A. Martinez promised me a percentage if it ever
2 did any business, but it never did any business. That
3 was right at the time of the revolution. Do you have what
4 date I went over to work there?

5 Q. Approximately September of '58.

6 A. I was going to say August. It must have been
7 September.

8 Q. Was the Tropicana successful prior to the revo-
9 lution?

10 A. It had been successful. It was a very beautiful
11 place, beautiful shows, beautiful gaming room.

12 Q. Were the Foxes financially well off?

13 A. Yes, I'm sure they were.

14 Q. Were they the whole owners of the casino?

15 A. Were they what?

16 Q. Were they the whole and sole owners of the
17 casino?

18 A. Yes, I would say they were. I'd have to say I'm
19 almost positive.

20 Q. They had no partners?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Do you know if they ever received financial backing
23 from anybody?

24 A. They didn't need any financial backing.

25 Q. Did they ever get any loans from anybody?

1 A. I wouldn't think so because they had a big business
2 that made nothing but money for years and years. They had
3 the numbers and every other thing.

4 Q. Do you know, did Jack Ruby know the Foxes?

5 A. Yes, I introduced him to the Foxes.

6 Q. When he came to Cuba?

7 A. When he came there, I introduced him, yes.

8 Q. Did he have any other dealings with the Foxes?

9 A. He ran around with me. The whole time he was there
10 he was running around me except when he went to bed.

11 Q. What happened to the Foxes when the government
12 closed the hotel?

13 A. Well, they eventually all went to Miami.

14 Q. They did not stay in Cuba?

15 A. Sir?

16 Q. They did not stay in Cuba?

17 A. They stayed there for a while but eventually they
18 left and went to Miami.

19 Q. And you took a job at the Capri Hotel, is that
20 correct?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Who did you know at the Capri Hotel to get the
23 job?

24 A. If I remember correctly, I think it was Martinez
25 told me to go up there, that I could get a job up there if

1 I'd go up there. And I went up there and saw some fellow,
2 Angelo, I don't know his last name, but his first name was
3 Angelo.

4 Q. Could the last name have been Bruno?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know a Mr. Angelo Bruno?

7 A. I've known him to see him in Cuba. I've seen him
8 in Cuba. I don't know Mr. Bruno.

9 Q. You never met Mr. Bruno?

10 A. No, just to say hello. He knew who I was because
11 in this business I'm a pretty good man in the gambling
12 business. I've been in it so many years.

13 Q. Do you know a Mr. Willie Bischoff?

14 A. Lefty Clark, that was his name. Wasn't his name
15 Lefty Clark? I never did know his right name.

16 Q. Yes, also known as Lefty Clark.

17 A. I took his place in the Tropicana. They let him
18 go and I took his place there.

19 Q. Why was Mr. Bischoff let go, do you know?

20 A. Well, it had something to do with the Black Jack
21 getting cheated or something, something like that. That's
22 what I heard. I don't know why they let him go.

23 Q. Did you associate with Mr. Bischoff at all after
24 he was let go?

25 A. No, just to say hello.

1 Q. Do you know if Jack Ruby knew Mr. Bischoff?

2 A. No, I'm sure he didn't.

3 Q. Do you know a Mr. Babe Baron?

4 A. No, I know who he is. If it's the fellow I'm
5 thinking about, he used to be at the Sands.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I don't know him but I know who he is. He may be
8 dead. Is he living?

9 Q. He's still alive.

10 A. I didn't know that. But I know who he is. They
11 call him the General. But I never met him in my life.

12 Q. Did you know that he was in Cuba?

13 A. No, I didn't.

14 Q. Do you know if Jack Ruby knew him at all?

15 A. If Jack Ruby met him?

16 Q. Right.

17 A. I wouldn't think so.

18 Q. Who were the owners of the Capri?

19 A. I don't know. I don't have any idea. I went in
20 there and took charge of the day shift and I don't know
21 how long I was there to tell you the truth. But it wasn't
22 too long. I went to open up one morning and they stuck
23 machine guns in my stomach and I gave them the keys and
24 turned around and walked off.

25 Q. Did you ever work at the Riviera Hotel?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did you have any affiliation with the Riviera?

3 A. No.

4 Q. When you were at the Tropicana, what were your
5 primary duties?

6 A. To manage the casino.

7 Q. Were you familiar generally with the prior
8 management of the casino operation?

9 A. No, not the bookkeeping and all that kind of
10 thing. I was familiar with running, seeing that the games
11 didn't get cheated and the dealers add everything stayed
12 in line.

13 Q. Were you responsible for hiring individuals to work
14 in the casino?

15 A. No, they hired all them. There wasn't nothing but
16 Cubans working there when I was there.

17 Q. Did the casino have to pay a tax to the Cuban
18 government to operate?

19 A. I really don't know. I wouldn't know.

20 Q. Did Cuban officials have to be bribed to have
21 a casino operation?

22 A. I don't know. There wouldn't be any way I'd know
23 that.

24 Q. Were you familiar with any of the Cuban officials
25 in the government at that time?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Do you recollect any of their names?

3 A. No, I could not recollect one name. Ventura, I
4 think he was the chief of police, I believe it was, but I
5 didn't know him. I'd see him come in there with his body
6 guards.

7 Q. Do you recall any other names of Cuban officials?

8 A. Officials?

9 Q. Officials who would have responsibility to super-
10 vise casinos.

11 A. Supervise the casinos?

12 Q. Or involved generally.

13 A. No. Ventura didn't have nothing to do with
14 the casino. I just knew him to see him because he was
15 supposed to be a very vicious fellow.

16 Q. How about any other Cuban officials in the govern-
17 ment generally, can you recall any of their names?

18 A. No, I wouldn't have any reason to know any of them.

19 Q. Did the casinos make payments to any non-government
20 officials to continue operating, the owners of the casinos?

21 A. No, I wouldn't think so. It belonged to them.

22 Q. The Foxes never discussed that with you?

23 A. I didn't understand.

24 Q. Did the Foxes ever discuss the general operation of
25 the casino with you?

1 A. No, in fact, they couldn't even speak English.

2 One could speak English, Pedro.

3 Q. Do you know a Mr. Norman Rothman?

4 A. I know him to see him.

5 Q. Have you ever met Mr. Rothman?

6 A. It was in Cuba, yes. He'd come in and out of the
7 Tropicana every once in a while. He came up and introduced
8 himself to me and shook hands with me. I'd see him gambling
9 there when I'd go around to different places.

10 Q. Did you ever have any discussions with Mr. Rothman?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you know a Mr. Santo Trafficante?

13 A. Know him to see him.

14 Q. Have you ever met Mr. Trafficante?

15 A. Like I say, he knew who I was and he shook hands
16 with me when he saw me, but that was it. I've been asked
17 that a lot of times, too. But I didn't know Mr. Trafficante
18 intimately, no.

19 Q. Did anybody introduce you to him or did he intro-
20 duce himself to you?

21 A. Maybe Pedro did, I don't know, when he would come
22 in a party or something.

23 Q. Did you ever meet Mr. Trafficante apart from being
24 in Cuba in the casinos?

25 A. Not that I remember, no.

1 Q. You never met Mr. Trafficante in the United States?

2 A. Not that I recall. Maybe I did, I don't think so.

3 Q. Are you aware that Mr. Trafficante was imprisoned
4 in Cuba?

5 A. Yes, there were a bunch of them imprisoned.

6 Q. Were you in Cuba at that time?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Do you know why Mr. Trafficante was imprisoned?

9 A. To tell you the truth, I don't. I think they
10 just wanted to get them out of there myself.

11 Q. Did you visit Mr. Trafficante in prison?

12 A. I didn't visit him. I went out there once or
13 twice to visit a fellow, he was a dealer. He had a young
14 son and a wife and he gambled all his money away. At times
15 we would take up a collection amongst dealers and give him
16 money. I went out there once or twice to see him.

17 Q. Did you see anybody else in prison?

18 A. I saw everybody out there. Trafficante, I think he
19 was in there.

20 Q. Did you see Mr. Trafficante?

21 A. I saw him but I didn't talk to him.

22 Q. You saw him but you could not talk to him.

23 A. I didn't know him that intimately.

24 Q. Do you know of anybody who did visit Mr. Trafficante
25 in prison?

1 A. No, I don't. I went out there with someone but I
2 don't recall who it was.

3 Q. Do you know a John Wilson Hudson?

4 A. Who?

5 Q. A John Wilson Hudson.

6 A. Hudson?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. No, sir, I don't.

9 Q. Were you afraid of being imprisoned yourself?

10 A. They never did bother me for some reason. I don't
11 know why. They never did the whole time I was there.

12 Q. Do you have any accounting for that?

13 A. Sir.

14 Q. Do you know any reason why they would not bother
15 you?

16 A. Sir?

17 Q. Do you know any reason why they would not bother
18 you?

19 A. I don't know. It could have been the Foxes, I
20 don't know. I don't know why they didn't but they didn't.
21 I never was arrested there. If I'd have stayed there, I'd
22 probably have gotten arrested after we broke relations with
23 them. I left the first day of January 1961, I think it was.

24 Q. Was Jack Ruby in Cuba visiting you during the time
25 when you went to visit the prison and saw Santo Trafficante

1 there?

2 A. I don't think so. He could have been but I
3 don't think so. He could have been but I don't really think
4 he was. I don't remember what date Jack was there.

5 Q. Did you discuss with Jack Ruby the imprisonment
6 of many of the people that were working in Cuba?

7 A. No, I didn't discuss things like that with him.

8 Q. What other individuals did you see during your
9 visit to that prison? Do you remember the names of them?

10 A. I saw Dino, Dino Cellini. He was the manager of
11 the place, too, where I had worked.

12 Q. Which place was that?

13 A. Tropicana. Then he was at the Riviera.

14 Q. And you knew Mr. Cellini?

15 A. I didn't know him intimately. I knew him to talk
16 to him, how's business and this and that.

17 Q. Did you ever have any business dealings with Mr.
18 Cellini?

19 A. Never.

20 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Mr. Cellini?

21 A. No, he wouldn't know Dino.

22 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Mr. Trafficante?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Was Mr. Rothman put in prison?

25 A. I don't think so. I don't believe he was.

1 Q. Did you visit Mr. Cellini when he was in prison?

2 A. Sir?

3 Q. Did you visit Mr. Cellini when he was in prison?

4 A. I said hello to him because I knew him.

5 Q. But the primary reason for your going to the
6 prison was--

7 A. (Interrupting) To see this fellow Degeorgio or
8 whatever his name was.

9 Q. Was there only one prison where all the people
10 were kept?

11 A. No, they had two prisons. They had one they
12 called Principle, was a real bad prison. This one didn't
13 look like a prison. It had a wire fence around it.

14 Q. What could you do to try and help a friend of
15 yours who was in prison to get out?

16 A. I wasn't trying to help him get out. I just went
17 out there to say hello to him.

18 Q. Was there anything one could do, even if not
19 yourself, generally?

20 A. No, I don't think so. I wouldn't know, but I
21 wouldn't think they could get them out.

22 Q. Could you bribe anybody to get them out of prison?

23 A. I don't really know about that, I don't know.

24 Q. Did you know Mr. Meyer Lansky?

25 A. No, sir, never laid eyes on him in my life. I know

1 his brother, knew his brother.

2 Q. Jake?

3 A. Jake, very fine man.

4 Q. How did you know Jake?

5 A. I knew Jake in Cuba.

6 Q. How did you first meet Jake?

7 A. I don't recall how I met him. I just don't re-
8 call. I did meet him. It might have been through Dino.

9 Q. Did Jack Ruby know Jake Lansky?

10 A. No, positive he didn't.

11 Q. What was the nature of your relationship with
12 Jake Lansky?

13 A. Just to say hello and that's all.

14 Q. Did you ever have dinner with him?

15 A. No.

16 Q. What casino did Mr. Lansky operate at?

17 A. Mr. Lansky was around the Riviera. I don't know if
18 he operated it or what but he was there, Jake Lansky I'm
19 talking about.

20 Q. Did you know Mr. John Roselli?

21 A. I didn't know him. I've seen him around town here
22 like I told the FBI and then Mr. Fenton. I've seen Mr.
23 Roselli around here. Any time I would go in the Sands to see
24 a show, I would see him there.

25 Q. Did you ever see Mr. Roselli outside of Vegas?

1 A. Never in my life.

2 Q. You never saw him in Cuba?

3 A. I don't think he was in Cuba when I was there.

4 Q. Did you ever talk to him while he was here in
5 Vegas?

6 A. I never talked to him while he was there. He's
7 kind of a belligerent fellow. I had no reason to say any-
8 thing to him.

9 Q. Do you know a Mr. Sam Giancana?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Have you heard of Mr. Giancana?

12 A. I don't know him.

13 Q. You never met Mr. Giancana?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know if Mr. Roselli or Mr. Giancana had
16 interests in Cuban casinos?

17 A. There wouldn't be any way I'd know that.

18 Q. Had you heard that before?

19 A. I never heard of it, no. What attracted me to Mr.
20 Roselli was any time I ever saw him he had on dark glasses,
21 and he was a well dressed fellow and a fellow you would
22 notice in a crowd, you know, especially with the dark
23 glasses on.

24 Q. You stated that you were the only American working
25 at the Tropicana, all the other employees were Cuban?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Was that characteristic for most of the other
3 casinos?

4 A. No, the other casinos had mostly Americans on
5 them, especially on the dice games, you know. The dice
6 games are pretty hard to deal and understand and learn. So
7 it was mostly American dealers.

8 Q. When you were hired at the casino, did you have
9 to apply for an employee work card like you've shown us for
10 here in the state of Nevada?

11 A. No, I had to go to Dallas and get, after Castro
12 got there, I had to go to Dallas and get a letter from the
13 sheriff.

14 Q. What type of letter?

15 A. Sir?

16 Q. What type of letter from the sheriff?

17 A. As to my character, you know, I hadn't been in
18 trouble there.

19 Q. That was after Castro took over?

20 A. Yes; and I took it back and gave it to the Foxes.

21 Q. Prior to Castro taking over in 1958 or '59, 1958,
22 did you have, in September of '58 when you first got your
23 job at the Tropicana, did you have to apply for a work card
24 through the Cuban government?

25 A. No, I just went in there and talked to them and

1 got the job and went to work.

2 Q. When did you leave Cuba?

3 A. January 1, 1961.

4 Q. You stayed approximately two years, then, after
5 Fidel Castro took over?

6 A. '59, '60, yes, almost two years.

7 Q. From 1958 through 1961, did you ever return to the
8 United States for visits?

9 A. Many times, yes. I used to bring money and
10 deposit it for the Foxes.

11 Q. And where would that be deposited?

12 A. Sir?

13 Q. Where would that be deposited?

14 A. Well, I deposited money in the PanAmerican Bank
15 and I deposited money in the, I think it was a Miami bank,
16 I don't know.

17 Q. Were most of your trips to Miami?

18 A. Sir?

19 Q. Were most of your trips from Cuba to Miami?

20 A. To the banks, yes.

21 Q. Did you ever go anywhere else besides Miami when
22 you returned for a visit?

23 A. No.

24 Q. How did you keep in touch with your friends in
25 the United States while you were in Cuba?

1 A. I didn't keep in touch with them.

2 Q. Did you write them at all?

3 A. Very few of them.

4 Q. Did you phone them at all?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did you ever make any phone calls while you were
7 in Cuba back to the United States?

8 A. I don't recall getting any. Maybe Jack Ruby
9 called about Tony Zoppi, maybe, said they were coming or
10 something like that. Otherwise I never got any calls.

11 Q. Did you ever place any calls from Cuba to people
12 in the United States?

13 A. Not that I recall. I don't know who it could
14 have been.

15 Q. You told us about Mr. Meyer Panitz.

16 A. Sir?

17 Q. Mr. Meyer Panitz, P-a-n-i-t-z.

18 A. Panitz, yeah.

19 Q. Did you ever call Mr. Panitz in Miami?

20 A. It's possible that I did because he's a very
21 close friend of mine.

22 Q. Could that phone call have been right after Jack
23 Ruby visited you?

24 A. Oh, no, I think Panitz was in Cuba when Jack Ruby
25 was there. I believe he was in Cuba.

1 Q. He was a close friend of Jack Ruby, is that
2 correct?

3 A. Panitz, yes.

4 Q. What activities did Mr. Panitz engage in?

5 A. Years ago, many years ago, he was a book maker.

6 Q. How many years ago was that?

7 A. Oh, Christ, I'd say 35, 40 years ago.

8 Q. After that, what type of activity did he engage
9 in?

10 A. He could have worked in Cuba, I'm not sure. I
11 think he worked in Cuba.

12 Q. You knew him in Dallas, is that correct?

13 A. Yes; Memphis, too.

14 Q. And did there come a time when he moved to Miami?

15 A. Did what?

16 Q. Did Mr. Panitz move to Miami?

17 A. He was in Dallas, he worked in Dallas. He worked
18 for me at the Top of the Hill, what we call, box watching
19 the crap games, sitting down. Where else did he work? He
20 could have worked around the Top of the Hill, I remember
21 that, and I believe he worked in Cuba. I believe he worked
22 at the Capri too in Cuba.

23 Q. What period of time was that?

24 A. I don't have any idea. I'm sure he worked there.

25 Q. Did Jack Ruby see Mr. Panitz while he was in

1 Cuba?

2 A. I couldn't say for sure.

3 Q. You assume he would have if Mr. Panitz was there?

4 A. I'm sure if Panitz was there at the time, yeah.

5 Like I say, I don't know what year he was there.

6 Q. Is Mr. Panitz alive today?

7 A. He's dead.

8 Q. And you don't recall calling Mr. Panitz from Cuba
9 right after Jack Ruby was there?

10 A. Right after Jack Ruby was there?

11 Q. Right after Jack Ruby visited you, you don't
12 recall calling Mr. Panitz in Miami?

13 A. I don't recall calling him. It's possible.

14 Q. Do you know Misty Lane Miner?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. How do you know Ms. Miner?

17 A. I used to go with her for a few months. She was
18 in Cuba, too.

19 Q. When was she in Cuba?

20 A. I don't know. She wasn't there to see me. She
21 just came over there. We had broken up a couple or three
22 years before. I think she was there around a week, I'm not
23 sure.

24 Q. Did she see you when she was in Cuba?

25 A. Yes, I said hello to her.

1 Q. Did she give you any message from Jack Ruby?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did Jack Ruby know her?

4 A. He knew her, sure.

5 Q. How long did Jack Ruby stay in Cuba when he visited
6 you?

7 A. To the best of my recollection, I'd say six days
8 maybe, not over a week, I don't think.

9 Q. Can you remember what activities Mr. Rudy did
10 while he was down there?

11 A. He was right out there where I worked. Every
12 morning when I got up he was there. When I left the place,
13 he went with me to eat and went to bed.

14 Q. Were there any special shows during that period
15 of time that Mr. Ruby wanted to see or things to do?

16 A. The best show down there was at the Capri. Maybe
17 he went there once or twice.

18 Q. Do you remember anything in particular that Mr.
19 Ruby did during that week?

20 A. I don't remember a darn thing he did but bug me
21 all week.

22 Q. When was this that Mr. Ruby visited you in Cuba?

23 A. I'd have to say it was in '59.

24 Q. Do you remember the month it was?

25 A. It might have been august. I don't recall. I be-

1 lieve it was August. I don't know for sure.

2 Q. How do you pinpoint the date of August?

3 A. It just seems like to me it was in August. I
4 told Mr. Fenton that, I believe.

5 Q. Is there anything particular that sticks out in
6 your mind?

7 A. No, it just seems like it was the middle of the
8 year. I'd have to say it was right around August, I'd say.
9 I'm not sure. There's no way I could tell you for sure.

10 Q. Was it during hurricane season?

11 A. No, I don't think so. I think the hurricane
12 season starts in September, I'm not sure.

13 Q. Did Mr. Ruby, to your knowledge, ever visit Cuba
14 at any other time?

15 A. Not that I know of. I would say no.

16 Q. He never discussed any other visits with you?

17 A. I would say no because I never did see him there
18 any more. I know if he had been there, I would have seen
19 him.

20 Q. When he was in Cuba, did you discuss the Castro
21 situation with Mr. Ruby?

22 A. No.

23 Q. You have no idea how long prior to Castro's taking
24 over he was down there?

25 A. No, I don't, I really don't. I know that Castro

1 had taken over when he was there, that he had already taken
2 over. I think he took over New Year's of 1959, I believe.

3 Q. To clarify the dates of Jack Ruby's visit in
4 Cuba, to the best of your recollection, it was August of
5 1959?

6 A. That's what I'd say. I don't really know. Look
7 at the FBI report, maybe they know. I'm not trying to be
8 smart but I don't know the date.

9 Q. I understand that. We're trying to clarify it
10 for the record.

11 In other words, it was definitely after Castro
12 took over?

13 A. Definitely, yes. It was definitely after Castro
14 took over. That's when they really needed business. That's
15 the reason I called him. They were trying to get Tony to
16 come down there. I couldn't say for sure, but I'd have to
17 say it was around July or August.

18 Q. So due to the Castro takeover, you needed business,
19 and you suggested to the Foxes--

20 A. (Interrupting) I suggested this thing to them
21 before that, too. They finally made up their minds after
22 business got so bad, they was doing anything to try to get
23 business because not many people came over there, tourists,
24 after Castro got there.

25 Q. So you suggested to the Foxes that you knew Jack

1 Ruby?

2 A. I knew Tony Zoppi and I knew a man that could get
3 him to bring him over there.

4 Q. And when did you first meet Mr. Zoppi?

5 A. I'd say in the middle '40's, just to speak to
6 him. I didn't know him well. He was a columnist and he'd
7 make night clubs and you'd see him around night clubs and
8 restaurants.

9 Q. Why didn't you call Mr. Zoppi directly to see if
10 he would come over?

11 A. Because I didn't know him that well. Jack Ruby
12 did business with him with the paper. He was with the
13 Dallas Morning News. In fact, he was with Zoppi, like I
14 told you, when President Kennedy got shot, I believe. I
15 believe he was there the next day or the same day. I mean
16 I'm going by the papers, what the papers said.

17 Q. How did you first get in touch with Jack Ruby
18 about inviting Tony Zoppi and himself to come down to Cuba?

19 A. I believe I called him on the phone, I'm not sure.
20 It's possible that I did. I might have written him a
21 letter, I don't know.

22 Q. And what was Mr. Ruby's reaction?

23 A. It was all right. He said he could get him to
24 come. He was supposed to come.

25 Q. What did you do in response to Mr. Ruby's reaction?

1 A. I just told him it would help us out at the
2 Tropicana if he could get Tony down there and give us some
3 writeups in his column.

4 Q. Did you wait until Jack Ruby called you back to
5 get in touch with Tony Zoppi?

6 A. I don't recall. I know Tony agreed to come down
7 there. I even called him or he called me, I don't know
8 which.

9 Q. Did you call Tony directly?

10 A. No, I called Jack. I didn't know Tony well enough
11 to talk to him.

12 Q. After your first phone call with Jack Ruby, what
13 period of time elapsed until either Jack called you or you
14 called Jack back to--

15 A. (Interrupting) It was a pretty good while.

16 Q. It was a long time?

17 A. I would say it was a few months.

18 Q. So, then, you probably called him sometime in the
19 spring of 1959 and then it would be a few months, it
20 would be August until he finally came down?

21 A. I'd have to say that, yeah, then he came by him-
22 self. If Tony would have come with him, then all this
23 wouldn't be going on here. It's an unfortunate thing that
24 he didn't come with him. I think I sent him two tickets,
25 I'm not sure. I'm positive I sent him two tickets.

1 Q. You sent Jack Ruby two tickets?

2 A. Two tickets, one for him and one for Zoppi.

3 Q. And that was after Jack Ruby told you that Zoppi
4 had agreed to come?

5 A. That he would come, yeah. I'd have to say that's
6 correct.

7 Q. And the two tickets were being paid for by the
8 hotel?

9 A. They paid me the money. I bought the tickets.

10 Q. You bought the tickets?

11 A. Yeah, I bought the tickets but they gave me the
12 money.

13 Q. They gave you the money?

14 A. Oh, sure. It wasn't a hotel, it was a night club.
15 The Tropicana wasn't a hotel.

16 Q. And they did not expect to be paid back for these
17 two tickets, did they?

18 A. Oh, no, it was part of their publicity. They
19 spent a lot of money advertising. In fact, they had a sign
20 across the causeway in Miami about a block long for years.

21 Q. And you prepaid the two tickets and sent them to
22 Jack Ruby, is that correct?

23 A. I paid for them with money, is that what you mean,
24 prepaid?

25 Q. Yes.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you also tell Mr. Ruby that or make for Mr.
3 Ruby any accommodations for where they would stay when they
4 got down there?

5 A. I told them that they would be taken care of in
6 any hotel they wanted to, the bill would be taken care of
7 because that was the agreement I had with the Foxes.

8 Q. And that was not prepaid in advance, was it?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Where did Jack Ruby stay when he got down there?

11 A. They didn't pay his way when he got there because
12 he didn't bring Zoppi. He stayed at a little hotel there.
13 I was living at the Foxa at the time, F-o-x-a, it was an
14 apartment building. He stayed in a little hotel. I could
15 look out my window and see it down on the corner.

16 Q. Was his ticket still paid for even though Tony
17 Zoppi didn't come?

18 A. We went ahead and paid that, they did rather. I
19 didn't get it back.

20 Q. The letter you've given us today from Tony Zoppi,
21 the portion of the letter you gave to us today, do you still
22 have the top of that letter?

23 A. The whole letter?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. No, it was a personal letter to this fellow here.

1 That's the only part I had of it.

2 Q. The letter was addressed to?

3 A. The letter that Tony sent was sent to Brescia.

4 Q. Right. And did he give you the entire letter or
5 just the bottom portion?

6 A. He gave me the entire letter but I tore off the
7 bottom part because that was the only part that concerned
8 me. It was all personal.

9 Q. And you destroyed the top portion? You no longer
10 have the top portion of the letter?

11 A. There wasn't anything in there that anyone would
12 be interested in. I just read the bottom part where he
13 concluded his letter and tore it out.

14 Q. Do you still have the top part?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Was there any reason you didn't give that letter
17 to Mr. Cline and Mr. Panton when they came to talk to you?

18 A. I told them I had it.

19 Q. Did they ask to see it?

20 A. They told me if I got subpoenaed to bring it with
21 me, I'm pretty sure they did. I'm positive I brought it
22 up to them. You see, when they interviewed me, I was at a
23 friend of mine's house, staying overnight, because they were
24 gone out of town and they were scared someone would break in
25 their house and they came over there. In fact, I went down

111

1 and met them.

2 Q. Do you know why Tony Zoppi couldn't go to Cuba?

3 A. Sir?

4 Q. Do you know why Tony Zoppi couldn't go to Cuba on
5 that trip?

6 A. Why he didn't come?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. No, I don't. I have no idea. I guess he was
9 busy or something, couldn't make it.

10 Q. Why did Jack Ruby come?

11 A. He just wanted to use the free ticket, I guess.

12 Q. Before Jack Ruby came, did he tell you that Tony
13 Zoppi would not be coming?

14 A. No, he didn't tell me. I would have told him to
15 stay there then I wouldn't have had all this.

16 Q. Do you recall being interviewed by the FBI concern-
17 ing Jack Ruby's visits to Cuba?

18 A. I recall them interviewing me about Jack Ruby, yes.

19 Q. Did you tell the FBI about Tony Zoppi?

20 A. I don't think I did, to tell you the truth. I
21 didn't think about it until I got the darn letter. Then it
22 all came back to me why he was coming down there.

23 Q. And this letter is the letter you received in 1976?

24 A. I received a letter in 1976 from my brother, yes.

25 Q. So from 1963 to 1976, you had just forgotten?

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1 A. I had just forgot about it, to tell you the
2 truth. I was all shook up about the darn thing happening and
3 it just slipped my mind.

4 Q. Wasn't really the only reason for Ruby to come
5 visit was to get Tony Zoppi?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. Isn't that the primary reason for him to visit?

8 A. That's the only reason that he came down there
9 was he was supposed to bring Tony Zoppi and he didn't bring
10 him.

11 Q. It wasn't to give Jack Ruby a vacation, was it?

12 A. No, I don't think so. It might have been what I
13 told the FBI because like I say, I was so shook up when I
14 talked to them that first time and I didn't know what to
15 tell them.

16 Q. In an FBI interview dated June 9, 1964, and the
17 interview being conducted on June 8, 1964, by special agents
18 Stevens and McPaul, let me read you part of what you said
19 about Jack Ruby's visit to Cuba. You stated, "In 1959, date
20 unrecalled, he wrote to Ruby and asked him if he would like
21 to come to Havana for a week. He stated there was no ulterior
22 motive and that he had been a close friend of Ruby's and
23 extended this invitation as one would to a brother. He
24 realized Ruby was working hard with his Dallas night club and
25 felt that Ruby needed a rest. Because the cost of plane

1 tickets in Havana could be paid for bypesos for approximately
2 one fifth of the cost of the ticket in the United States,
3 he purchased a round-trip ticket for Ruby at his own ex-
4 pense and mailed it to Ruby in Dallas after which Ruby
5 boarded a plane and flew to Havana for a visit."

6 Later in the report, if I may just read another
7 paragraph, it states, "With further regard to the airline
8 ticket purchased by McWillie, he stated that as best he
9 can recall, the peso evaluation of this ticket was about
10 \$75 and that he had personally absorbed the cost. He could
11 not be certain whether Ruby repaid him for this ticket after
12 Ruby reached Havana, again explaining that he purchased the
13 ticket at Havana and mailed it to Ruby at one fifth of what
14 it would cost Ruby to buy a comparable ticket in Dallas.
15 He does not recall standing any other expenses for Ruby in
16 connection with the trip and was unable to state whether
17 Ruby had repaid him for the cost of the ticket or not."

18 Now, is that an accurate account of what you told
19 the FBI?

20 A. I may have told them that but Zoppi was supposed
21 to come with Ruby. It just slipped my mind about Zoppi,
22 that's all. I'm sure I sent him two tickets. I paid for
23 them out of my pocket but I got the money from the Foxes.

24 Q. The agents questioned you in fairly explicit de-
25 tail, is that not correct?

1 A. Sir?

2 Q. The agents questioned you in fairly explicit de-
3 tail, is that not correct?

4 A. They questioned me pretty good, yes.

5 Q. I mean they specifically asked you whether or not
6 there was an ulterior motive for your sending a ticket to
7 Jack Ruby. Don't you think you would have remembered about
8 Tony Zoppi at that time?

9 A. I didn't remember until I got that letter, to tell
10 you the truth. I did not remember about it until I got the
11 letter and then it all hit me at one time and I said to my-
12 self, well, I should have told the FBI that.

13 Q. There's also an FBI report dated November 27, 1963,
14 the interview being conducted November 25, 1963, by special
15 agents Stevens and Salisbury concerning Ruby's trip to
16 Cuba. Again it says, "McWillie said he had gone to Cuba
17 to work at the Tropicana at Havana, Cuba, and while there--

18 A. (Interrupting) I didn't understand you.

19 Q. I'm sorry, the report states, "McWillie said he
20 had gone to Cuba to work at the Tropicana at Havana, Cuba,
21 and while there sometime in 1959, Ruby had been in Cuba for
22 about a one week's vacation and he had seen Ruby there at that
23 time. He said he knew of no interests Ruby might have had
24 in Cuba."

25 A. He didn't have any interests in Cuba and he did

1 take a vacation when he came by himself. He darn sure did.

2 Q. And again you did not recall that Tony Zoppi
3 was the primary reason that Jack Ruby--

4 A. (Interrupting) No, I didn't. To tell you the
5 truth, I didn't until I got that letter and it hit me and
6 I said, my, God, I should have told the FBI that.

7 Q. Even when questioned about the cost of Ruby's
8 trip?

9 A. I didn't recall it. Like I say, it was such a
10 terrible thing that happened that I was just shook all up.
11 They came out there the same day, I think.

12 Q. You are sure, however, that Jack Ruby's trip to
13 Cuba was after Castro took over? Are you sure of that now?

14 A. I'm positive of it, yeah.

15 Q. And the reason you can date that is--

16 A. (Interrupting) I'd have to say, yes, it was after
17 he took over.

18 Q. And what's the reason you can date that?

19 A. I wasn't there--do you have it there when I went
20 to Cuba? You said September?

21 Q. September of 1958.

22 A. It would have to be after Castro was in.

23 Q. And the reason you're dating that again is because
24 of the decline in business due to Castro's takeover, is that
25 correct?

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1 A. That's correct. Business declined when Castro
2 got there.

3 Q. How was business generally when you first moved
4 to the casino in 1958?

5 A. How was what?

6 Q. How was business at the Tropicana?

7 A. It wasn't any good. It was going down then.

8 There was talk in all the papers about Castro going to
9 arrive there and everything. It had declined.

10 Q. It had declined at that time?

11 A. Real bad.

12 Q. Could the Foxes have asked you at that time or
13 you had suggested to the Foxes at that time to get in touch
14 with Tony Zoppi?

15 A. I had suggested to the Foxes that we might get some
16 business out of Dallas if we would get him to write articles
17 in his column about it.

18 Q. When was the first time you made that suggestion
19 to the Foxes?

20 A. I made that, I believe, when I first went there.
21 I believe I did. I'm not positive. Then when it got so bad
22 after Castro got there, I went to them again and they decided
23 to go ahead with it.

24 Q. When you first made the suggestion to the Foxes, when
25 you first got there in September of '58, did you tell Jack

1 Ruby that, in fact, you had made that suggestion?

2 A. Did I tell--

3 Q. (Interrupting) Did you tell Ruby even though
4 nothing had been definite with the Foxes?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You never told Jack Ruby you had made the
7 suggestion until the Foxes O.K.'d the deal?

8 A. In '58?

9 Q. Right, in '58.

10 A. I don't think so. I think it was after Castro
11 got there.

12 Q. You never told him you had made the suggestion
13 until the Foxes O.K.'d the deal?

14 A. No, I didn't call him until after they O.K.'d the
15 deal.

16 Q. You stated that you asked or you might have asked
17 Jack Ruby to send you a gun in Cuba just because you could
18 get yourself killed down there, a lot of people had guns.

19 A. Well, it was awful bad down there. It was scary,
20 little kids carrying machine guns.

21 Q. Was there much gun running into Cuba?

22 A. Sir?

23 Q. Was there much gun running into Cuba?

24 A. I don't know about any gun running. No way I'd
25 know about that.

- 1 Q. Where did all the guns come from?
- 2 A. Castro brought them with him.
- 3 Q. Do you know how Castro got his guns?
- 4 A. No, I don't have any idea.
- 5 Q. Do you know Mr. Robert McKeown?
- 6 A. No, sir, I sure don't. You asked me that before.
- 7 Q. Do you know Dominick Bartone?
- 8 A. No, sir.
- 9 Q. Have you ever heard the name before?
- 10 A. Dominick Bartone?
- 11 Q. Bartone.
- 12 A. Never heard of him.
- 13 Q. Mr. Edward Browder?
- 14 A. Edward who?
- 15 Q. Browder.
- 16 A. No, sir.
- 17 Q. You never heard that name before?
- 18 A. No. McKeown's name I've read in articles about
- 19 Ruby.
- 20 Q. But you never met him personally?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. You just read that.
- 23 A. I wouldn't know him if I'd see him.
- 24 Q. Do you know Mr. Sam Benton?
- 25 A. Who?

1 Q. Banton, B-e-n-t-o-n.

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. We're turning for a moment to Ruby's trip without
4 Tony Zoppi to Cuba.

5 A. O.K.

6 Q. Mr. Zoppi has written an article on the subject.
7 Are you aware of that fact?

8 A. No, I'm not.

9 Q. In Mr. Zoppi's article, he states that the trip
10 was supposed to be in December of 1958, which is prior to
11 Castro's taking over.

12 A. Maybe I did call him before '59. But I did call
13 him in '59 again. If I did make a call in '58, then I did
14 make a call in '59.

15 Q. Could you explain that? I'm not sure I understand.

16 A. It's possible that I did call in '58.

17 MR. WOLF: Off the record.

18 (Thereupon, a short discussion was had off the
19 record.)

20 MR. WOLF: On the record.

21 BY MR. WOLF:

22 Q. As we were stating, Mr. Zoppi has told us and
23 written that to the best of his recollection, it was in
24 December of 1958 when he was supposed to come down to make
25 this review and, in fact, one of the reasons he did not go

1 was he had another show in Las Vegas to review. That was
2 the reason he did not go down to Cuba with Jack Ruby. He
3 states that he intended going down after the review but did
4 not go down to Cuba because Castro took over. And that's
5 how he places the dates of December 1958 because he's
6 certain that since Castro took over January 1, 1959, he then
7 did not go down.

8 A. Well, it's possible that I could have called in
9 '58. But I know I called in '59, too. But it's possible
10 but I'm not sure.

11 Q. That's what we were asking before. The Foxes did
12 not approve Jack Ruby and Tony Zoppi coming down together
13 until 1959?

14 A. The first time, it might have been '58, the latter
15 part of '58. I'm not positive on this. It's been so long,
16 it's been 20 years ago, you know. But I did know that I
17 called Jack Ruby in '59 and he told me he would bring Tony
18 Zoppi. He said, "Don't worry, I'll bring him down there."
19 Now, it's possible that I did call him in '58, too, I don't
20 recall it.

21 Q. And Jack Ruby, when he was in Cuba, was that be-
22 fore or after Castro took over?

23 A. Jack Ruby was in Cuba after Castro took over.

24 Q. And, to the best of your recollection, that was
25 August of 1959?

1 A. I'd have to say August. I'm not sure, though.

2 Q. I'm saying though to the best of your recollection,
3 it was August?

4 A. I don't know.

5 Q. Subsequent to your returning to the United States,
6 you were involved in an incident at Miami Airport, is that
7 correct?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. And is it fair to characterize you as anti-
10 Castro?

11 A. I was in an outfit called Fair Play for Cuba. I'm
12 not very proud of it but I was just mad.

13 Q. It would be fair to characterize your political
14 philosophy as anti-Castro?

15 A. I wasn't trying to do anything. This fellow was
16 talking about the United States and President Eisenhower
17 and different people and what a bum country it was in
18 America, it's lucky I didn't jump on him there because if
19 I had I would have been in jail but I wanted until I got to
20 the States. I called the FBI and I explained it to them.
21 He was a school teacher up in Chicago.

22 Q. Subsequent to your return to the United States,
23 were you ever approached by any individuals regarding
24 assassinating Fidel Castro?

25 A. Oh, God, no, of course not.

1 Q. Did you ever discuss the political situation
2 in Cuba with any individuals?

3 A. Nobody. It was a very dangerous thing to even
4 talk to Cubans about Castro or anybody else.

5 Q. Even in the United States?

6 A. In the United States?

7 Q. I'm saying subsequent to your return from Cuba,
8 not while you were in Cuba but subsequent.

9 A. While I was in Cuba?

10 Q. After you left Cuba and came back to the United
11 States.

12 A. I would rib Cubans about Castro being a Communist
13 and things like that.

14 Q. Was that here in the United States?

15 A. In the United States.

16 Q. Which Cubans?

17 A. I don't know, just anyone I'd see, viva Fidel,
18 rib them. That's what they all said when Castro got there.

19 Q. Do you know Mr. Jerry Patrick Hemming?

20 A. Who?

21 Q. Jerry Patrick Hemming, H-e-m-m-i-n-g.

22 A. No.

23 Q. You stated you knew Mr. Mike McLaney?

24 A. Very well.

25 Q. How did you know Mr. McLaney?

1 A. I met Mr. McLaney at the, I met him years ago
2 in Miami. He had a restaurant in Miami. I met him one
3 night in there. I was at the races.

4 Q. Was that before or after--

5 A. (Interrupting) This was in the early '40's,
6 '46 or '47. He had a restaurant called Liaglan, I don't
7 know how to spell it, a French restaurant. I was introduced
8 to him.

9 Q. Did you meet Mr. McLaney while you were in Cuba?

10 A. I met him in Miami first. The next time I saw
11 Mr. McLaney, just introduction, my name, his name, he
12 probably forgot about it. The next time, when I went to
13 Cuba, he had the National Hotel. I used to go over and
14 visit with him, you know, like you visit with people.

15 Q. Did you have dinner with him occasionally?

16 A. I don't think I ever did have dinner with him, no.
17 I'd just go over and say hello. And then I worked for McLaney
18 in Haiti, too, Porta Prince, Haiti. I stayed down there
19 nine months.

20 Q. What period of time did you work in Haiti?

21 A. 1975, I believe. I didn't stay but nine months.
22 I got sick down there.

23 Q. Did you know Mr. McLaney's brother?

24 A. Oh, yeah, a very good friend of mine, Bill.

25 Q. How did you know Bill?

ARCHIVES

1 A. I met Bill in Cuba.

2 Q. Is that the first time you had met him?

3 A. The first time Bill, yeah.

4 Q. After you left Cuba, did you continue to maintain
5 a friendship with him?

6 A. Oh, sure, we're still friends.

7 Q. How often would you see him after you left Cuba
8 or speak to him?

9 A. After I left Cuba?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. I never saw him again until I went to Haiti.

12 No, I worked for him at the Carousel here. They owned the
13 Carousel, McLaneys.

14 Q. Was that in Nevada, Cal-Neva?

15 A. No, didn't I tell you about the Carousel Club?

16 I gave you a resumé of every place I worked.

17 MR. PURDY: You're talking about the Carousel in
18 Las Vegas?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 BY MR. WOLF:

21 Q. And they own that club?

22 A. They own that.

23 Q. What did Bill McLaney do in Cuba?

24 A. With his brother, I don't know what he did. Helped
25 with the casino, I guess.

1 Q Did they own it jointly?

2 A I have no idea how they owned it.

3 Q Did you ever discuss political attitudes toward
4 Castro with the McLaneys?

5 A Never, had no reason to.

6 Q After your return to the United States, did the
7 McLaneys ever discuss their attitude toward Castro?

8 A Never, never mentioned Castro to me.

9 Q Were you aware that the McLaneys were involved
10 in anti-Castro activities after their return to the United
11 States?

12 A No.

13 Q You never heard that before today?

14 A Never heard it. I think I read it in a book, too.

15 Q But you were not aware of that?

16 A No.

17 Q When was the first time that you became aware of
18 John Roselli's or Sam Giancana's efforts to assassinate
19 Fidel Castro?

20 A About what?

21 Q About John Roselli's or Sam Giancana's efforts to
22 assassinate Fidel Castro.

23 A Read it in the papers.

24 Q You had never heard of it before that?

25 A Never.

ARCHIVES

1 Q. Do you know Mr. Frank Sturgis?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Have you ever heard of Mr. Sturgis?

4 A. I've read books about him.

5 Q. A Mr. Frank ^{Fiokini} ~~Sturgis~~?

6 A. No; I read in the books, though, that he was in
7 Castro's army. That's Sturgis, too, isn't it?

8 Q. Do you know Mr. Richard Danner, D-a-n-n-e-r?

9 A. Mr. Danner used to be an FBI man in Dallas.

10 Q. How did you first meet Mr. Danner?

11 A. I don't recall. It seems like he was looking for
12 some--I don't recall how I met him but I did meet him one
13 time.

14 Q. Just one time?

15 A. That's all. I've seen him here.

16 Q. That was in Dallas?

17 A. One time here is all I've seen him.

18 Q. Did you ever see Mr. Danner in Cuba?

19 A. Never.

20 Q. You only saw Mr. Danner one time in Las Vegas?

21 A. I went in thereto look for a job.

22 Q. Do you remember where when you say you went in
23 there?

24 A. The Frontier. He was working for Suma, you know,
25 he's the general manager of the Sands and at that time they

1 didn't need anyone.

2 Q. You never discussed with Mr. Danner Mr. Roselli
3 or Mr. Giancana, did you?

4 A. Of course not. I didn't know those people.

5 Q. Do you know Mr. E. Howard Hunt?

6 A. The one that was in Watergate?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. No.

9 Q. You never met him?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Did anyone ever approach you after your return to
12 the United States about getting involved in a plot to kill
13 Fidel Castro?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. When the Bay of Pigs invasion occurred, do you
16 remember where you were?

17 A. I was at my mother's home in Coral Gables, Florida.

18 Q. Had you been living in Florida?

19 A. I went there from Cuba. I stayed there until
20 June 1st and then went to work in the Cal-Neva Lodge.

21 Q. It was fairly common knowledge around Miami at
22 that time that a large invasion was about to occur. Were
23 you aware of that fact?

24 A. No, sir, I wasn't.

25 Q. You were not aware of that fact?

ARCHIVES

1 A. I might have heard rumors, but I didn't pay any
2 attention to it because I didn't think it was true. There
3 was a possibility that it was true but I didn't think so.

4 Q. When Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald, where
5 were you at that time?

6 A. Sir?

7 Q. Where were you when Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey
8 Oswald?

9 A. I was working at the Thunderbird Hotel.

10 Q. And what was your reaction when you heard the
11 news?

12 A. Where was I when it happened?

13 Q. When it happened.

14 A. I was at home. We've got a TV in the kitchen.
15 My wife was up early and I was working night, and she came
16 running in the bedroom and said, "Come in the kitchen,
17 somebody just shot Oswald." And I jokingly said, "Well, I
18 hope I don't know who did it", just joking. At first they
19 said a man named Siegal, I think they said. Then a few
20 minutes later they said, "We made a terrible mistake. The
21 man's name is Jack Ruby." Well, I like to fell out. I told
22 my wife, I said, "Margaurita, the FBI will probably come
23 here to see me today or tomorrow." And she said, "Why?"
24 I said, "Well, I knew this man in Dallas." And
25 sure enough in about three hours, the kids and I, I forgot

9
1 what was going on this day, could it have been possible
2 that the funeral of President Kennedy was going on that
3 day? There was some ceremony in the rotunda, we were
4 watching it on the TV, the two kids and myself and my
5 wife. About three hours later there was a knock on the
6 door and my son, he was about six years old, went to the
7 door and said, "Dad, two men want to see you." Well, I
8 didn't want the kids to hear him. I just took them in the
9 kitchen and shut the door and that's where we talked.

10 Q. Do you know how the FBI got to your house so
11 quickly?

12 A. No, I don't know. It was a mystery to me. I don't
13 know how they got there that quick. I'd say it was about
14 three or four hours they were there.

15 Q. Did you call any of your friends or associates
16 right after you had heard that Jack Ruby--

17 A. (Interrupting) No.

18 Q. Do you know, to your knowledge, did anybody hire
19 Jack Ruby to kill Lee Harvey Oswald?

20 A. Do what, sir?

21 Q. Did anybody hire Jack Ruby to kill Lee Harvey
22 Oswald?

23 A. Sure not. It's like I've told everybody that has
24 been questioning, I've been questioned by reporters and
25 everything, I think he did it just to--are you all listening

1 to me? I think he did it just to make a big man out of
2 himself. He was that type of a person.

3 BY MR. PURDY:

4 Q. After the assassination and after the shooting of
5 Oswald, did you discuss Jack Ruby with anyone other than
6 your wife and the FBI agents?

7 A. I don't know, I don't think so. I didn't want
8 anybody to know I even knew him, to tell you the truth.

9 Q. Did you discuss Jack Ruby with anyone who already
10 knew that you had known Jack Ruby?

11 A. Who?

12 Q. Did you talk to anyone who knew Jack Ruby and who
13 knew that you knew him after this happened?

14 A. No.

15 Q. After the assassination.

16 A. No, I don't think so.

17 Q. You haven't talked about Jack Ruby with any
18 mutual acquaintances, then?

19 A. No; I might have said something about, what do you
20 think about that nut doing what he did or something like
21 that. I didn't want people to know. It was embarrassing
22 to me when I was working for the FBI to come in and take
23 me off to the side. Like I say, I asked them to see me at
24 home and they did.

25 Q. Did you know Juan Orta?

A. Who?

1 Q. Juan Orta, O-r-t-a.

2 A. No.

3 Cuban? I don't recall his name.

4 Q. Did you know William E. Fletcher of New York City?

5 A. Yes, I've known him for years. He's from Dallas,
6 an oilman.

7 Q. How did you know him?

8 A. I met him around Dallas.

9 Q. Did he gamble with any of the other oilmen?

10 A. There were two Fletchers. Is he the oilman you're
11 speaking of? His brother was a gambler.

12 Q. What was the gambler's first name?

13 A. I can't think of his first name but there were
14 two brothers and I knew both of them.

15 Q. The Fletcher brothers.

16 A. The Fletcher brothers. In fact, one of them is
17 dead.

18 Q. Did Jack Ruby know either of the Fletchers?

19 A. Jack Ruby, I wouldn't think so.

20 Q. Did you know Raymond B. Cortez?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you know Henry Savadra, a former employee of
23 the Capri in Cuba?

24 A. Henry Savaadra, he was a cashier there, I believe.

25 Q. Did Jack Ruby see him when he came to Cuba?

1 A. No, he wouldn't have any reason to see him.

2 Q. Did you know David Elatkin in Cuba?

3 A. Who?

4 Q. E-l-a-t-k-i-n.

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did you know Robert Larkin?

7 A. Robert Larkin, sure I know him. He's a security
8 guard. He worked for Abe Weinstein. He's a bouncer.

9 Q. Did he use to manage the Vegas Club or work with
10 Jack Ruby with the Vegas Club?

11 A. I don't think he did. I don't believe he ever
12 worked for Jack Ruby. I think he worked for Weinstein.
13 He's working as a security guard here in the Fremont Hotel,
14 he was the last I heard of him.

15 Q. Do you think he knew Jack Ruby?

16 A. Did he know Jack Ruby? Yes, he knew him.

17 Q. Did Mr. Larkin ever gamble in Dallas?

18 A. I never saw him gamble anywhere, no. I don't
19 think he made enough money to gamble. Bob Larkin, that's who
20 you're talking about.

21 Q. Earlier you mentioned an Oscar Cheninder.

22 A. Cheninder.

23 Q. Could you spell that name for us?

24 A. I couldn't spell it. C-h-e-m-i-n-d-e-r. He's
25 dead, too, though.

1 Q. I believe you previously stated that when Jack
2 Ruby came to Cuba that that was the first time he'd gone
3 to Cuba, is that correct?

4 A. That's what he said. I've never seen him before.
5 He had never been there when I was there.

6 Q. Did he go to Cuba after that?

7 A. I wouldn't know. I'd have no way of knowing. I
8 never saw him, when I came through Dallas that time. I
9 don't think he did. The FBI even asked me if he'd been
10 here. I've never seen him out here.

11 Q. Do you have personal knowledge as to whether or
12 not Jack Ruby went to Cuba in September of 1959 for one
13 day?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you believe you would have known if he had?

16 A. I would have known it, I believe. I believe he
17 would have called me. Can't they look up the airline tickets
18 and check it out?

19 Q. Did Jack Ruby visit the prison when he was in
20 Cuba?

21 A. I really don't know. It's possible he could
22 have but I don't think, if he did, he went with me and I
23 don't recall it but he could have. I don't know for sure.

24 Q. You said you thought it was possible that someone
25 had gone to the prison with you.

(Cuba-Trafficante)

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1 A. It's possible that it might have been Jack Ruby.

2 Q. Did the person who went to the prison with you speak
3 to anyone that was in the prison?

4 A. Just to this DeGeorge and I spoke to Dino and
5 Jake Lansky.

6 Q. Did you say hello to Trafficante there?

7 A. Just said hello. But I talked to Jake because
8 Dino was a friend of mine. I mean not a personal, intimate
9 friend. I used to go down and visit him when he was
10 working. Sometimes he'd drop by and see me.

11 Q. After you left Cuba, how did you get a job in
12 Nevada?

13 A. I got a job in Nevada through a friend of mine
14 named Johnny Blaine. He was a book maker years ago. He
15 called me and asked me if I wanted to go up to Cal-Neva
16 Lodge. He said I could go up there and see Sandy Waterman.
17 He used to manage a casino. I went up there. The 15th of
18 June I went up there.

19 Q. Did Mr. Blaine have anything to do with the Cal-
20 Neva Lodge?

21 A. No, he didn't. He knew Sandy Waterman from old
22 days or something.

23 MR. WOLF: Mr. McWillie, that's the conclusion
24 of our questions. If you have anything to add that would
25 help the Committee, we would be most appreciative.

1 THE WITNESS: I don't know what I could tell
2 you because, like I said, all the contact I had with Ruby
3 was about the union thing. I don't even remember when it
4 was, in '63. It must have been the early part of '63.
5 I know that whoever Bill Miller did call and to this day
6 he don't talk to me any more because I had Ruby call him.
7 I had no idea Ruby was like he was.

8 MR. WOLF: Do you have anyone else you could
9 suggest we should talk to?

10 THE WITNESS: The only ones I could suggest are
11 those two fellows I named. They were very close with him
12 in Dallas. They were Rifkin and Panitz.

13 MR. WOLF: They're both dead.

14 THE WITNESS: They died a couple of years ago.
15 They were just friends of his. Nobody ever dreamed in the
16 world this man would do anything like this. He was just a
17 harmless fellow. I don't know what to tell you. I can't
18 tell you anything else. I've told the truth, everything
19 I've told you. But I did leave out the thing about Zoppi
20 with the FBI: I'm sorry I did but I just forgot it. I was
21 shook up that I knew this fellow.

22 MR. WOLF: Mr. McWillie, we very much appreciate
23 your cooperation. This transcript will be typed up and
24 sent to us in Washington. We will then send you a copy of
25 it for you to read. There will be a little statement at the

1 and for you to sign that it's an accurate and true account.
2 If you want to make changes in the transcript, you should
3 get in touch with me. I'll send you a cover letter with the
4 transcript.

5 THE WITNESS: I don't have either one of your
6 cards.

7 MR. WOLF: We'll leave a card with you. If you
8 get in touch with us, we'll send you a statement to sign.
9 If you sign that and return it to us, then we'll send you
10 an official copy of your transcript so you'll have one for
11 your own records.

12 Thank you very much. That will conclude the
13 deposition.

14 _____
15 Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day
16 of _____ 19____.

17 My commission will expire _____ day of
18 _____.

19 _____
20 _____
21 Notary Public
22 _____
23 _____
24 _____
25 _____

1 United States of America,)
 2 State of Nevada,) ss.
 3 City of Las Vegas.)

4 I, Joseph L. Ward, U. S. Magistrate, do certify
 5 that, pursuant to notice, there came before me, in Room
 6 4-003, Federal Courthouse, 210 Las Vegas Boulevard, in Las
 7 Vegas, State of Nevada, Lewis J. McWillie, who was by me
 8 duly sworn to testify the whole truth of his knowledge touch-
 9 ing the matter herein; that he was examined and his examina-
 10 tion at the time reduced to writing in Stenotype by Naomi
 11 Bolstad and that such examination has been correctly trans-
 12 cribed and is fully and accurately set forth in the 136 pre-
 13 ceding pages; that the deposition is a true record of the
 14 testimony given by the witness, that his said deposition so
 15 given was by said witness subscribed and sworn to; that said
 deposition was taken on the day, between the hours and at
 the place in that behalf aforesaid, and that said deposition
 is now herewith returned.

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand at
 13 my office in _____ this day
 14 of _____ 1978.
 15 _____

1 United States of America,)
 2 State of Nevada,) ss.
 3 City of Las Vegas.)

4 I, Naomi Bolstad, do certify that I accurately
 5 and correctly reported in Stenotypy the complete proceed-
 6 ings had in the taking of the deposition of Lewis J. McWil-
 7 lie, and have accurately and correctly transcribed the same
 8 in the preceding 136 pages.
 9

10 Naomi Bolstad
 11 Naomi Bolstad, Court Reporter

Report of FBI on
McWillie Interview 11.27.63

P. 152

JFK EXHIBIT F-573

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Ruby, Jack

2-2

Ruby, Jack

2-10

Date: November 27, 1963

JFK F-573

LEWIS J. MC WILLIE, 3627 Eastern, Las Vegas, Nevada, was interviewed on November 25, 1963. MC WILLIE formerly worked for FRED BROWNING at the Top of the Hill Club between Dallas and Ft. Worth, Texas, in Tarrant County. This was an illegal gambling operation where he worked during the 1940's. He stated that he has known JACK RUBY since 1947 or 1948, and that RUBY formerly operated the Vegas Club and now also operates the Carrousel Club in Dallas. He said that he has known RUBY for somewhere between 15 and 20 years, first getting acquainted with him in Dallas, but knew him only as an operator of a night club. He stated that to his knowledge, RUBY has never been involved in any other kind of enterprise, and to his knowledge no one else was associated with him in the Vegas Club. He said that as far as he knew, RUBY operated this establishment within the law and was not known to him to be involved in gambling, prostitution, or illegal liquor sales. He said that he did know that RUBY had come to Dallas from Chicago, but did not know of any particular associates of RUBY. He said RUBY had visited the Top of the Hill, but was not a frequent visitor there. He said he would think that RUBY probably knew most of the members of the Dallas Police Department, simply because of the type of establishment that he ran, but felt that this would be the only basis of any association with the Dallas Police Department since he felt that the operation was a legal one.

MC WILLIE said that he had gone to Cuba to work at the Tropicana in Havana, Cuba, and while there sometime in 1959, RUBY had been in Cuba for about a one week's vacation and he had seen RUBY there at that time. He said he knew of no interests RUBY might have had in Cuba.

MC WILLIE said that he returned from Cuba on January 2, 1961, on the same plane which carried some other passengers, at least one of whom expressed a dislike for President EISENHOWER and America's actions in regards

On 11/25/63 at Las Vegas, Nevada

File # LV 44-18

CR 84

by SAs LEO A. STEWENS & WARREN E. SALISBURY

Date dictated 11/26/63

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to Cuba and it was his recollection that this individual was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba organization. He stated that he had become highly incensed over the remarks this individual made while waiting for the plane in Havana and during the travel to the United States, but that he had controlled his emotions concerning this man's remarks until after the plane's arrival in Miami, whereupon he had physically attacked this individual because of the remarks he had made concerning the United States. He said that this matter received local publicity in Miami press and that he was also interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Miami concerning this situation. He stated that it would be his belief that JACK RUBY would also be very much opposed to any such organization and also pointed out that he had talked to JACK RUBY following this incident and RUBY had remarked to him that he had done the right thing in attacking this man.

He stated that he had correspondence with RUBY and maintained contact with him principally through this means and sometime in early 1963 had felt that he needed some type of protection around the house and had requested RUBY, believed by letter, to obtain a gun for him. He stated he did not specify what kind of gun he wanted but that he had subsequently learned that a COD package awaited him at the Post Office. He stated that he had discussed this matter with his wife and they had decided not to pick up the gun which had been mailed from Dallas, Texas, as they were afraid their children might find the gun. He stated he was sure that this gun was sent to him through RUBY's efforts based upon his initial request. He stated he does not know what disposition might have been made of the gun.

He said his last contacts with RUBY were about two months ago when RUBY contacted him via telephone concerning some trouble he was having with a show, as a result of which he referred RUBY to BILL MILLER, the owner of the Riverside Hotel in Reno, where MC WILLIE had formerly been Club Manager. Their discussion on this occasion had to do only with the club's act with which RUBY was concerned.

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3

MC WILLIE said that since RUBY's name had first come to his attention in connection with the killing of OSWALD, he had searched his mind concerning a possible motive and had come to the conclusion in his own mind that RUBY must have been brooding over the death of the President and that this was an insane act on the part of RUBY. He stated that he is certain in his own mind that RUBY has no underworld connections, although he might be acquainted with some figures in gambling and other illegal activities and stated that the only person that he could suggest who might be on a more intimate basis with RUBY other than the members of the immediate family, was a girl he went with in Dallas, Texas, for about four years by the name of ALICE.

He stated he has never known RUBY to visit Las Vegas and is certain that if RUBY did he would have been in contact with him, as RUBY knows where he works and how to contact him. He also feels that their acquaintance is such that RUBY would not pass through Las Vegas without being in touch with him. He stated he does not know RUBY to have ever been involved in any bookie activity, or in any gambling of any nature other than as a player.

MC WILLIE advised that ELAINE MYNIER is a Dallas girl who worked at the Avis Rental in the Dallas Airport Terminal Building and is acquainted with RUBY. He recalled she visited Havana, and stayed for about two weeks. He denied having used her as a courier between RUBY and himself, explaining that there was no restriction at the time and had he wanted to get a message to RUBY, he would have telephoned him.

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Report of FBI on
Interview of McWillie

6.9.64

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JFK EXHIBIT F-574

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION -

Date June 9, 1964

1

LEWIS J. MC WILLIE was interviewed at his residence, 3527 Eastern Avenue and advised as follows:

He went to Cuba in September, 1958, and immediately went to work at the Tropicana Casino, remaining there as manager until May, 1960, after which he left and worked at the Capri Hotel-Casino from May, 1960, to January 2, 1961, as a pitboss. He stated the Tropicana was Cuban owned and that he did not know the owner of the Capri, but that he worked under one ANGELO DI CRISTOFANO (Phonetic).

In 1959, date unrecalled, he wrote to RUBY and asked him if he would like to come to Havana for a week. He stated there was no ulterior motive and that he had been a close friend of RUBY's and extended this invitation as one would to a brother. He realized RUBY was working hard with his Dallas night club and felt that RUBY needed a rest. Because the cost of plane tickets in Havana could be paid for by pesos for approximately 1/5 of a cost of a ticket in the United States, he purchased a round trip ticket for RUBY at his own expense and mailed it to RUBY in Dallas, after which RUBY boarded a plane and flew to Havana for a visit.

He arranged for RUBY to stay in a small hotel, about three blocks from the Nacional Hotel, name unrecalled. RUBY, during his stay in Havana, would come out to the Tropicana where MC WILLIE was working from nine P.M. to two A.M., and wait for MC WILLIE to get off duty, after which they would have a few drinks together. He does not know of any contacts made by RUBY, if any, and believes that RUBY was sightseeing as any other tourist during his Cuban stay.

With regard to the relationship between CASTRO supporters and the Havana gambling community, MC WILLIE advised that as soon as CASTRO came into power, all Americans had to leave and that as far as he knows, prior to this time, there was no understanding between representatives of the gambling industry and CASTRO's supporters. He recalled that as soon as CASTRO took over, the hired help, such as the waiters, rebelled against casino management and American ownership was forced out of the gambling business. Prior to

by 6/8/64 at Las Vegas, Nevada File # LV 44-48
SA WILLIAM T. MC FAUL
SA LEO A. STEVENS:LAS/dmr Date dictated 6/8/64

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ARCHIVES

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that time there had been only speculation as to the fate of gambling interests should a change in Government come about but MC WILLIE knew of no arrangements or liaison between the gambling interests and CASTRO.

MC WILLIE characterizes RUBY as being completely apolitical and to his knowledge has no connections with the CASTRO or BATISTA supporters. He never heard RUBY mention politics or any political connections except on one occasion in Dallas. MC WILLIE indicated an acquaintance with Congressman BRUCE ALGER, either a Representative or Senator from Texas, whose wife was a patron of RUBY's night club. This acquaintance was more social and personal than political. Other than ALGER, MC WILLIE knows RUBY to be well acquainted with virtually every officer of the Dallas Police force and had an arrangement whereby off duty policemen were hired at RUBY's expense to maintain order in his night club. Here again MC WILLIE did not feel that RUBY's acquaintance with police officers stemmed from political interest but rather that RUBY had a genuine liking for law enforcement officers. He also noted that RUBY is not a gambler and does not know the gambling business, further indicating to him that RUBY had no motive in visiting Cuba other than for a week of rest and relaxation.

Regarding prisoners of war, MC WILLIE stated that he had not been imprisoned nor were any of his friends; however, he had heard that HARVEY HARR, who had worked at the Nacional Casino had been imprisoned for a year after CASTRO took control. He has since seen HARR in Las Vegas but does not know his present whereabouts. He stated HARR was arrested after he, MC WILLIE, left Havana. MC WILLIE recalled that diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States were abrogated on January 3, 1961, the day after MC WILLIE left Cuba and that HARR had remained in Cuba after MC WILLIE's departure.

LV 44-43

3

He does not know why HARR was arrested but expressed the belief that all Americans who had not heeded a warning to leave Havana faced arrest. To his knowledge, HARR and RUBY are not acquainted. MC WILLIE stated that he personally left Havana to avoid arrest. He recalled a Captain MORGAN whom he had known casually who had been with CASTRO in the mountains and whom he later understood had been arrested by CASTRO and put before a firing squad because he was not completely sympathetic with CASTRO's cause. He stated he does not know a ROBERT MC ECHEN.

MC WILLIE denied that he had had any contact with anyone concerning sale of jeeps or guns or the smuggling of refugees out of Cuba or release of any of CASTRO's prisoners. He stated that likewise to his knowledge RUBY had taken no action in behalf of such prisoners. He did recall that RUBY kept a couple of old guns at his residence, although he was not a gun collector. These were kept for his personal use as protection against intruders and not for any active aggressive use to the best of his knowledge. He feels certain that RUBY had no contact with any one interested in the sale of weapons or jeeps under any circumstances.

With further regard to the air line ticket purchased by MC WILLIE, he stated that as best he can recall, the peso evaluation of this ticket was about \$75.00, and that he had personally absorbed the cost. He could not be certain whether RUBY repaid him for this ticket after RUBY reached Havana, again explaining that he purchased the ticket at Havana and mailed it to RUBY at 1/5 of what it would cost RUBY to buy a comparable ticket in Dallas. He does not recall standing any other expenses for RUBY in connection with the trip and was unable to state whether RUBY had repaid him for the cost of the ticket or not.

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• LV 44-43

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MC WILLIE did not see or hear from RUBY after MC WILLIE returned to the United States except that in June, 1961, MC WILLIE, then in Florida, obtained employment at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and en route from Miami to Lake Tahoe stopped in Dallas where he stayed over night in RUBY's apartment. He saw RUBY only for about two or three hours on this occasion, during which time RUBY did not express any interest in politics or any other item of significance, conversation centering around their personal lives and RUBY's night club operation as separated from any political matters.

Concerning more recent contacts, MC WILLIE stated he cannot be certain whether he wrote or called RUBY from Las Vegas to Dallas, Texas, requesting RUBY to obtain a pistol. He stated he knew RUBY could obtain a weapon in Dallas, probably more reasonably than MC WILLIE could procure one in Las Vegas and that he had asked RUBY to send a weapon to him. He knows RUBY caused a weapon to be sent to him as he was notified of a parcel at the post office but that he did not want to go to the post office and pick it up and let it return to the dealer without ever seeing the weapon or taking it out of the post office.

He also believes RUBY called him at the Thunderbird Hotel-Casino where MC WILLIE is employed regarding some union trouble RUBY was having in Dallas and requesting MC WILLIE put him in touch with someone who could help him in this matter. MC WILLIE contacted BILL MILLER who formerly operated the Riverside Hotel at Reno, Nevada, and believes he may have called RUBY back from his, MC WILLIE's, residence advising RUBY to contact MILLER. He believes RUBY later called him back, not recalling whether at the hotel or his residence, advising MC WILLIE that he was going to New York to meet with the AGVA (American Guild of Variety Artists) president. He believes that RUBY later sent him a post card from New York stating that he had met the AGVA president and had ironed out all his troubles.

LV 44-48

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He stated he does not recall ever calling RUBY from the Thunderbird Hotel because of the complications of billing his personal calls through the hotel switchboard and that he definitely did not call from any of the Thunderbird pay stations. He stated that when he called RUBY, the call was on his residence phone and that he can recall no phone calls other than those mentioned above.

He stated he has had no contact with RUBY since the assassination of President KENNEDY and could not have anticipated RUBY's killing of OSWALD. He stated he had had no contact with RUBY's attorneys but that a reporter had called him from Dallas regarding the sale of arms and jeeps to CASTRO's interests. He stated that took place during the RUBY trial and that while he did not relish the thought of talking to a reporter, he very truthfully replied to this inquiry that he did not know what the reporter was talking about.

In summation, MC WILLIE stated that his association with RUBY was strictly social and personal without any intertwined business interests or gambling interests, knowing that RUBY is not a gambler and does not understand the gambling business. He did not know of any political interests or activities on RUBY's part nor of any particular affinity RUBY might have for former President KENNEDY. He stated he can only assume in retrospect from his knowledge of RUBY's personality that RUBY felt he would become a national hero by exterminating President KENNEDY's assassin.

ARCHIVES

CR 11913

Mr. PURDY. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions at this time.

Mr. PREYER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Stokes to question the witness for such times as he may consume.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. McWillie, when did you first move to Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Chairman STOKES. When did you first move to Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. I believe it was September 1968, I believe.

Chairman STOKES. How long was it before you obtained employment in Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. I had employment when I went to Cuba.

Chairman STOKES. And where were you employed in Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. The Tropicana Night Club.

Chairman STOKES. In what capacity?

Mr. McWILLIE. Casino manager.

Chairman STOKES. And who had arranged your employment when you went there?

Mr. McWILLIE. A fellow that I had met in Dallas. I don't remember exactly how I met him. He asked me about if I had been in the gambling business and I said yes, and he said, well, maybe I can get you something in Havana.

Can you hear me, sir?

Chairman STOKES. Yes; I can.

Mr. McWILLIE. So, a week later I did hear from him and he had asked me if I would like to manage the Tropicana. He thought he could get me a job there. I went over there and had a conference with the owners there and agreed to come back a week later, and then I went back to Dallas and returned to Havana.

Chairman STOKES. Who were the owners that you had the conference with?

Mr. McWILLIE. Owners of the Tropicana?

Chairman STOKES. Yes, sir.

Mr. McWILLIE. There was a fellow named Martin Fox, Pedro Fox, Oscar Cheminder. That's all, the only ones I know. They are all Cubans.

Chairman STOKES. Were there any so-called silent partners?

Mr. McWILLIE. Silent partners?

Chairman STOKES. Yes, sir.

Mr. McWILLIE. I wouldn't think so.

Chairman STOKES. How many other major casinos were in Cuba at that time?

Mr. McWILLIE. Let me see, I'd say six, maybe.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us the names of those casinos?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, the Riviera, the Capri, National, the Hilton. There was one down in old Havana. I don't really recall the name of it, but I do know the man's name who ran it, it was Batista. He wasn't any kin to—

Chairman STOKES. To the President?

Mr. McWILLIE. To the President.

Chairman STOKES. To others you just named for us, can you tell us who the owners were of those?

Mr. McWILLIE. I have no idea, sir, who they all are.

Chairman STOKES. Just the one you are aware of, besides Tropicana.

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Chairman STOKES. Besides the Tropicana, you are just aware——

Mr. McWILLIE. That's the only one I was aware of.

Chairman STOKES. Are you aware of any individuals who might have had ownership interest in more than one casino?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir, no way I would know that.

Chairman STOKES. Did you know whether or not Santos Trafficante had an interest in any casino there?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir, I didn't.

Chairman STOKES. Did Jack Ruby know the Fox brothers that you just mentioned?

Mr. McWILLIE. Did he know what, sir?

Chairman STOKES. Did he know the Fox brothers?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think I introduced Jack to them when he came out to the place while he was there.

Chairman STOKES. But he didn't know them prior to your introducing them?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. I see. At some time, did you change jobs and move to the Capri Casino?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes; I did. I managed the Tropicana some time and then the government took it over and I was sent up there by Martin who said you can get a job up there; go up there.

Chairman STOKES. Who is Martin?

Mr. McWILLIE. He owned the Tropicana, Martin Fox.

Chairman STOKES. Then he sent you to the Capri; is that right?

Mr. McWILLIE. Right.

Chairman STOKES. When was this?

Mr. McWILLIE. Either early 1960's or the late 1950's; I don't know which. I don't recall.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us who owned the Capri?

Mr. McWILLIE. No; I didn't know.

Chairman STOKES. Do you know whether or not Santos Trafficante had an interest in the Capri?

Mr. McWILLIE. If he did, I never did see him in there.

Chairman STOKES. If I said to you that the FBI files which this committee has gotten hold of in the case indicates that Santos Trafficante had substantial interest in the Capri, would your answer still be the same?

Mr. McWILLIE. That he had a substantial interest in the Capri?

Chairman STOKES. Yes, sir.

Mr. McWILLIE. I don't know about that, sir.

Chairman STOKES. You know nothing about it?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir. There would be no way I would know who owned the place.

Chairman STOKES. During the time you were in Cuba, can you tell us what was the relationship between the casino operators and the Cuban Government?

Mr. McWILLIE. None that I know of sir.

Chairman STOKES. Were there contacts between the casino owners and the government officials?

ARCHIVES

Mr. McWILLIE. Not that I know of, sir. There would be no way I would know that. All I did was manage the casino; they didn't discuss their private business with me.

Chairman STOKES. Well, prior to Castro coming into power, are you aware of whether or not casino operators had to make payoffs to individuals in the government in order to remain in business?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir, I don't.

Chairman STOKES. In 1959, did individuals who had casino interests take special precautions to avoid confiscation of their assets by the government?

Mr. McWILLIE. Not that I know of.

Chairman STOKES. Well, isn't it true that you made trips to Miami?

Mr. McWILLIE. To take money for Fox—

Chairman STOKES. From Cuba to deposit money?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Explain that to us, tell us what you were doing.

Mr. McWILLIE. They would ask me to, if I would go to Miami and deposit some money for them, and I would do it.

Chairman STOKES. By what you were doing, you were sort of running for them, is that right?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I was a casino manager, and if they wanted me to do that for them, I did it.

Chairman STOKES. The effect of what they were doing is they were getting their money out of Cuba into banks or deposit boxes here in the States, is that right?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, the money I took over there was—I took it to a teller and she put it in their account.

Chairman STOKES. In the bank?

Mr. McWILLIE. In the bank; yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Was this for the Fox brothers?

Mr. McWILLIE. This was both the Fox brothers and Cheminder, too. Cheminder was one of the partners.

Chairman STOKES. Did you do it for anyone else?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. How about when you moved to the Capri, did you do it for anybody there?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Following the takeover by Castro, did a point come when some of the Americans living there were put in prison or otherwise detained?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think so; yes.

Chairman STOKES. Can you recall about when this was?

Mr. McWILLIE. Why, you say?

Chairman STOKES. No; can you recall when this occurred?

Mr. McWILLIE. When this occurred? Either the latter part of 1959 or the early part of 1960; I'm not sure.

Chairman STOKES. Were all Americans who had gambling interests there detained?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Do you know why some were detained and some were not?

Mr. McWILLIE. I never did know; no.

Chairman STOKES. And do you know where they were detained?
Mr. McWILLIE. Yes; they were detained in two prisons, Principal and another one. I don't know the name of that one. That's the one they were detained in.

Chairman STOKES. Would that be Trescornia, a place called Trescornia?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think that's the name of it; yes.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us the names of some of the people whom you know were detained?

Mr. McWILLIE. I didn't understand you.

Chairman STOKES. Are you having difficulty hearing me?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir; it is alright, I can hear you.

Chairman STOKES. Can you hear me now?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. Can you give us the names of some of the people who were detained?

Mr. McWILLIE. In this prison?

Chairman STOKES. Yes, sir.

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, Trafficante was in there, Jake Lansky, Dino Cellini, and a fellow named Guiseppe who worked in the Capri, had worked in there, and I don't recall anyone else.

Chairman STOKES. Was anyone from the Tropicana detained in there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Was anyone besides Tropicana?

Chairman STOKES. No; anyone from the Tropicana?

Mr. McWILLIE. From the Tropicana; no.

Chairman STOKES. How about the Fox brothers, were they detained?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us why they were not detained?

Mr. McWILLIE. I really couldn't tell you, sir. I don't know. I guess because they were Cubans, I don't know.

Chairman STOKES. Did you ever have occasion to visit Trescornia?

Mr. McWILLIE. I went out there to see a fellow named Guiseppe. He had been a dealer around the Capri and he was a fanatic gambler, gambled his money away. He had a wife and a little kid. We used to give his wife, take up a collection and give his wife money so they could live. I did go out to see him once or twice.

Chairman STOKES. What was his full name?

Mr. McWILLIE. I really don't remember it, sir. Guiseppe De something. I don't recall what it was. Guiseppe De George.

Chairman STOKES. I am sorry.

Mr. McWILLIE. Guiseppe De George.

Chairman STOKES. De George.

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Do you recall how many times you went out there? I think you just said once or twice——

Mr. McWILLIE. I would say about twice.

Chairman STOKES. Do you recall the first time that you went there?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I don't recall the date; no.

Chairman STOKES. Can you approximate the date for us?

Mr. McWILLIE. I believe it was some time in 1959. I'm not positive though. Could have been early 1960's; I'm not sure.

Chairman STOKES. How about the second time you went back to visit De George?

Mr. McWILLIE. It is possible I could have went back to see Dino the second time, but I'm not sure.

Chairman STOKES. To see who?

Mr. McWILLIE. Dino Cellini. He had been the manager of the Tropicana before Clark was there. And I became friendly with him and talked to him about casino work and different things. Its possible that I did go see him; I don't know.

Chairman STOKES. So that I understand your testimony properly, it is that you went there twice. You think it was late 1959 or early 1960, possibly. The first time you went to see De George. The second time you may have gone to see Cellini; is that correct?

Mr. McWILLIE. It is possible that I went to see both of them.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us why De George was in Trecornia?

Mr. McWILLIE. They just picked him up like they did everybody else. I don't know why they picked him up.

Chairman STOKES. And what was your reason for going to see him?

Mr. McWILLIE. See De George?

Chairman STOKES. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. Because he had a wife and a child and we had been giving them money. I had rather, taken up a collection amongst the help to live on. I went out there to let him know they were being taken care of.

Chairman STOKES. Was Cellini in there the same time you went to see De George?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think, I'm positive he was.

Chairman STOKES. Do you know what he was in for?

Mr. McWILLIE. Why he was in there?

Chairman STOKES. Yes, sir.

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. How many people were in the same area where De George and Cellini were?

Mr. McWILLIE. Quite a few people there, Cubans and Americans that I didn't know.

Chairman STOKES. Did they have them all housed together; that is, did they have the Americans—

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, it was a kind of a, I would say, a playroom where they all sat around and read and talked, whatever.

Chairman STOKES. Well, in the room where you visited them?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Can you describe that room for us?

Mr. McWILLIE. As I recall, it was just a large room, had chairs in it. It had a yard outside where they could walk around. It wasn't really a prison. They had a wire fence around it. But, I guess it was pretty well guarded.

Chairman STOKES. In this room where you visited with De George and Cellini, were other people visiting in the same room with prisoners?

Mr. McWILLIE. I don't recall, sir, I really don't know who was visiting. It could have been——

Chairman STOKES. Well, on your first trip, did you see both De George and Cellini?

Mr. McWILLIE. It seems to me like I did; yes. I said hello to Cellini; yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Is it your opinion that both of these men were imprisoned because of their gambling activities or for some other reason?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would have to think that they were trying, going to deport them, myself.

Chairman STOKES. And do you know why they were being deported?

Mr. McWILLIE. Castro was taking over the casinos. I would think that is one of his ways of doing things.

Chairman STOKES. And you think it would be in connection with their gambling activities?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would think so; yes. Is it all right if I smoke?

Chairman STOKES. Certainly; help yourself.

On your first visit there, can you tell us the names of some of the other prisoners you recall seeing there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I recall seeing Trafficante. I recall seeing Jake Lansky, Dino Cellini, and Guiseppe.

Chairman STOKES. And did you have occasion to talk with any of them?

Mr. McWILLIE. I did talk to Cellini. I think Jake Lansky might have been there. I didn't talk to anyone—and De George—I didn't talk to Trafficante because I didn't know him that well, just to speak to him.

Chairman STOKES. But you did talk, you think, with Jake Lansky on that occasion?

Mr. McWILLIE. Just asked how he was, when he was going to get freed, and different things like that.

Chairman STOKES. You say you did not talk with Mr. Trafficante?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Did you know Mr. Trafficante?

Mr. McWILLIE. Just to see him.

Chairman STOKES. And how often would you have seen him?

Mr. McWILLIE. Oh, maybe every once in a while. It might be a month or so if I would see him. When I'd see him, I would say hello to him, and he would say hello to me.

Chairman STOKES. On your second visit out there, besides the two men that you have named, whom did you see on your second visit?

Mr. McWILLIE. The same ones were in there.

Chairman STOKES. And can you tell us on that occasion how many of them you talked with?

Mr. McWILLIE. Just Guiseppe. I could have talked to Dino again just to say hello and pass the time of day.

Chairman STOKES. Did you speak to Lansky?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, he's always with Dino. They were together.

Chairman STOKES. Do you recall speaking with Mr. Trafficante on that occasion?

Mr. McWILLIE. I didn't know Mr. Trafficante that well.

ARCHIVES

Chairman STOKES. Have you ever spoken to Mr. Trafficante?

Mr. McWILLIE. Just to say hello.

Chairman STOKES. Do you recall when that was?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir.

Chairman STOKES. Do you recall when that was?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I don't I'd see him numerous times around Havana.

Chairman STOKES. Do you recall whether you said hello to him in the prison on either one of those occasions?

Mr. McWILLIE. I probably said hello to him the second time I was there.

Chairman STOKES. Did you do anything else, shake hands with him or anything like that?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

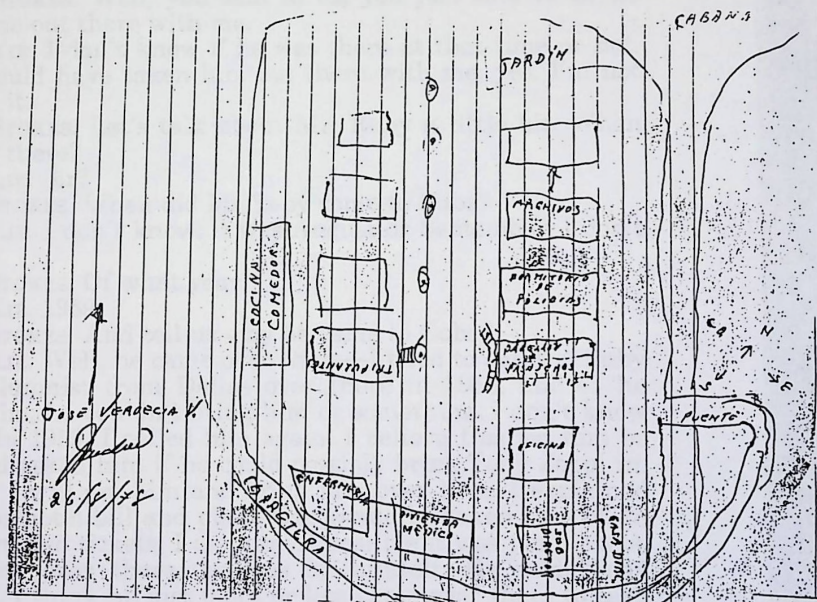
Chairman STOKES. Probably just said hello.

Mr. McWILLIE. That's all.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, at this time I ask that JFK exhibit F-436, which is a rough sketch of the layout of Trescornia, obtained during a committee trip to Cuba, be entered into the record.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibit F-436 is entered into the record.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-436 follows:]



JFK EXHIBIT F-436

Chairman STOKES. Was someone in that prison by the name of Charles Tourine?

Mr. McWILLIE. Who?

Chairman STOKES. Charles Tourine?

Mr. McWILLIE. No; I don't know.

Chairman STOKES. You don't know anybody by that name? How about Charles Del Monico?

Mr. McWILLIE. Del Monico?

Chairman STOKES. Del Monico?

Mr. McWILLIE. No.

Chairman STOKES. Lucian Rivard?

Mr. McWILLIE. Not that I know of.

Chairman STOKES. Jake Lansky was there; right?

Mr. McWILLIE. Jake Lansky was there; right.

Chairman STOKES. How about Henry Savaadra?

Mr. McWILLIE. No.

Chairman STOKES. And Cellini was there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Cellini was there, yes, Eddie Cellini—I mean Dino.

Chairman STOKES. Now, on your two visits there, on either one of those visits, did either De George or Cellini or anyone else ask you to do anything for them outside of the prison?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Who went out to the prison with you?

Mr. McWILLIE. Who what, sir?

Chairman STOKES. Who went out there with you to the prison?

Mr. McWILLIE. Jack Ruby could have been out there one time with me. I don't think he was. I went out there, I think, by myself.

Chairman STOKES. Well, you said to us, you just said to us he could have gone out there with me.

Mr. McWILLIE. I don't know if he was there at that time or not. If he was, I could have taken him out there with me, yes. I'm not positive about it.

Chairman STOKES. Let's talk about Mr. Ruby a little bit. When was Mr. Ruby there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Chairman STOKES. When did Mr. Ruby come to Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. I don't know; it was August or September; I don't know.

Chairman STOKES. Of what year?

Mr. McWILLIE. 1959.

Chairman STOKES. And tell us why he came to Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, he came over there—I tried to get Mr. Ruby to bring a columnist from Dallas over there in 1958, and so he didn't bring him, he couldn't bring him or something. I don't know what it was. In 1959, I called him again. I believe I called him or wrote him and asked him if he could possibly bring Tony Zoppi in. He said yeah, I will get him and bring him over here. I explained to him that his hotel bill and plane fare would be taken care of. In fact, I sent him two tickets; I am almost positive it was two tickets. When he came over there, he was by himself. He said, Tony couldn't come. I think he just more or less came over there to take a vacation. Course, I never heard from Tony again.

Chairman STOKES. So that we understand it, Jack Ruby came to Cuba at your invitation?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, he did.

Chairman STOKES. And you are the one who sent him the tickets?

Mr. McWILLIE. But he was supposed to bring Tony Zoppi, ex-columnist.

Chairman STOKES. But instead of bringing Zoppi—

Mr. McWILLIE. He came by himself; yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. In order to try and get a better idea of when Ruby was there, what is your best recollection as to whether it was August or whether it was September or whether he came in August and left in September?

Mr. McWILLIE. He was just there a week, 6 days, maybe.

Chairman STOKES. I am sorry.

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Chairman STOKES. I didn't hear you?

Mr. McWILLIE. He was there 6 days. I don't recall the exact date when he was there.

Chairman STOKES. Can you recall any holidays around that time?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, no, I can't.

Chairman STOKES. Now, would it help refresh your recollection if we said to you that there are people who saw Ruby in Havana on September 5, September 6 and September 7? Would that help refresh your recollection.

Mr. McWILLIE. That would be the time he was there then, if people saw him there.

Chairman STOKES. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would ask at this point that the following exhibits be entered into the record: JFK F-575, which is a segment of a letter written by Tony Zoppi; F-576, which is a committee interview with Mr. Zoppi; F-577, which is an FBI report of an interview with Jack Ruby; F-578, F-579, and F-580, which are statements of persons who saw Jack Ruby in Havana, Cuba; and finally F-582, which is an FBI report that further suggests that Ruby went to Cuba.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibits F-575 through F-580, and F-582 are entered into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK exhibits F-575 through F-580 and F-582 follow:]

50 to 100 years.

Give my regards to Mac Willie next time you are in touch.
~~Jack Ruby and Tony Zoppi were supposed to visit him in Havana, but~~
~~not side-tracked. Jack went to Havana and it has caused the~~
~~fact not to come out over the years.~~ The quick buck artists are
 saying Jack went down there to plan the assassination. He
 couldn't have planned a gas station holdup in those days. All
 of a sudden he's a CIA agent, a mafia don, etc., etc.. Chicken'ing.

Keep in touch and God bless. Keep up the good work and
 I will say another prayer for Buddy.

Sincerely,

Buck

JFK EXHIBIT F-576

JFK F-576 — KENNEDY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

007360

Name Tony Zoppi Date 3/31/78 Time 2:15 P.M.
 Address _____ Place Zoppi's office at the
Riviera Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada

Interview:

He stated that Dallas was a fairly clean city ^(during 1950's) which had no syndicated or organized crime that he was aware of. Zoppi said the Dallas Citizens Charter Group (whose head was "Uncle Bob Thornton", a banker) was a leading civic group in 1950 - 1963 and was pretty good about keeping the city clean. He had heard the syndicate might have attempted to move into Dallas in the 1950s from Chicago but was sent back. Upon questioning, he said it could have been in the late 1940s when attempts were made to bribe Sheriff Guthrie. He thought Ruby moved to Dallas because he had a sister operating a club there. Zoppi described Eva as a "tough gutsy yenta", and the club as never doing very well but staying above water.

Jack Ruby was aggressive, always trying to improve himself. Joe Bonds was Ruby's first partner in the Sky Club. Bonds was subsequently arrested for sodomy, jumped bail and left. The club went downhill after Bond's arrest. Ruby he recalls, moved to the Bob Wills ranch house in approximately 1952.

Prior to 1950, the Sopango (possibly Cipango) Club operated as a club for millionaires only and did have gambling. Gambling at the Top of the Hill Club stopped in the late 1940s. He said there was very little gambling in Dallas into the 1950s and that which existed was locally organized, not national. He doesn't know Harry Urban.

Zoppi knew McWillie, but not well.

It was Zoppi's impression that there was little gambling in Dallas itself. It was more prevalent in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area. There was extensive football betting which operated very discretely. Each bookie had perhaps 10 customers and was not part of a large organization.

Interviewer Signature

J. L. Wolf *D. A. Purdy*

Typed Signature

J. L. Wolf

D. A. Purdy

Date transcribed 4/18/78

Caryl Emanuel

By: _____ Form #4-P

ARCHIVES

Zoppi interview - page 2

Zoppi knew Ben Whitaker ran a gambling operation when Dallas was wide open in the 1940s. He knew Ray Ryan, (now deceased) and that he took millions from H. L. Hunt in gambling dealings.

Zoppi doesn't know and never heard of Harry Hall (Haler or Sinclair).

Zoppi knows Babe Baron who is also currently working for the Riviera in an informal, largely ceremonial role. Baron's first name is Charles. He is a general in the Army Reserves and a close friend of General Curtis LeMay. (We subsequently learned that Baron was visiting LeMay the following week).

Regarding gambling clubs in Dallas, he stated they were the only places you could go for mixed drinks. A curfew was in effect at midnight. There were no real problems with the police, but there were sometimes problems with the State Alcoholic Control Board. Zoppi said his average contacts with Ruby were once or twice a month, usually when J. R. wanted his club acts plugged in Zoppi's newspaper column. Sometimes there could be a few in a week.

Ruby visited Zoppi at 10:30 on the morning of the assassination with a picture of an ESP expert he wanted Zoppi to plug. Ruby was considering using the picture in an ad in the newspaper. Ruby later said he was a "highly emotional person" and Zoppi believed him to be too calm that morning to have been involved in a conspiracy. Ruby told him he was moving into a new apartment starting Monday that cost \$190 a month (up from the \$100 that Ruby had been paying). The new address was 21 Turtle Creek. When Zoppi questioned about it, Ruby said "I've scrimped all my life and now I want to live a little." These were Ruby's last words to Zoppi. Ruby's financial status was never good. He stated Ruby always had pieces of clubs, some of which were backed by Ralph Paul. Zoppi said Ruby was not involved in gambling. He would be very surprised to hear Jack Ruby ever laid or took a bet.

Zoppi knows Alice Nichols, Ruby's former girlfriend. He was surprised to hear she said that Ruby had gambled.

Zoppi hasn't seen McWillie since the 1940s except perhaps once when he ran into him in the Thunderbird. Zoppi said McWillie had lived in a very plush home in Dallas. He knew his wife at that time. His (McWillie's) wife later married Abe Weinstein. Bob Larkin was a bouncer in one of the clubs. Zoppi said he never checked with McWillie on his story (1973) about McWillie

inviting Zoppi and Ruby to Cuba. We found this very surprising, but he insisted he had never checked with McWillie on the story.

His best recollection was that during September or October of 1958 Ruby offered to write McWillie at the Tropicana to get them airplane tickets so Zoppi could review the acts at the Tropicana to help McWillie's business. The "OK" for the trip was received in two or three weeks. The date was scheduled to be approximately December 8 or 9 (or 10 - 12) and the trip was to last 4-5 days. Zoppi wanted to be back for the holidays. They would pay their own way down and be reimbursed: this was the common practice for journalists reviewing acts. In late November, Jack Entratter and Al Freeman called inviting Zoppi to review a big anniversary show at the Sands in Las Vegas. Zoppi said (as he had written in his article) the show was a "summit meeting" show featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford. Zoppi figured there wouldn't be anything "like this" in Cuba so he decided to postpone the trip and told Ruby he would meet him down there after the new year on approximately January 4. Ruby told Zoppi he would go down, stay down there and meet Zoppi in Cuba. Zoppi then states he never went down due to Castro's takeover in January. He vaguely remembers Ruby told him he had a good time in Cuba. He doesn't know if Ruby had been there before or not. He thinks it's "B.S." that Jack Ruby would have seen Trafficante - they were simply "...not in the same league." When questioned about the receipt or payment of the plane tickets, Zoppi said he doesn't recall receiving a ticket and isn't sure if Ruby told him that McWillie sent them.

Concerning AGVA he stated Vincent Lee ("a real martinet") ran AGVA in the early 1950's, followed by Dean Jennings (who lives in the San Francisco area now), followed by Jim Dolan. He said AGVA was very strong in the 50's, but deteriorated post 1963 since the union treasury was basically being robbed. Ruby's travels with AGVA led him to go see Tony Pappa of Associated Booking. Union policy required that clubs use AGVA members in their acts and put up a deposit to ensure that the acts would be paid. Tony Pappa currently resides three weeks in Beverly Hills and one week in Dallas. Ruby also went to see Joe Glazier, who is Pappa's boss in furtherance of his complaint against Abe Weinstein. Ruby tried to see Joey Adams (well connected with Glazier) and Jackie Bright, head of AGVA in New York, but they wouldn't let Ruby in to see them. AGVA boycotted acts or clubs who were not affiliated with the union.

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Zoppi interview - page 4

The Weinstein Club, next door to Ruby, was one of the best of the second rate clubs, and was not unionized, but AGVA did not challenge it. This drove Ruby Crazy. Zoppi figures Weinstein was probably paying off the union. Ruby's business was hurting because of the competition with Weinstein, and he was mad, because he was still stuck with Jada who would not back out of her contract.

Zoppi spoke with Gordon McClendon about one month ago. Zoppi knows him well and likes him. G.M. owned KLIF in Dallas and the Liberty Network (J.R. hung around there some). Ruby, he says, loved McClendon because he "had class."

A Dallas police officer named Trautman (phoenetic - possibly Trautham) gave Zoppi a radio speaker that had been in Ruby's locker. He reportedly walked the beat which included the Carousel Club. This concluded the first interview.

The second interview with Zoppi was conducted on 4/5/78 at 1:30 P.M. at his office in the Riviera. This was subsequent to the depositions taken of Lewis McWillie.

We questioned Zoppi concerning the dates of his proposed trip with Ruby to Cuba, in light of McWillie's certainty that Ruby visited in August of 1959. We showed Zoppi the letter McWillie had given us that Zoppi had written to Matty Brescia in 1976 which had "refreshed" McWillie's recollection that Zoppi had had a role in Ruby's trip to Cuba. Zoppi authenticated his signature.

Zoppi said Matty Brescia worked for Gordon McClendon and Liberty Broadcasting. One evening around 1952 Zoppi, Brescia and Candy Barr were at the Bob Wills Ranch House. Brescia told Jack Ruby that Tony Zoppi was in the audience, and ~~Brescia~~ about Zoppi's first meeting with Ruby causing Ruby to introduce Zoppi to the crowd. Brescia knew Ruby through McClendon.

We questioned Zoppi further about the timing of the proposed trip to Cuba and the reasons it never came off as planned. We pointed out to Zoppi that Castro's takeover did not prevent travel to Cuba, at least not right away. We asked Zoppi if he could give us a better idea why he thought the trip was planned for December of 1958 and not a different year.

Zoppi interview - page 5

Zoppi called the Sands Hotel to check on their big shows during the 1958 - 1961 period to see what show he may have reviewed to cancel his trip to Cuba. He stated it could have been the December, 1958 show with Rowan and Martin, the December, 1960 show with Marty Allen and Steve Rossi, or the December, 1959 show with Dean Martin. The big show that he thought it was, with Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis did not take place until January 20 - February 16 of 1960. After reviewing all the shows, he admitted he was very unsure what the date of the scheduled trip was to be. In fact, it was agreed that perhaps Ruby had gone down in August, 1959 on a vacation for himself, and the trip Zoppi and Ruby were to take was to be a second trip to Cuba that in fact neither one ever went on due to Zoppi's cancelling out.

Zoppi's recollection of the January 4th alternative date ^{for the trip,} which he thought was prevented by Castro's takeover, could possibly have been prevented by the severing of diplomatic relations between the U. S. and Cuba on January 1, 1961.

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FBI interview report
on Ruby, 12.25.63

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JFK EXHIBIT F-577

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

(FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION) ON

JFK F-577 -

Date 12/25/63

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JACK L. RUBY was interviewed in an interview room located on floor 6-M of the Dallas County Jail, Dallas, Texas. His attorneys, MELVIN BELLI, San Francisco, California; JOE TONAHILL, Jasper, Texas; SAM BRODY, Los Angeles, California, and WILLIAM CHOULOS, San Francisco, California, were present. The interview commenced at 1:50 PM and continued until 3:30 PM, when RUBY went to the rest room. It was resumed again at 3:34 PM and continued until 5:00 PM.

JACK L. RUBY was advised by SA C. RAY HALL that he did not have to make any statement. He was reminded that his attorney were present, and that any statements he made in answers to questions could be used against him in a court of law.

JACK L. RUBY then furnished the following information:

On the night of Wednesday, November 20, 1963, he was at his club, the Carousel Club, in Dallas, Texas. He thinks he close the club at about 2:00 AM on November 21, 1963. One of his dancer called "LITTLE LYNN", drank some champagne before closing, and when she started home she got sick and passed out at Nichols Brothers parking garage near his club. He thinks this occurred after 2:00 AM on November 21, 1963, but it could have been after 2:00 AM on November 20, 1963. He went over to see about her, and tried to get her to go to a hospital, but she refused to go. He remained with her, trying to take care of her, until 4:00 AM or 5:00 AM and then went home, so far as he can now recall. After he got home, he went to bed and went to sleep.

At about 10:30 AM or 11:00 AM on November 21, 1963, he received a telephone call at home from a girl named TRAMMELL, whose first name may be CONNIE, or something similar. He met this girl at the Carousel Club about eight months previously, and since meet her she has called him on the telephone several times. The TRAMMELL girl lives in an apartment on either Gaston Avenue or Live Oak Street in Dallas. When she called him on November 21, 1963, she told him that she had to get a job and that she had an appointment with LAMAR HUNT. He asked her how she got an appointment with HUNT, and she told him that she called HUNT's home and got his number, then just called his office and asked him for an appointment about a job.

on 12/21/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agents C. RAY HALL and
MANNING C. CLEMENTS - LAC Date dictated 12/23/63

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TRAMMELL asked RUBY to come after her and give her a ride downtown, so he got dressed, picked her up and drove her downtown. RUBY had an appointment with his attorney but does not remember whether it was GRAHAM KOCH or STANLEY KAUFMAN. Both attorneys have offices in the Mercantile Securities Building, Dallas, the same building in which LAMAR HUNT has his offices. TRAMMELL went up to see LAMAR HUNT and after RUBY completed his business with his attorney regarding some tax matters, he waited around the cigar stand in the lobby for a while for TRAMMELL to come down, but she did not, so he left and went to the Carousel Club. When he got to the club, one of his employees named LARRY was there.

LARRY was a young boy whom he had seen at the State Fair of Texas, and he gave LARRY a job at the Carousel Club after the fair closed. He had asked LARRY to build a crate so he could ship a dog to a friend of RUBY's, AL GRUBER, who lives on Olympic Street in Los Angeles, California. LARRY had not built the crate, so he got after him for not having done what he had asked him to do. So far as he remembers, he stayed around the Carousel Club until about 9:30 PM, when he and RALPH PAUL, who owns part of the Carousel Club, went to the Egyptian Lounge for dinner.

While they were eating at the Egyptian Lounge, a man named CONNORS, who is a salesman for the Dallas Morning News newspaper, came over to the table and invited RUBY over to the Castaway Club located nearby. He declined the invitation because he did not want to go to this club as the manager had hired an orchestra away from RUBY that had played for RUBY for several years. After dinner, RUBY returned to the Carousel Club. During the evening of November 21, 1963, he did the breaks between shows, which were two breaks of twenty minutes each, and he used a roulette wheel to give away prizes to the audience. Sometime during the evening, he ordered someone out of the club because he was creating a disturbance, but he has no idea who this person was. He believes he closed the Carousel Club at about 2:00 AM on November 22, 1963, and went home. If he went anywhere to eat before going home, he does not remember it. He does not now remember whether GEORGE SENATOR, who shares the apartment with RUBY, was at home when he arrived there or not, but he went directly to bed and went to sleep.

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On the morning of November 22, 1963, RUBY got up at about 9:30 AM and does not now recall whether GEORGE SENATOR was in the apartment or not. He drove downtown and stopped at the Dallas Morning News at about 10:50 AM. He believes he stopped for a moment and talked to two girls employed there, GLADYS CRADDO and a girl named CONNELLY or CONNELL. He thinks he gave them a bottle of Larson's CRD, a food supplement for persons on a diet. He then went to the office of TONY ZOPPI, but TONY was not there. RUBY looked over a brochure there about BILL DEMAR, a master of ceremonies at the Carousel Club. Another employee of the newspaper, a Mr. PAYNE, may have been in ZOPPI's office while RUBY was in there.

RUBY left that office and went to Mr. JOHN NEWMAN's office at the newspaper to talk about RUBY's ads. RUBY was trying to make a 12:00 noon deadline. Mr. CONNORS, the same person RUBY had seen at the Egyptian Lounge the previous evening, came in to NEWMAN's office, and they talked for a while. NEWMAN came in, and RUBY completed his advertisements for his clubs.

At about that time, people began running around, and RUBY heard someone say that somebody had been shot. First, he heard that Governor CONNALLY had been shot, then a Secret Service Agent, and then someone said that "our beloved President has been shot". RUBY then called his sister, EVA GRANT, and told her about the shooting and told her he would be at her house as soon as he could. He left the Dallas Morning News but does not know the time when he left. He drove to the Carousel Club and told his employee, ANDY ARMSTRONG, to get in touch with everybody and tell them he was closing his clubs. He then called a friend, ALICE NICHOLS, and she told him that Neiman-Marcus had closed their store. He called AL GRUBER in Los Angeles from the Carousel Club and told GRUBER he would send a dog to him soon. RUBY said he talked to GRUBER about the death of President KENNEDY but began crying and finally just told GRUBER he had to break it off and hung up the telephone.

Somebody brought some merchandise to the club, but he does not remember who it was, and RUBY just told the man to take the merchandise back as he did not want any. He called his sister several times during the afternoon and was so upset that he was belligerent toward his employees, ANDY and LARRY, who were at the Carousel Club. He remembers getting a telephone call from KATHY KAY; he called his business associate, RALPH PAUL, and told PAUL that he was going to close his clubs; he called BRECK WALL in Galveston, and also JOE PETERSON; and he called his sister EILEEN in Chicago, locating her at his sister MARIAN's house.

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Sometime late that afternoon, he left the Carousel Club and went to the Ritz Delicatessen and bought a lot of food and then went to the home of his sister in Dallas, EVA GRANT. He and his sister talked and while there, his employee, ANDY, called and told him that DON SAFRAN, of the Dallas Times Herald, had called and wanted to get in touch with him. RUBY then called SAFRAN, who told RUBY that the Cabana and the Century Room were going to close and he did not know what ABE and BARNEY WEINSTEIN were going to do. RUBY said he told SAFRAN that he had already closed, without asking what the other club owners were doing. SAFRAN then asked RUBY about whether he would be open the next night, and RUBY said he did not know but would call him back. In a few minutes RUBY called SAFRAN back and told him he was going to be closed Saturday and Sunday nights, in addition to Friday night.

At no time did RUBY go to Parkland Hospital on November 22, 1963. At about 7:00 PM or 8:00 PM, he left his sister's home and drove to his apartment to get dressed to go to Congregation Shearith Israel Synagogue, arriving there at about 10:00 PM or 10:30 PM. Before he left his apartment, he called Dr. COLEMAN JACOBSON to determine when the services began at his Synagogue. Following services, refreshments were served, but he did not feel like visiting with anyone. He stayed there for a short time, then drove toward downtown. He passed the Club Bali Hai, noticing that it was open, and then drove by the Gay Life Club and saw that it was closed. He then drove on to Phil's Delicatessen and went in and talked to the owner, PHIL MILLER. He had read in the newspaper, or heard over the radio, that the police officers in the Homicide Bureau would be working overtime that night, so he ordered ten sandwiches and decided he would take them something to eat. After he ordered the sandwiches, he called the Police Department Homicide Bureau and talked to Detective SIMS, telling him he was getting some sandwiches and would bring them down for them. SIMS told him they were about through and were winding up things there and did not want anything to eat. After SIMS told him that, he decided he would take the sandwiches to the employees at KLIF Radio Station.

He explained that he has known GORDON MC LENDON, owner of the radio station, for a number of years, and he also knows RUSS KNIGHT, a disk jockey at the station. The employees at the

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radio station have been good about giving him free plugs when he was trying to get started with his clubs, and he just wanted to do something for them because he knew they would be working late. He called GORDON MC LENDON's home, from Phil's Delicatessen in order to get a number at the radio station so he could talk to the men on duty there. The daughter gave him a number, and he told her he was going to take some sandwiches to the radio station, but the daughter told him her mother had already sent some food up there. RUBY called the number he had gotten, but it was a wrong number.

He picked up his sandwiches and discovered they had made only eight; when he ordered ten. He drank a soft drink, then left with his sandwiches and drove downtown, driving up Commerce Street and parking across from the City Hall. He decided to go to the Police Department to try to locate some newsmen from KLIF in order to obtain the unlisted phone number for the radio station. He went to the third floor of the Police Department, where the newsmen were gathered. As he got off the elevator, a policeman, who was not known to RUBY, asked him where he was going, or whom he wanted to see. RUBY told him he was looking for JOE DELONG, of KLIF, and the officer let him go on inside. He looked around for a while, without seeing anyone from KLIF, and asked some unknown police officer to have JOE DELONG paged over the loud-speaker. DELONG did not answer the page, but while he was waiting he saw Captain FRITZ, of the Police Department, come out of his office with a person, OSWALD. RUBY heard a reporter tell FRITZ that this was not a good place, so FRITZ went back inside his office with OSWALD. In a minute, RUBY heard some newsmen say something about the basement, so he went down there to an assembly room where some newsmen were.

When he saw OSWALD here, this was the first time that he had ever seen him. He had never heard the name of LEE HARVEY OSWALD before OSWALD's arrest on November 22, 1963, by the Dallas Police Department. Any rumors that OSWALD was ever at any of RUBY's clubs are wrong because RUBY had never seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD at any place before he saw him with Captain FRITZ at the Dallas Police Department the night of November 22, 1963. Any rumors that OSWALD was at the Carousel Club are absolutely untrue. RUBY has since heard reports that his master of ceremonies at the Carousel Club, BILL DEMAR, has reported that OSWALD was at the Carousel Club one night before President KENNEDY was assassinated.

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RUBY said that this is absolutely false, because OSWALD was never there. RUBY has heard that ED SULLIVAN got in touch with BILL DEMAR and wanted DEMAR on SULLIVAN's television program, but SULLIVAN did not believe DEMAR's story and would not use him. RUBY further advised that newspaper reports that RUBY and OSWALD were seen together in Waco, Texas, are complete falsehoods because he was never with OSWALD anywhere. Reports that OSWALD was going to RUBY's apartment after President KENNEDY's death are absolutely false, because OSWALD did not know RUBY. RUBY has never had any previous connection with OSWALD, and OSWALD could not have been going to RUBY's apartment. RUBY said that his employee, ANDY ARMSTRONG, knows more about RUBY's club and RUBY's morals than anyone else, and ANDY can tell anyone that OSWALD was never in the Carousel Club.

When RUBY got to the assembly room, he went to the back of the room and stood on top of a table, so he could see and be out of the way. In a few minutes, HENRY WADE, the District Attorney, and Captain FRITZ came into the assembly room with OSWALD for an interview with the press. OSWALD mumbled or talked a little, but the newsmen could not hear him. RUBY did not hear OSWALD either. After a short time, Captain FRITZ took OSWALD away. HENRY WADE was then interviewed by the newsmen.

RUBY said that he had his revolver in his right front trouser pocket all during this evening, November 22 and 23, 1963, except when he went to church services. He left the revolver in his car while he was in church but put it back in his right trouser pocket when he got back to his car. He said he carried his gun because he had a lot of money on his person and always carried his gun when he carried money.

After the interview with WADE, RUBY left the assembly room and was out in the corridor. A newsmen came by whom RUBY did not know, and RUBY asked him if he had seen JOE DELONG, of KLIF. This man said he had not seen DELONG, and RUBY mentioned that he had some sandwiches for KLIF. This man said he was from KBOX radio and asked RUBY what was the matter with them. RUBY said he told the man that next time maybe, but this time he had the sandwiches for KLIF. This man from KBOX then gave RUBY the unlisted phone number for KLIF. RUBY went around behind the counter in the basement offices of the Police Department and telephoned KLIF, talking to an employee named KEN. He told KEN he had some sandwiches but could not get in the entrance door to the radio station. At about that time, HENRY WADE walked by, and RUBY was still talking to KEN so he asked KEN if he wanted to talk to HENRY WADE. KEN said he did, so RUBY called

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to HENRY WADE and told WADE he was wanted on the telephone. WADE talked on the phone to KEN, then handed the phone back to RUBY. RUBY talked to KEN again, and KEN told him it was great of RUBY to help him get the interview with WADE.

RUBY said he then left the Police Department building, went to his car and drove over to Radio Station KLIF. He got the sandwiches out of his car to take them upstairs, but the front door was locked. In about ten or fifteen minutes, RUSS KNIGHT came by and let him inside. They all went upstairs, and the employees on duty ate the sandwiches. RUBY left Radio Station KLIF at about 3:00 AM on November 23, 1963, and drove to the Dallas Times Herald newspaper building. He went inside and talked to an employee named PAT GADOSH and gave PAT a twist board, an exerciser. GADOSH is the person at the newspaper who takes RUBY's ads for his clubs.

He talked with GADOSH about the advertisement in the Dallas Morning News, by BERNARD WEISSMAN, that was critical of President KENNEDY. GADOSH told RUBY not to worry about the ad, because the Dallas Morning News was suffering enough for carrying such an ad. RUBY got his ad taken care of and drove toward home.

While driving home, RUBY thought of the similarity between the BERNARD WEISSMAN advertisement and a sign he had seen which read, "Impeach EARL WARREN". He drove home and awakened GEORGE SENATOR and asked SENATOR to go with him. He called the Carousel Club and awakened his employee, LARRY, and asked LARRY if he knew how to operate a Polaroid camera. LARRY said he could operate the camera, so he told LARRY he would be down to pick up LARRY and the camera. RUBY and SENATOR then drove to the Carousel Club sometime about 4:00 or 5:00 AM on November 23, 1963, and picked up LARRY and the camera. They drove to Central Expressway and Ross Avenue, where they found a sign, about 2 feet by 4 feet, on top of a Potter Steel Company sign, which read "Impeach EARL WARREN", and at the bottom of this sign was "Box 1757, Beltham, Mass."

They took some photographs of this sign, and RUBY then remembered that the BERNARD WEISSMAN ad had the address "Box 1792 Dallas, Texas", so they drove to the Main Post Office in Dallas and looked at Post Office Box 1792. RUBY asked a man on duty at the post office for the name of the man who had Post Office Box 1792, but the man told him he could not give RUBY the name of the box holder. They left and went to the Southland Hotel

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Coffee Shop, where RUBY talked for a few minutes with the owner, a man believed to be named WEBB. RUBY said as a patriotic American he was so upset and intense over the sign, and the advertisement critical of President KENNEDY, that he could not eat anything but drank some orange juice at the coffee shop. They left the coffee shop and dropped off LARRY at the Carousel Club at about 6:00 AM. As he got out of the car, LARRY told RUBY that he supposed RUBY was not going to bed, and RUBY told LARRY that he was not going to bed. RUBY and SENATOR drove on to their apartment and went to bed.

At about 8:30 AM on November 23, 1963, LARRY phoned RUBY and asked him what kind of dog food he wanted. RUBY said that before he realized that he had told LARRY he was not going to bed, he talked real ugly to LARRY. He found out later that LARRY left the keys to the Carousel Club next door and left town without telling RUBY he was leaving or where he was going. RUBY got up at about 11:00 or 11:30 AM and got dressed and drove downtown. He decided to stop and look at all the wreaths that had been placed on the side of the street near where President KENNEDY had been shot. He looked at the wreaths, then went over to talk to Police Officer CHANEY, who was on duty there, and talked with CHANEY for a few minutes, but choked up and left because he did not want CHANEY to see him crying. He went on up the street and met WES WISE, of KRLD television station and talked to WISE for a few minutes. He drove on away and as he was leaving he noticed that Captain FRITZ and Chief of Police CURRY were walking around the scene of the assassination. He backed up and told WISE, "There goes FRITZ and CURRY". He then drove on home.

Later on in the afternoon he drove back downtown and went to Sol's Turf Bar and talked with a man named BELLOCHIO, or something like that, who was in the place, and also talked to his accountant, ABE KLEINMAN, who was in the place. He showed them photos that he had taken of the sign "Impeach EARL WARREN", and they talked about that. BELLOCHIO was talking about the bad publicity that Dallas would get because President KENNEDY had been killed in Dallas and said he would probably have to leave town. RUBY reminded him that he had made his money in Dallas and should not leave now. BELLOCHIO wanted one of the photos that RUBY had taken, but RUBY would not give him a photo. While in this bar RUBY called his attorney, STANLEY KAUFMAN, and he told STANLEY about the photos. RUBY was in Sol's Turf Bar about forty-five minutes, then left sometime between 3:00 and 4:00 PM on the afternoon of November 23, 1963.

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He does not remember exactly where he went when he left but may have gone by the Lacy Building to see his tailor, but he then went back to the Carousel Club and then on home. His employee ANDY at the Carousel Club called him about 6:00 PM and wanted to leave, but RUBY told ANDY to stay at the club to answer any incoming telephone calls. He stayed home until about 11:00 PM, when he went to the Pago Club. He sat down at a back table and ordered a Coke. BOB MORTON, the manager, came over and told RUBY that he was going to close the club but had been told to keep it open. RUBY told MORTON that was all right; he could do whatever he wanted to do, but he had closed his clubs. RUBY left there after he finished his Coke and drove to his Carousel Club. He stayed around there for a little while, then drove home because he was not interested in any gaiety. He did not go to the Cabana Motel and visit a club there.

RUBY said that on the morning of November 24, 1963, he got a call from one of his dancers called LITTLE LYNN, who has been a pain to him because of her actions, and she said she needed some money for her landlord. On Friday night, November 22, 1963, he had to give her \$5.00 so she could get home. He did not want her to come by his apartment to get the money because her husband would come with her and RUBY did not like her husband. He told LYNN he would send her some money by Western Union to Fort Worth, Texas. He had a lot of money with him that he had for a deposit to pay his excise tax, so he got his revolver and put it in his right front trouser pocket. He said he never carried a gun in his coat pocket because it would get his coat out of shape.

He said he had no permit to carry a gun and had no card or badge as any kind of ~~law enforcement officer~~. However, a number of officers of the Dallas Police Department knew he had a gun. He recalled that a couple of times the police officers had taken him out of jail and given his gun back to him. He did not recall the names of these officers. He said that being around clubs and carrying money--it was like a jungle with all the stickups--he carried his revolver when he had money on his person.

He left his apartment, got in his car and started to town to send the money to LITTLE LYNN. As he drove out of his driveway, he stopped and talked to a neighbor, name unknown but who is the father-in-law of Police Officer BUDDY MUENSTER. RUBY had his dog in the car with him. He drove toward town on the Thornton Expressway and turned off onto Industrial Street, then up Industrial to Main Street so he could see the wreaths at the

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spot where President KENNEDY was assassinated. As he passed the County Building, he noticed a lot of people around so he assumed that OSWALD had already been moved to the County Jail. He drove on up Main Street and as he passed the City Hall he noticed a number of people around there. Just before he reached the next corner, he made an illegal left turn into a parking lot across the street from the Western Union Office and parked his car there. He left his dog in his car. He then walked across the street and sent a money order for \$25.00 to LITTLE LYNN at Fort Worth.

After sending the telegram, he left the Western Union office and walked west on the same side of the street, toward the City Hall, located on the next corner. Before he reached the Police Department building, he noticed a police officer standing at the entrance to the ramp going into the basement from Main Street, but he did not know the police officer. Just before he reached that point, a police car came out of the basement, and he recognized the driver of the police car as Lieut. PIERCE. He explained he has known Lieut. PIERCE for twelve or fourteen years. PIERCE did not look toward him or speak to him and RUBY did not speak to Lieut. PIERCE. RUBY could not recall seeing anyone else in the police car with Lieut. PIERCE in either the front or back seat of the police car.

As the police car driven by Lieut. PIERCE came out of the basement ramp, the officer on duty at the entrance stepped back and walked toward the curb next to the street, with his back toward RUBY. As the police car got even with this officer, the officer stooped down and looked inside the car. At about this time, RUBY had reached the entrance to the Main Street ramp, and he took in the movement of the police car and the officer on duty at the ramp, with a quick glance. Without breaking his stride or hesitating, RUBY turned to his left and walked down the ramp into the basement. As he entered the ramp, he does not recall seeing any person standing around the entrance, and he does not know a former police officer named DANIELS.

RUBY said he is positive he did not have either of his hands in any of his pockets--either coat or trouser pockets--when he entered and walked down the ramp. He did not look behind him to see which way the police car went when it entered the street, and he did not look behind him to see whether anyone observed him entering the basement. RUBY said he had no kind

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of press card or any other kind of identification on the outside of his coat, and he exhibited no identification to anyone to gain entrance to the basement.

Just as he got to the bottom of the ramp, RUBY said, "A person who pops out with two men; that is all I can remember; naturally I know who he is; to me; he had this smirky, smug, vindictive attitude; I can't explain what impression he gave me, but that is all I can---, well, I just lost my senses; the next I knew I was on the ground and five or six people were on top of me". RUBY said that as he was going down the ramp he spoke to no one and no one spoke to him. He did not recognize anyone in the crowd there, and he did not stop and stand behind anyone.

RUBY was asked why he killed OSWALD, and he said, "I was in mourning Friday and Saturday. To me, when he shot before me like he did, something in my insides tore out, and I just went blank. To me, he represented--I'll go back a little bit. I listened to a eulogy Saturday morning, I am sure, and I heard Rabbi SILVERMAN speak about our President. He said, 'Here is a man that fought in all battles, but he didn't have a chance to fight here, he was shot from the rear'. I have been around people that are so smug and hard. Then about OSWALD being associated with Communism, and how he blemished this beautiful city; and Mrs. KENNEDY having to come back to the trial. I told no one I was going to kill him. No one knew I was going to shoot him. I didn't discuss anything with anyone about shooting him. No police officer assisted me in any way, or did, or said anything to suggest my shooting OSWALD. I remembered MULLINAX, a police officer who was killed, and MULLINAX was a friend of mine. I did not know J. D. TIPPIT. I knew a TIPPIT on the police department, but he was in the Special Service Bureau, and he was not the TIPPIT that was killed. I did not know the TIPPIT that was killed."

RUBY said he has never had any serious illnesses or hospitalizations and does not have a steel plate in his head. He volunteered his mother had previously been committed to an insane asylum. He professed to know of no other history of mental illness in his family.

RUBY stated he was born in Chicago in 1911. He spent four or five years in various foster homes in Chicago, mentioning that his father was an alcoholic. He said the father's alcoholic habits contributed to his mother's mental condition, along with her problems in "the change of life". He said he remained in Chicago until 1933.

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He said that in 1933 he, one ALMY DUNN, MAURY (last name not recalled) and a third person, whose name he could not immediately recall, went to Los Angeles, California, where they sold "Collier's Tip Sheet", which he described as a handicapper's tip sheet for horse races. He said their arrival in the Los Angeles area coincided, as he recalled, with the opening of the Santa Anita Race Track. He related they remained in the Los Angeles area for a few months only and during the same year, 1933, went to the San Francisco area, where he at first engaged in similar activities at the Bay Meadows Race Track. Subsequently, he sold subscriptions to Hearst newspapers, the San Francisco Examiner and San Francisco Call Bulletin, covering San Francisco and small towns in the general area.

He said he remained in San Francisco until 1937 and returned to Chicago and was unemployed for a considerable period. In 1941, he related, he, his brother EARL RUBY, HARRY EPSTEIN, MARTY SHARGOL (Phonetic) and MARTY GIMPLE "went on the road" selling punch boards and small cedar chests in numerous Eastern and New England states. He specifically mentioned the states of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. He said he had no fixed address during this period, that the group lived in various hotels.

RUBY related that in late 1941 he returned to Chicago and continued his business of selling punch boards, primarily through mail orders. He mentioned an advertisement was run in Billboard magazine in this regard. He mentioned that during this period he became very closely associated with ARTY WAYNE, a musician.

RUBY stated he remained in Chicago until 1942. He said his brother SAMUEL was in military service, stationed at Jefferson Barracks in the St. Louis area. He said he went to St. Louis and spent a week or two there, to be near his brother. His brother EARL, he related, was at the time in the U. S. Navy, stationed at Dutch Harbor. He said he sold punch boards while in the St. Louis area. He said he returned to Chicago in 1942 and "hung around home," mentioning specifically the area of Division and Damon Streets. He said he had had difficulties with his previous partners in the punch board business.

In the period 1942-1943, he operated out of Globe Auto Glass Company, owned by one MORRIE KELLMAN. He mentioned that his brother HYMAN had, during this period, been released from military service as being "too old". He said that he personally entered

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the military service in 1943 and remained until 1946.

RUBY said that in 1946, on being discharged from military duty, he returned to Chicago and "prospered" in his mail order business involving punch boards and miscellaneous items. He said his sister EVA had for some time been wanting to operate a night club in Dallas and had moved to Dallas from California. He said he in the meantime had had some friction with his brothers and had sold his interest in their mutual business of selling punch boards and other items to the brothers.

He said he sent money to his sister EVA for a lease on a building in which to open a club. He said he at that time was living at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, having saved some money. He said for a brief period he was associated with one PINKIE HARWOOD, who lived in Detroit, in the promotion of "cookware". This was not a successful venture.

He said that in 1947 he moved to Dallas to be associated with EVA in the night club business. He returned to Chicago, however, in the same year in a few months in an effort to enter into various "merchandising deals". Being unsuccessful, he returned to Dallas in 1947 and has lived in Dallas continuously since.

RUBY said he went broke in the night club business in 1952 and had a "mental breakdown". He continued along this line by saying he was "mentally depressed" and that he "hibernated in the Cotton Bowl Hotel" for three or four months, declining to see his friends. He said he went back to Chicago briefly and his brother EARL tried to help him out financially. He returned to Dallas, however, in 1952.

RUBY said his first ventures in Dallas were the Bob Wills Ranch House and Silver Spur. He said that WILLIE EPSTEIN and MARTY GIMPLE were associated with him in the Silver Spur and it was at the Silver Spur that he went broke. He said after his "comeback" he tried operating the Silver Spur again. In 1952-1953 he operated the Ervay Theater, a motion picture house, briefly. In 1953 he became associated in the Vegas Club and "Hernando's Hideaway".

In 1956 he sold his interest in the Silver Spur. He related that in 1959-1960 he persuaded his brother EARL to come to Dallas and to assist in establishing the Sovereign Club. EARL did not remain in Dallas, however. He said the Sovereign

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Club, established as a private club, became the Carousel, which continues to operate.

RUBY said he has not been associated with or operated any night clubs except in Dallas, Texas.

RUBY stated that he visited a friend of his brother in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, in 1929-1930 for two or three months. In 1933, when en route to California on a brief trip, he went across into Mexico at Juarez. He said this was purely a "tourist" trip of short duration. He said he has never been in Mexico otherwise and has never been outside the Continental United States except as indicated above and below. He said he has never been in Honolulu, Hawaii.

RUBY related that in August 1959 he went to Havana, Cuba, to see L. C. MC WILLIE, who was "some sort of a good will man" for the Tropicana, a gambling establishment. He said MC WILL sent him a plane ticket and he lived at the Fosca Apartments with MC WILLIE for a period of eight to ten days. He said he spent all of his time in Havana except to go to a small area on one occasion with "one of the FOX brothers", who owned the Tropicana. He said his trip to Cuba was completely non-political and that he has had no correspondence with persons in Cuba. He said MC WILLIE is now at the Thunderbird Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.

RUBY stated he has not been a member of any political associations, clubs or organizations. He said his brother HYMAN was at one time interested in politics in Chicago in a small way. He said he may have belonged to B'nai B'rith and the "Jewish Welfare Fund". He said he has never been a member of the Communist Party or any "front" organizations, that he has had no membership in, or affiliation with, or interest in "Fair Play for Cuba" or any other Cuban organization of any type.

RUBY volunteered that some years ago, "at a time when CASTRO was popular in the United States", he read of an individual in the vicinity of Houston, Texas, having been engaged in "gun running to CASTRO". He said he attempted by telephone to get in touch with this individual as he had in mind "making a buck" by possibly acquiring some Jeeps or other similar equipment which he might sell to persons interested in their importation to Cuba. He said nothing came of this. He said he had never attended any meetings concerned with "gun running", smuggling of persons in or out of Cuba or otherwise in relation to Cuban affairs.

RUBY said he was associated in about 1937 in Chicago with the Scrap Iron and Junk Dealers Union but has otherwise had

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no other direct association with any union except American Guild of Variety Artists, the latter in connection with his night club businesses.

RUBY stated that during the summer of 1963 he took a trip to Houston, Texas, en route to Edna, Texas, where he visited CANDY BARR, a former Dallas strip tease figure who had just been released from the Texas State Penitentiary. He said he gave CANDY a dog as a present. He said he went on to New Orleans on this same trip, his purpose being to attempt to engage the services of "JADA", a stripper who had been performing in New Orleans.

He said that in the summer of 1963 he flew via American Air Lines to New York City, where he remained for two or three days at the new Hilton Hotel. He said his purpose was to see JOE GLASER, a booking agent, and to see officials of American Guild of Variety Artists in order to register complaints relative to competitors in Dallas. He said he traveled alone. On this trip, he recalls having run into "DANTE", a magician, in an automat and having visited or contacted BARNEY ROSS, former well-known prize fighter whom he had known in Chicago. He said on the return to Dallas he went via Chicago and that members of his family joined him briefly at O'Hare Field, the Chicago airport. RUBY said he could recall no other travel outside of Dallas during 1963.

He mentioned having been in New York, Joplin, Missouri; Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Chicago in 1956 when he was attempting to promote a young Negro tap dancer and drummer named NELSON, also known as "LITTLE DADDY". He said this trip lasted several weeks.

He related that he was in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1956, as he recalls, having flown there to attend the races. He said he believed he was in Little Rock during the same trip briefly. He said he was in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1937 and does not recall having been there since that time.

RUBY stated that no police officers accompanied him on the trip to Hot Springs, mentioned above, and that he had never been outside the City of Dallas with any Dallas law enforcement officers. He said he had never employed any Dallas policeman in any of his clubs, although he had employed "Special Officers". For the services of the latter, he paid the City of Dallas, and the City in turn paid the "Special Officers" in question. He said

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he had never given money or other things of value to officers of the Dallas Police Department except bottles of whiskey at Christmastime to some. He said he had also had a practice of admitting officers to his clubs without cover charge and having given "special prices" on drinks; for example, he would give officers beer for 40 cents a bottle, where his usual price was more. He said he had never asked any special favors from any police personnel.

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095033

Date 11/25/63

NOV 30 1963

SHERWIN JACK BRAUN, Architect, 6238 North Hoyne, business address 140 East Ontario, Chicago, Illinois, advised on the Labor Day weekend of 1959, he, JACK MARCUS and JAY BISHOP visited Havana, Cuba for three or four days while on a Florida vacation prior to returning to school in Chicago, Illinois.

On the first or second night in Havana, the three men had visited the Tropicana night club in Havana, Cuba and were standing by the roulette wheel or crap table when a man walked up and introduced himself. BRAUN advised he thought the man gave his name as JACK RUBY but was not sure. BRAUN stated he did not know the man who said he had originally been from Chicago, Illinois, but now owned some sort of night club or gambling establishment in Texas, possibly Dallas. The man invited the three men to visit his night club whenever they got to Texas.

BRAUN stated he believed RUBY was alone but appeared to know his way around and was familiar with the employees of the Tropicana. BRAUN stated RUBY did not give him a business card nor did he know how long RUBY stayed in Cuba nor where he stayed.

BRAUN described the man known as JACK RUBY as a white male American, large or heavy build, with round or oval face, had a "Jewish appearance", and did not have a Texas or southern accent. BRAUN stated no radical or political type statements were made, nor were any comments made other than the above casual remarks made by RUBY.

on 11/25/63 at Chicago Illinois File # CG 44-643
DANIEL P. BLAKE/tjd DL 44-1639
 by Special Agent 651 Date dictated 11/26/63

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JFK EXHIBIT F-578

1JFK F-579Date 11/25/63

JAY (NMI) BISHOV, Attorney, 8060 North Ridge, business address 5152 North Clark, Chicago, Illinois, advised he visited Havana, Cuba for three or four days about the first of September, as it was the Labor Day weekend in 1963. BISHOV stated he was with two other companions, a JACK MARCUS and SHERWIN BRAUN, both of Chicago, Illinois.

BISHOV stated that the second or third night in Havana, Cuba, he, BRAUN and MARCUS were standing near a crap table or roulette wheel at the Tropicana night club when a man approached and introduced himself by a name which BISHOV believed was JACK RUBY. RUBY asked where the three men were from and when BISHOV stated he was from the West Side of Chicago, Illinois, RUBY stated that he was also from that section of Chicago, Illinois, but had moved to Dallas, Texas some years before. BISHOV stated RUBY did not specify any particular street names or individuals with whom he had been acquainted in Chicago, Illinois.

BISHOV stated JACK RUBY extended an invitation to the three men to visit him at one of his night clubs in Dallas, Texas. BISHOV stated he was under the impression RUBY owned more than one night club in Dallas, Texas and indicated that these clubs were somewhat plush.

BISHOV stated RUBY appeared to know his way around the Tropicana night club, Havana, Cuba and may have been familiar with some of the employees. BISHOV stated the conversation lasted only about ten minutes and nothing other than the above casual comments were made. BISHOV stated no radical political type statements were made nor was there any indication RUBY belonged to any particular organizations. BISHOV stated he did not know how long RUBY had been in Havana, Cuba, where he was staying nor when he was supposed to return to the United States.

BISHOV stated he was not sure of the name nor of the picture appearing in the daily newspaper, that it was identical to the JACK RUBY he met in Cuba but described this individual as a white male American, of average build, 5'7" - 6', 165 - 200 pounds dark hair, with a "Jewish appearance", and was in his mid or late forties. BISHOV stated RUBY was an extrovert and loud talker but appeared to be friendly.

on 11/25/63 at Chicago, Illinois File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agent DANIEL P. BLAKE/tjd Date dictated 11/26/63
CG 44-645

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JFK EXHIBIT F-579

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JFK EXHIBIT F-580

RUBY JACK 2-10
RUBY JACK 2-2

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JFK F-580

Date 12/2/63

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JACK (NMI) MARCUS, age 27, advised he is an attorney, business address, 134 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1508, Chicago, Illinois, phone number CE 6-3936, and resides at 812 Brown, Evanston, Illinois.

Mr. MARCUS stated he visited Havana, Cuba, for four days during the Labor Day week end, 1959, with two companions, JAY BISHOP and SHERWIN BRAUN. During this vacation trip, the three were approached by a man in the Tropicana Night Club Havana, Cuba, who gave his name as JACK RUBY. RUBY stated he heard the three men were from the United States and indicated he was familiar with Chicago, Illinois, had some acquaintances in Chicago and may possibly have been originally from Chicago. RUBY stated he owned a night club in Texas which MARCUS believes was in Dallas and possibly called the "Carousel". He indicated he had "everything" at the night club including gambling. RUBY told MARCUS if he ever passed through Dallas, he should stop in at RUBY's night club.

MARCUS stated RUBY was alone and appeared to have been on vacation but may have been friendly with the employees in the gambling section of the Tropicana,

MARCUS further stated the meeting lasted only about ten minutes and no other questions were asked or other information obtained. No radical or political type statements were made by RUBY nor were there any indications he belonged to any particular organizations.

MARCUS described JACK RUBY as follows;

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Age	Mid-forties
Height	5'11"
Weight	175 pounds
Build	Medium to large
Hair	Brownish, balding slightly
Accent	Midwestern rather than Texan
Complexion	Fair

On 11/24/63 at Evanston, Illinois File # DL 44-1639 CG 44-645
by SAs LANSING P. LOGAN
and DANIEL P. BLAKE/mav Date dictated 11/29/63

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DL 44-1639
CG 44-645

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Characteristics

Appeared to have been of Jewish extraction. Also described as a gregarious type and an extrovert.

Mr. MARCUS advised when the shooting incident in Dallas, Texas, took place concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD by a JACK RUBY, November 24, 1963, the name struck MARCUS as being familiar and when he saw the newspaper picture of JACK RUBENSTEIN, it bore a sharp resemblance to the JACK RUBY he met in Havana, Cuba, in 1959.

ARCHIVES

casino in
Houston

1.

- JFK F-582 -

Date November 30, 1963

CLARENCE A. RECTOR, 422 Connally Street, Sulphur Springs, Texas, advised SA JAMES L. WILLIAMSON he was in Houston temporarily in connection with his automobile transporting business. (para?)

He advised he has known JACK RUBY as a club manager in Dallas since about 1950 and has frequented his places of business since then.

He advised he went to Cuba for two days in late 1959 and in early 1960 he was back in Dallas and went to the Vegas Club and saw RUBY. He mentioned he had been to Cuba and RUBY stated he had recently been to Cuba himself, as he and some associates were trying to get some gambling concessions at a casino there but it did not work out.

He stated he was at the Vegas Club on this occasion with CHESTER MYERS (phonetic), a head waiter who resides in an apartment about the 5000 block of Hall Street in Dallas. He said MYERS appeared to be well acquainted with RUBY.

RECTOR stated that he had no other information concerning RUBY, as his knowledge of him is so limited.

CE 1440

On 11-29-63 at Houston, Texas File # HO 64-932

by SA JAMES L. WILLIAMSON:jlr Date dictated 11-30-63

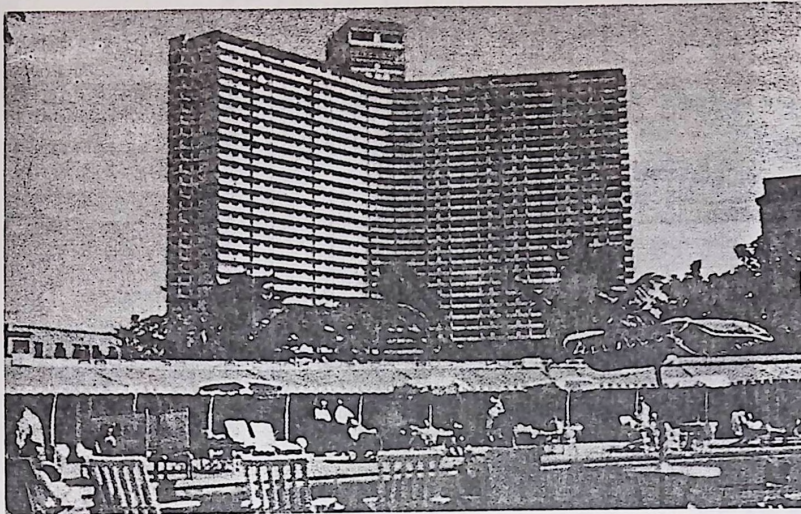
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JFK EXHIBIT F-582

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I would also ask that JFK Exhibit F-581, which is a postcard written from Jack Ruby to Alice Nichols which is dated September 8, 1959, also be made a part and entered into the record at this point.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK F-581 is ordered into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK Exhibit F-581 follows:]



40. Edificio Focsa visto desde las cabanas del Hotel Nacional.
Focsa Building as seen from the cabanas at the Nacional Hotel, Habana, Cuba.

Etichroma by Carlos Alfonso

PH BY LEOPOLDO CABENAS, AVINAS 459, HABANA

9/8/59
Dear Alice
The Tropiana
is beautiful and
do wish you were
here. These people
are the most
carefree I've ever
seen. They party in
the street all night.
This is the building
we are staying in.
Max says hello. Love - Jack



POST CARD

Alice Nichols
8707 Redondo
Dallas
Texas

JFK F-581

JFK EXHIBIT F-581

Chairman STOKES. Now, you have stated that it is your best recollection that he stayed there a week?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would say 6 days, not over 6 days.

Chairman STOKES. Could he have stayed longer?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I think I took him to the airport.

ARCHIVES

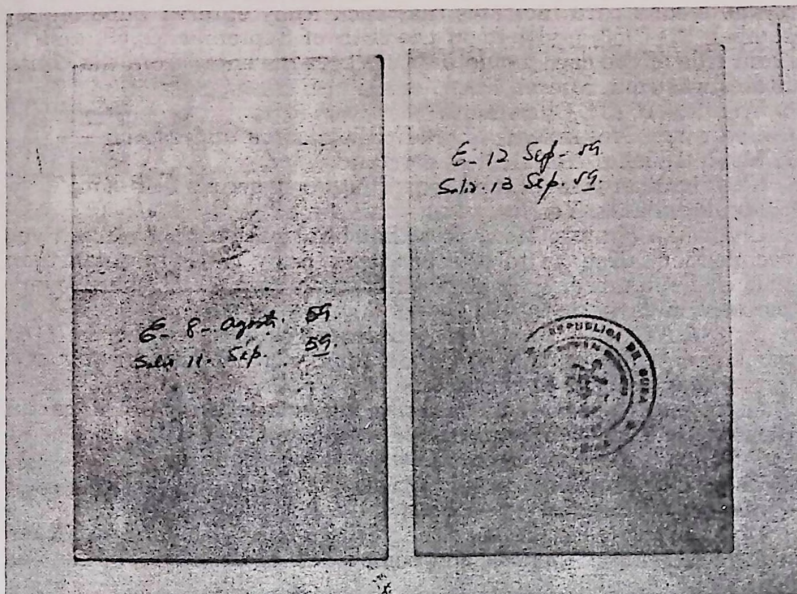
Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I ask that JFK Exhibits F-583, and F-584, which are blowups, be exhibited at this time and also be made a part of the record at this point.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK Exhibits F-583 and F-584 are admitted into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK Exhibits F-583 and F-584 follow:]

TARJETA DE IDENTIDAD/CUBA							
Nombres y Apellidos: Name: RUBY JACK				Manifesto: Manifest: NMI		Línea: Line: 72	
Nacionalidad: Nationality: USA 33				País de Nacimiento: Country of Birth: US 33			
Edad: Age: 48		Sexo: Sex: M		Estado Civil: Marital status: S		Ocupación: Occupation: ATTORNEY	
Número y Nacionalidad del Pasaporte o Documento: Number and Nationality of Passport or Travel Document							
Expedido En: Issued at:		Fecha: Date:		Visado En: Vised at:		Expte. Inmigración No. (Expte. "Expediente") Number	
Punto de Embarque: Point of Embarkation: NEW ORLEANS				Empresa Transportadora: Carrier: DELTA		Vuelo No. / Fecha de Llegada: Flight No. / Date of Arrival: 751 / AUG.	
Dirección Permanente: Permanent Address: 4727 HAMER, DALLAS TEXAS							
Dirección durante la estancia en el país: Address during stay in Cuba: CAPRI HOTEL							
Turista Tourist: ☒		Transiente Transient: ☐		Residente Resident: ☐		Inmigrante Immigrant: ☐	
Firma Del Funcionario de Inmigración: Signature of Immigration Officer: [Signature]				Firma Del Pasajero: Passenger's Signature: [Signature]			

TARJETA DE IDENTIDAD							
Nombres y Apellidos: Name: JACK RUBY				Manifesto: Manifest: V		Línea: Line: 7	
Nacionalidad: Nationality: USA 33				País de Nacimiento: Country of Birth: USA 33			
Edad: Age: 48		Sexo: Sex: M		Estado Civil: Marital status: S		Ocupación: Occupation: QUEEN OF SABANET	
Número y Nacionalidad del Pasaporte o Documento: Number and Nationality of Passport or Travel Document							
Expedido En: Issued at:		Fecha: Date:		Visado En: Vised at:		Expte. Inmigración No. (Expte. "Expediente") Number	
Punto de Embarque: Point of Embarkation: ALIA				Empresa Transportadora: Carrier: RAA		Vuelo No. / Fecha de Llegada: Flight No. / Date of Arrival: 415 / 9/12	
Dirección Permanente: Permanent Address: DALLAS, TEXAS							
Dirección durante la estancia en el país: Address during stay in Cuba: CAPRI							
Turista Tourist: ☒		Transiente Transient: ☐		Residente Resident: ☐		Inmigrante Immigrant: ☐	
Firma Del Funcionario de Inmigración: Signature of Immigration Officer: [Signature]				Firma Del Pasajero: Passenger's Signature: [Signature]			



JFK EXHIBIT F-584

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I ask that Mr. Howard Shapiro of our staff be permitted to approach the easel and explain to the witness what those exhibits are.

Mr. PREYER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Shapiro.

Mr. SHAPIRO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

These two exhibits are blowups of materials which the committee acquired from the Cuban Government earlier this year. What we have are two cards which indicate two visits.

Mr. PREYER. Just a moment, Mr. Shapiro. I don't believe your microphone is working.

Mr. SHAPIRO. Is it working now?

Mr. PREYER. Fine.

Mr. SHAPIRO. As I said, these exhibits are blowups of materials which the committee received from the Cuban Government earlier this year. We have two cards and we have a blowup of the front side and the back side of each card. The front side of the first card, the back side of the first card, the front side of the second card, the back side of the second card.

What these cards indicate are two visits to Cuba by Jack Ruby, and further they indicate the dates of those visits. The first card indicates that Jack Ruby entered Cuba on August 8, 1959, the date of entry being written in on the back of the card. The front of the card indicating that Jack Ruby left the United States from New Orleans.

The back of the card also indicates that Jack Ruby left Cuba on this visit on September 11, 1959, therefore, the card indicating that Jack Ruby was in Cuba from August 8 to September 11, 1959.

The second card indicates that Jack Ruby entered Cuba on September 12, 1959, and left on the 13th of September 1959, and the front side of the card would indicate that his entry from the United States was from Miami, Fla.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. OK. Mr McWillie, do you understand—

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes sir, I understand.

Chairman STOKES [continuing]. That gentleman's testimony?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. Now, does that information help refresh your recollection, first, as to whether Jack Ruby came in August and left in September, and also whether he remained there over a period of 6 days?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir, he stayed there 6 days, as far as I can remember. One of them said September what to—to August to September, what date was that?

Chairman STOKES. August 8 was his entrance date, a departure date of the 11th—September 11.

Mr. McWILLIE. Oh, no, no, he wasn't there that long.

Chairman STOKES. He wasn't there that long?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. During the period of time that he was there, did he leave the country and come back again during that 6-day period?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would ask that JFK exhibit F-588, which is a report confirming that the signatures "Jack Ruby" appearing on the two travel cards as well as the post card to Alice Nichols, be entered into the record.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibit F-588, is entered into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-588 follows:]

CHARLES C. SCOTT

DOCUMENT EXAMINER

TELEPHONE 842-8340
AREA CODE 918SUITE 210
808 GRAND AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

REPORT ON DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

September 22, 1978

TO:

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3342 House Office Building, Annex 2

Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Jack Ruby

Sirs:

Following are the results of the document examination and comparison you requested:

A. DOCUMENTS EXAMINED

1. Two color photographs (one life-size and the other enlarged) of a card entitled "Tarjeta De Identidad/Cuba" for PAA Flight No. 415, dated "9/12" and signed "Jack Ruby".

2. Two color photographs (one life-size and the other enlarged) of a card entitled "Tarjeta De Identidad/Cuba" for Delta Flight 751 dated "Aug" and signed "Jack Ruby". These photographs are apparently photographs of a signature that is a carbon copy of an original signature.

3. Original post card addressed to Alice Nichols, 8707 Redondo, Dallas, Texas, dated 9/8/59 and signed "Jack".

ARCHIVES

Select Committee on Assassinations, September 22, 1978, Page Two

4. Check on Merchants State Bank, Dallas, Texas, dated 7/26/62, payable to Dallas Times Herald in the amount of \$70.00 and signed "Vegas Club, Jack Ruby".

5. Sheet of yellow legal memorandum paper bearing nine specimen signatures of Jack Ruby and three one sentence paragraphs in his handwriting dated 7/18/64.

B. QUESTIONS

1. Whether the signatures "Jack Ruby" on the two flight cards, Items 1 and 2 above, are in the same handwriting and were written by the same person as the signatures "Jack Ruby" on Items 4 and 5 which were submitted as bearing known genuine signatures of Jack Ruby.

2. Whether the post card, Item 3 above, was written and signed by the same person as Items 4 and 5 which were submitted as bearing the known genuine signatures and handwriting of Jack Ruby.

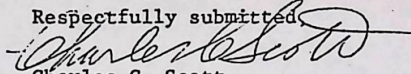
C. OPINION

After a careful examination and comparison of the submitted documents, I am of the opinion the signatures "Jack Ruby" on the two flight cards, Items 1 and 2 above, are in the same handwriting and were written by the same person as the signatures "Jack Ruby" on Items 4 and 5.

I am also of the opinion the post card, Item 3 above, was entirely written and signed by the same person as Items 4 and 5 which were submitted as bearing the known genuine signatures and handwriting of Jack Ruby.

As far as Items 1 and 2 are concerned, to the extent that this opinion is based upon the examination of photographs rather than originals, it is necessarily subject to modification should the originals of Items 1 and 2 subsequently be submitted for examination and should they reveal contradictory information not disclosed by the photographs.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles C. Scott

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, in addition to the other exhibits, I would like to have entered into the record an FBI report dated November 29, 1969, concerning the records of the Merchant State Bank in Dallas as they pertain to Jack Ruby. This exhibit should be marked JFK exhibit F-585.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibit F-585, is entered into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-585 follows:]

ARCHIVES

FBI report re Jack Ruby's
bank deposit records,
11.29.63

P. 202

JFK EXHIBIT F-585

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

JFK F-585

Date November 29, 1963

The records of the Merchants State Bank, 5217 Ross, Dallas, reflect the following information:

An account in the name of JACK RUBY, 4727 Homer, Apartment 105, was opened June 26, 1960. RUBY's address was subsequently changed to 3929 Rawlins. This account is small and inactive, with no recent deposits or withdrawals. The only recent entries are service charges of \$1.00 per month. The balance at the present time is \$35.78.

An account in the name of the Carousel Club, 1312 1/2 Commerce, Dallas, with JACK RUBY listed as the person to draw on this account, was opened on October 12, 1961. A resume of this account reflects the following information:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Balance</u>
9/30/63			\$188.73
10/4/63	\$ 8.82		197.55
10/10/63		\$24.38	173.17
10/10/63	30.26		203.43
11/11/63	33.22		236.65
11/19/63	10.00		246.65
11/20/63		15.00	231.65
11/22/63		31.87	199.78

On July 9, 1958, an account was opened in the name of the Vegas Club, care of JACK RUBY, 3929 Rawlins, Dallas. JACK RUBY was the only person authorized to draw on this account. A resume of this account reflects the following information:

on 11/29/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
 by Special AgentS RALPH E. RAWLINGS and
EDMOND C. HARDIN/pm Date dictated 11/29/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DL 44-1639

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Balance</u>
9/30/63			\$210.15
10/9/63		One check	160.15
10/10/63		Two checks	81.44
10/16/63		Three checks	63.91
10/22/63	A deposit minus three checks resulting in balance of		263.91
10/29/63		Four checks	134.44
11/6/63		\$50.00	84.44
11/8/63		25.00	59.44
11/11/63	\$200.00		259.44
11/12/63		11.65	247.79
11/20/63		25.00	222.79
11/22/63		12.82	209.97
11/25/63		50.00	159.97

Loan records reflect the following addresses for
JACK RUBY from 1958 to the present time:

4160 Hawthorne
4727 Homer
11616 Jamestown Road
3508 Oak Lawn
3929 Rawlins

On June 26, 1958, JACK RUBY borrowed \$1,148.00 from this bank to be repaid in 18 monthly payments. A lien on a 1956 Oldsmobile secured this loan. Final payment was made on December 8, 1959.

On December 8, 1959, JACK RUBY borrowed \$704.00 to be repaid in 12 monthly payments. Final payment was made on January 2, 1961. A lien on a 1956 Oldsmobile secured this loan.

On December 29, 1960, a loan was made to S. D. RUBY, 11616 Jamestown Road, Dallas, in the amount of \$3,360.00, with JACK RUBY listed as a co-signer on the note. The loan was repaid in 24 monthly payments with the final installment on March 16, 1962.

On February 14, 1961, JACK RUBY borrowed \$636.00, which he repaid in 12 monthly payments, with the last installment on March 9, 1962. Security on this loan was a lien on a 1956 Oldsmobile.

ARCHIVES

DL 44-1639

On January 31, 1963, JACK RUBY borrowed \$1,375.00, giving as security a lien on a 1960 Oldsmobile, vehicle identification No. 607T07749. He has made ten monthly payments of \$76.50 each on this loan, with the last payment having been made on November 11, 1963.

On June 1, 1962, JACK RUBY borrowed \$410.00 on a short-term basis, which was repaid on July 11, 1962. No security was required on this loan.

On April 27, 1959, JACK RUBY, whose address at that time was 4160 Hawthorne, rented safety deposit box No. 448. MYRTLE CHANCE, no address, was listed as his agent on the safety deposit box record, but her name was revoked as his agent on June 6, 1960. The files reflect RUBY was admitted to the safety deposit box vault on the following dates:

May 7 Thurs.	May 7 and (22), 1959	May 22 (Friday)
June 2 Tues.	June 2 and (22), 1959	June 22 (Monday)
July 1 Wed.	July 1, 9 and (20), 1959	July 20 (Monday)
Aug 4 Thurs.	August (27), 1959	Aug. 21 (Friday)
Sept 4 Thurs.	September 4 and (21), 1959	Sept. 21 (Monday)
Oct 28 Wed.	October 28, 1959	
	March 18, 1960	
	April 12, 1960	
	November 14, 1960	
	March (21), 1961	

The file reflects no entry after March 21, 1961.

RUBY has no savings account at the Merchants State Bank.

The above records are confidential and will be produced only upon the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum. V. P. SCHUMACHER, President, Merchants State Bank, 5217 Ross, Dallas, Texas, is the proper person to subpoena to produce these records.

Chairman STOKES. That exhibit will reflect information concerning Jack Ruby's use of safety deposit box No. 448. Among other dates listed, that exhibit will indicate that Jack Ruby was admitted to the safety deposit box on August 20, 1959, and September 4, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to enter into the record at this point the FBI report by Agent Charles Flynn, which is the FBI'S record of the status of Jack Ruby as a potential criminal informant.

I would like to have this record entered into evidence as JFK exhibit F-586.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibit F-586 is entered into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-586 follows:]

ARCHIVES
JFK
ASSASSINATION

Report re Jack Ruby,
potential criminal
Informant.

p. 206

JFK EXHIBIT F-586

DL-3

Dallas, Texas

MEMO - SAC

JFK F-586

Re: Jack Ruby

~~FOLEY'S CRIMINAL INFORMATION~~

On the basis of preliminary contacts and information developed to date, I recommend the captioned individual for informant development. The following information is set forth for your consideration (if additional space required, insert necessary numbered pages, as 2a, 2b, etc., with identifying sub-heading).

A. DATE FOR PCI INDEX CARD:

1. Full Name - JACK RUBY
2. Residence Address - 4566 HAWTHORNE, DALLAS
3. Residence Telephone - LA 2-4243
4. Business Address - LEGAS CLUB, 3508 CORK LAWN
5. Business Telephone - LA 2-4775
6. Coverage (ITSMV, WSTA, NEGROES, etc.) - WSTA, ITSD, etc.
7. Race - White
8. Date Developed - 3/11/59
9. Known to Special Agents - C.W. FLYNN & W. HENDERSON
10. Place of Contact - 4566 Hawthorne (Home)
11. Restrictions on Contact -

B. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

1. Full Name and Aliases -
2. Date and Place of Birth -
3. Height -
4. Weight -
5. Build -

6. Hair - Brown

7. Eyes - Brown

8. Complexion - Fair

9. Race - White

10. Scars and Marks - None

11. Occupation - White Chief Clerk

C. PAST HISTORY:F.D.C. 14 L 90 C 17
71 10 211 6

(Summary sketch, including past residences and occupations; relatives, areas with which familiar; criminal specialties, habits; record of physical and mental disorders; addiction to narcotics, alcohol, sex perversion, domestic problems, etc., which may have bearing on mental and emotional stability and reliability)

D. OFFICE INDICES CHECK:

(Include here, with identifying file references, only background information relative to subject.)

E. BUREAU GENERAL INDICES CHECK:

(If desirable, attach letter to Bureau specifically stating facts which indicate Bureau files contain information not included in field office files; indicate action below.)

No request for general information sent to Bureau being made at this time.

F. CREDIT CHECK:

(Include background data, not merely whether credit good or bad.)

Wm. Buell and Belcher, 11 K St. N., immediately gone 9/13/54.
checked 9/13/54. Trade association owing: Doctor S (33)
total \$950 (33), clothing store 30 (34) - paid in full 5/14/57, &
Missile Buell Co. - insisted to pay on a cash basis 5/57.

DL - 3

G. LOCAL CRIMINAL CHECKS:

(Include efforts to obtain photograph, and if obtained, attach in exhibit envelope.)

Photo - 1A - 1

H. FBI IDENTIFICATION RECORD:

(If up-to-date transcript is available, attach; if not, attach Form FD-9, checking request for photograph, if not otherwise available; indicate action taken.)

FD-9 - transcript 8/5/59 - Serial #5

I. MILITARY SERVICE RECORD:

(State whether PCI has military record; if so, record service number and statements of FCI regarding type of discharge, court martials, treatments for mental or nervous disorders. If desirable, attach letter to appropriate office requesting military record check; otherwise, indicate basis for conclusion record check unnecessary.)

PCI - Air Force '43-'46

J. CRIMINAL ASSOCIATES:

(List, with identifying FBI or PD numbers and criminal specialties, and prepare index cards on criminals well-known to FCI, as disclosed by record checks and interviews.)

James Robert Todd, F.B.I. #1265223, hnd #22555. Safe King

DL - 3

K. PRODUCTIVITY-TO DATE:

(Include, with separate paragraph for each case file involved, field and Bureau file numbers, titles and characters, positive information furnished, as indicated by office indices check. Show significance and value of information or other assistance, with resultant statistics. If information is in investigative report, show name of Agent, date of report, and reporting office. If positive information furnished, but not yet in file, attach fully executed Form FD-209, with copies for appropriate case files.)

ARCHIVES

L. COVERAGE

(Show basis for listing PCI for coverage in each classification shown under "A" above.)

M. STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO AID BUREAU:

PCI advised he was willing to assist Bureau by supplying criminal information, on a confidential basis, which is to his advantage.

N. AVAILABILITY TO OTHER DIVISIONS:

PCI does not desire to be available to other Division, except on an emergency basis.

O. ADVISED OF BUREAU JURISDICTION

(Specify which classifications have been explained.)

PCI, on 3/11/59 was advised of Bureau's jurisdiction on the following BB, BP, BL, Int., ITSP, WSTA, UFAP, UFAC, & others.

DL - 3

P. ADVISED OF CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP:

(Include arrangements for discreet telephone and personal contacts, restrictions on contacts; advise should not contact office personally, advise regarding furnishing information to the Bureau only, advised not Bureau employee.)

From 1/15/59 PCI advised of confidential relationship between he & Bureau personnel of the fact he was not to divulge this information or relationship, to those outside Bureau. He was further advised he was not to consider himself an employee of the F.B.I. and of the fact he was not to contact the Dallas Division personally.

Q. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENTS:

(Include any discussions to date regarding payments on COD basis or for expenses, whether PCI appears receptive, advise that payments are income in accordance with conditions stated in Section 107 N, Manual of Instructions. If payments made to date, give details with identifying file numbers and dates.)

PCI was advised of Bureau position regarding willingness to pay for expenses he might incur in obtaining information and of fact above was on a COD basis. He was further advised of the fact such money was to be considered as income reported on his income tax return.

ARCHIVES

DL-3-

R. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

29 A

SA Richard A. Linn

TO : SAC DALLAS ()

☐ Cl ☐ Si

☒ PCL ☐ PSI

Date of Contact	4/28/59
-----------------	---------

Title and File No on which contacted

Unsubs: theft of \$9,753 Phillin Green Fur Co.

Unsub: 1st Nat. Bk. Santo, Santo, Texas

~~Unsub's. 101-20-102 Elliott Jewelry Co.~~

Insubs: Durham State Bank, Durham, Kansas

Purpose and results of contact

NY 100-10581 Negative

☐ Positive

Agents to whom above cases are assigned were notified by R/S.

Post

☐ Security Informant certified that he had furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.

Personal Data

Rating

Good

Copyright

WSTA, ITSP, Fur.

FD-204 (Rev. 5-8-56)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

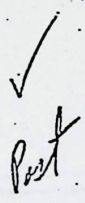
TO : SAC DALLAS (~~XXXXXX~~)

DATE: 6/29/59

FROM : SA CHARLES W. FLYNN

☐ CI ☐ SI☒ PCI ☐ PSI

SUBJECT: JACK RUBY

Date of Contact: <u>6-5/12/59 (attempted contact 5/12/59)</u>	
Titles and File #s on which contacted:	
UNSUB; Theft Dep. East End St. Bk., Houston, Tex. BB	XXXXXX
UNSUB; XXXXXXXXXX Bk., Dallas, Tex.	XXXXXX
UNSUB; XXXXXXXXXX Bk., Dallas, Tex.	XXXXXX
UNSUB; XXXXXXXXXX Bk., Dallas, Tex.	XXXXXX
UNSUB; XXXXXXXXXX Bk., Dallas, Tex.	XXXXXX
UNSUB; Rep. Sav. & Loan Assoc. BL	XXXXXX
UNSUB; 42, 100 Brown Hotel, Louisville, Kent. 110F.	XXXXXX
Purpose and results of contact:	
☒ Negative	R/S <u>has</u> been sent to agents to whom cases assigned.
☐ Positive	
	
☐ Security Informant certified that he had furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	
Personal Date	Rating Good Coverage

1- XXXXXX1- XXXXXX

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC DALLAS ()

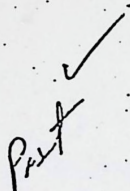
DATE: 7/24/59

FROM : SA CHARLES W. FLYNN

☐ CI ☐ SI

SUBJECT: JACK LEON RUBY

☒ PCI ☐ PSI

Dates of Contact: 7/2, 21/59	
Titles and File #s on which contacted AMER/ Legdon Conv.	
Unsub, Chicago Lake St. Bk. BR	
Unsub, Chicago Lake St. Bk. BR, ITSP	
Unsub, Park Plaza St. Bk. BR	
Unsub, Citizens St. Bk. BR	
Unsub, et al UTSP - Bk. BR	
Major Jewel Theft Matters - Ferras	
Purpose: Unsub, Theft \$50,000	
☒ Negative	
☐ Positive	
R/S sent to agents to whom above cases assigned.	
	
☐ Security Informant certified that he had furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	
Personal Data	Rating: Good
	Coverage: STA, ITSP, Fug.

1- _____

1- _____

ARCHIVES

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC DALLAS ()

DATE: 9/4/59

FROM : SA Charles W. Flynn

☐ CI ☐ SI

☒ PCI ☐ PSI

SUBJECT: JACK LEON RUBY, PCI

Date of Contact 8/6, 31/59	
Title and File No. on which contacted Unsub; 1 Nat'l Uk. Baltimore	
☒ Negative ☐ Positive	
Purpose and results of contact R/S 's have been sent to agents to whom cases assigned. ↓ Post	
☐ Security Informant certified that he had furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	
Personal Date	Rating Average Coverage WSTA.. ITSP, 7ug- 6

1-
1-

FD-203 (Rev. 4-6-58)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, DALLAS

DATE: 10/5/59

FROM : SA, Charles W. Flynn

☐ CI ☐ SI☐ PCI ☐ PSI

SUBJECT: JACK LEON RUBY, PCI

Dates of Contact	
10/2/59	
Titles and File #s on which contacted	
Unsub; Theft of 3 Shotguns, 8/23, 24/59 TPIS	
Unsub; Theft \$7,152.04, Wichita, Kansas, ITSP	
Unsub; \$25,000.00, Chicago, Ill. ITSP	
Unsub; Re. Of Amer. Cont-in, C-14, 5/6/59, 22	
Purpose and results of contact	
☒ Negative	
☐ Positive	
R/S's have been sent to agents to whom case assigned.	
☐ Security Informant certified that he had furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	
Personal Date	Review Contact SI, ITSP, Fug., ITgd, lt, cr,

ARCHIVES

FD-302 (Rev. 5-5-58)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC DALLAS (100-100000)

DATE: 11/6/59

FROM : SA Charles W. Flynn

☐ CI ☐ SI☒ PCI ☐ PSI

SUBJECT: JACK LEON RUBY, PCI

Dates of Contact	
Titles and File No. on which contacted	
Purpose and results of contact	
☐ Negative ☐ Positive	
Efforts to contact this man have necessitated strained efforts and resulting contacts have been negative to date. It is felt that further attempts to develop this man would be fruitless and it is therefore suggested this file be marked closed.	
☐ Security Informant certified that he had furnished all information obtained by him since last contact.	
Personal Data	Rating
Coverage	

1- _____

1- _____

Close

Chairman STOKES. I would also have the committee know that this exhibit will point out the fact that the record indicates that Charles Flynn, the FBI agent, had personal contact with Jack Ruby in Dallas, Tex. on August 6 and on August 31 of 1959.

In summary, what these records will tend to indicate is that Jack Ruby was in Dallas, Tex., on August 6, August 21, August 31, and September 4, 1959. Therefore, if the Cuban records are correct, Jack Ruby was in Havana, Cuba, on August 8, 1959; he must have left Cuba and returned to Dallas and traveled to Cuba again prior to the September 11 departure date that has been mentioned earlier.

Now, Mr. McWillie, if Mr. Ruby made a 1-day trip in and out of the country, would you be able to tell us what that trip was about?

Mr. McWILLIE. If he did make a trip I would not know it, sir; and I would think I would know it, and I didn't see Jack Ruby after he left that one time.

Chairman STOKES. Now, tell us what the two of you did in Cuba during that 6-day period together?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I worked every night, and as a rule he would hang around the casino. Maybe once or twice he might have gone to see a show or something, but he was around me nearly all the time.

Chairman STOKES. But during the day what would the two of you do?

Mr. McWILLIE. Well, I was working at night and I slept most of the day. If he got up early or not I wouldn't know. He would usually meet me out at the casino after I had gone and opened up.

Chairman STOKES. What time did you go to the casino in the evening?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think about 8 o'clock.

Chairman STOKES. And how late would you work?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sometimes 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning.

Chairman STOKES. And you say he would hang around you out at the casino?

Mr. McWILLIE. Yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. And during that period of time, he didn't smoke or drink, did he?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir, he didn't.

Chairman STOKES. But he would just stand around; is that it?

Mr. McWILLIE. Stand around talking to people and carrying on conversations.

Chairman STOKES. Did he know other people there?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Chairman STOKES. Did he know other people there?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, he didn't know anyone there.

Chairman STOKES. You were the only person he knew in Havana?

Mr. McWILLIE. He knew Panitz. I think Panitz was there at the time, too, Meyer Panitz from Memphis; he knew him, he was from Dallas, too.

Chairman STOKES. Was Panitz there during that period of time?

Mr. McWILLIE. Pardon me, I am almost positive that he was.

Chairman STOKES. That he was?

Mr. McWILLIE. That he was working in Havana.

ARCHIVES
RECORDS SECTION

Chairman STOKES. What type of work did Panitz do?

Mr. McWILLIE. He was a casino worker.

Chairman STOKES. And for which casino?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think he worked at the Capri.

Chairman STOKES. Now, did I understand you to say earlier that you took Ruby back to the airport?

Mr. McWILLIE. I am sure I did, yes, sir; I would do that, yes, sir.

Chairman STOKES. And where was he going when he left?

Mr. McWILLIE. He was going back home, he said, to Dallas.

Chairman STOKES. And do you know whether or not he did go back home to Dallas?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would have to say he did. There was no way I would know but I would have to say he did go back to Dallas.

Chairman STOKES. Now, you have told us that Panitz was in Havana at the same time you and Ruby were there?

Mr. McWILLIE. I would have to say so, yes.

Chairman STOKES. Is it possible that Panitz was not there and that he was in Miami and that you called him?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I don't think so.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I ask that an exhibit marked JFK F-587, which is an interview with Meyer Panitz, be entered into and made a part of the record at this point.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibit F-587 is ordered into the record at this point.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-587 follows:]

FBI interview report
on Meyer R. Paritz,
1.14.64

P. 223

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

842 Date January 14, 1964

MEYER R. PANITZ, Apartment 22, 120 Albert Street,
 furnished the following information: FLA. - Tel. - Miami.

In the summer of 1959 PANITZ was working in the
 Booker T. Lounge in Miami Beach, Florida. During this time
 PANITZ received a phone call from L. C. MC WILLIE. MC WILLIE
 was then working in Cuba. MC WILLIE advised PANITZ that
 JACK RUBY had visited him in Cuba and was then in Miami Beach.

PANITZ had known MC WILLIE from Dallas, Texas.

PANITZ contacted RUBY at Wolfies Restaurant, 21.
 Sheet and Collins, Miami Beach, Florida. PANITZ believes
 RUBY was in Miami Beach two or three days and that he
 visited with RUBY on two occasions.

PANITZ recalls that RUBY had said he had been in
 Cuba on a pleasure trip and was returning to Dallas, Texas.

PANITZ does not recall the hotel RUBY stayed in
 while in Miami Beach.

PANITZ does not recall the month he saw RUBY,
 but is somewhat certain it was in the summer of 1959.

PANITZ has no knowledge of possible Cuban
 connections on the part of RUBY.

On 1/10/64 at Las Vegas, Nevada File # DL 44-1639
 LV 44-48
 by SAs THOMAS H. ALT & WAYNE H. IRAKE/arb Date dictated 1/14/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
 of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to
 your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed
 outside your agency.

JFK EXHIBIT F-587

ARCHIVES

Chairman STOKES. Would counsel hand me that exhibit?

Mr. McWillie, this exhibit is an FBI interview of Meyer Panitz in which Panitz says that he had known McWillie from Dallas, Tex. Panitz says he contacted Ruby at Wolfie's Restaurant at Twenty-first Street and Collins, Miami Beach, Fla. Panitz believes Ruby was in Miami Beach 2 or 3 days and visited with Ruby on two occasions. Panitz recalls Ruby said he had been in Cuba on a pleasure trip and was returning to Dallas, Tex.

Panitz does not recall the hotel room Ruby stayed in while in Miami Beach. Panitz does not recall the month he saw Ruby but is somewhat certain it was in the summer of 1959. Panitz had no knowledge of possible Cuban connections on the part of Ruby but that, he says Panitz received a phone call from McWillie and McWillie was then working in Cuba.

McWillie advised Panitz that Jack Ruby had visited him in Cuba and was then in Miami Beach.

Having heard what Mr. Panitz told the FBI about your calling him, would you now change your statement that Panitz was then—

Mr. McWILLIE. I thought he was in Cuba. I didn't know he was in Miami. I thought that Panitz was in Cuba because I know he worked there.

Chairman STOKES. What then would have been your reason for calling Panitz and letting him know that Jack Ruby was going to be there?

Mr. McWILLIE. If I called Panitz, I don't recall it. I don't recall a conversation with Panitz in Miami.

Chairman STOKES. You don't recall having called Panitz?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir; I do not.

Chairman STOKES. This doesn't refresh your recollection either?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir. I thought Panitz was in Havana when Ruby was over there, and I still think he was.

Chairman STOKES. Did Ruby carry anything to Panitz for you?

Mr. McWILLIE. Did he carry anything to Panitz?

Chairman STOKES. To Panitz for you?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Chairman STOKES. Now, you have told us that, to the best of your recollection, you cannot recall Jack Ruby leaving the country and coming back in again?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir. No, I never saw him again after he left Cuba.

Chairman STOKES. Now, I ask again, Mr. Chairman, that we direct the witness' attention to JFK exhibits F-583 and F-584 which have been referred to earlier.

Mr. McWillie, I would direct your attention to the left-hand card of JFK exhibit F-584, which indicates that Jack Ruby left Havana on September 11, 1959.

I also direct your attention to the card on the right which is the back side of the card showing at the bottom of the photographic blowup of JFK exhibit F-583, which indicates that Jack Ruby entered Cuba on September 12, 1959, left again on September 13, 1959. The front side of that card shows that on that trip that Jack Ruby had come from Miami, therefore, the two cards taken together show that Jack Ruby left Cuba on September 11, 1959, that he

went to Miami, returned to Cuba on September 12, and then going on to New Orleans on September 13.

In addition to that, the committee has a letter here from Immigration Service which was sent to this committee, which confirms the fact that Jack Ruby left Cuba on September 11, 1959, went to Miami, returning on September 12 and going on to New Orleans on September 13.

Mr. Chairman, I would like this letter from INS entered into the record at this time as JFK exhibit F-589.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, JFK exhibit F-589 is entered into the record at this time.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-589 follows:]

ARCHIVES
INFORMATION

JFK EXHIBIT F-589

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

CO 703.1412
MAY 11 1978

Honorable G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel and Director
Select Committee on Assassinations
Room 3380 A
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

008416

Dear Mr. Blakey:

Reference is made to your letter of April 7, 1978 requesting access to all documents generated by or in the possession of this Service concerning the Warren Commission Exhibits No. 1442 and No. 1443 relating to Jack L. Ruby's trip to Havana, Cuba in September 1959.

Attached is a xeroxed copy of record of departure of Pan American Airways flight 415 of September 12, 1959 from Miami, Florida destined to Havana, Cuba, and a copy of the record of Mr. Ruby's departure as a passenger on that flight.

Attached is a xeroxed copy of general declaration and record of arrival of Delta Airlines Flight 750 of September 13, 1959 from Havana, Cuba to New Orleans, Louisiana, and a copy of Mr. Ruby's arrival as a passenger on that flight.

The above are the only records relating to the departure and the arrival of the subject.

Sincerely,

Leonel J. Castillo
Leonel J. Castillo
Commissioner



COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1442

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/2/63

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~

— Commission Exhibit No. 1442

1

SIMNEY A. DAVIS, Assistant Chief, Records Administration and Information Section, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 20 East Broadway, New York City, advised Special Agent WILLIAM J. MARTIN on December 3, 1963, that their records reflect that one JACK RUDY, 4/27 Homer, Indiana, 5'8", Exported Miami, Florida, on September 12, 1959, aboard Pan American Airlines Flight 415 bound for Havana, Cuba.

On 12/3/63 at New York, New York File # NY 44-974
 by SA WILLIAM J. MARTIN :voo Date dictated 12/4/63

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

432

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1442

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☒ ARRIVAL		HAYANA		☐ DEPARTURE	
Last Foreign Port		First Foreign Port			
Airline (Name and Number)		File Number		Plane	
Delta (57)		753		NOL	
Date	Time	Passenger	Passenger	Passenger	Crewmember
4/13/59	59	0			McAllister
ARRIVAL		DEPARTURE			
SEE FORM 7507					

Form 7507 (Rev. 12-25-57) REPORT OF AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE
U. S. Department of Justice - Immigration and Naturalization Service

GPO 645075

12014

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DEPT. OF COMMERCE

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 9

ADMITTED

SEP 13 1959

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Chairman STOKES. Now, Mr. McWillie, let me ask you, in light of this additional documentation with reference to Mr. Ruby's trips, does this in any way refresh your recollection?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think you said, sir, that, didn't you say that he came in on the 5th of August and left on the 11th? Did you say that?

Chairman STOKES. On the 8th was the original trip, the document shows.

Mr. McWILLIE. From the 5th to the 11th? That was 6 days. That is the only time that I have seen Jack Ruby in Cuba. I thought when he left there he went right straight home to Dallas. I had no idea why he went to New Orleans.

Chairman STOKES. You have no knowledge of such trip?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir; none whatever.

Mr. SAWYER. Would you yield?

Chairman STOKES. Yes.

Mr. SAWYER. I think there is confusion. He said arrived on the 8th and left on the 11th. It was the 8th of August and he left on the 11th of September, so it was not 6 days as the witness——

Mr. McWILLIE. I thought the first time you said it, he got there the 6th of August and left on the 11th of August. You didn't say that?

Chairman STOKES. Sir, we will try and clear it up.

Mr. Shapiro, would you again approach the easel?

Mr. McWILLIE. Because I know for a fact he wasn't there over 6 days when he visited me.

Chairman STOKES. We will have the——

Mr. McWILLIE. I couldn't have stood it that long.

Chairman STOKES. We will have the gentleman try to clear it up. [Laughter.]

Mr. Shapiro.

Mr. SHAPIRO. These cards here indicate a trip on Jack Ruby entering Cuba on August 8, 1959, and leaving on September 11. Therefore, the card indicates that Jack Ruby was there for a period of 1 month and 3 days.

Mr. McWILLIE. No way, he wasn't there not over 6 days. I took him to the airport.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. McWillie, does that clear it up?

Mr. McWILLIE. That is clear all right but that is not right, because when he came to visit me he stayed 6 days at the most, he stayed 6 days and there is some foulup with that ticket or something. If he had stayed there a month, I would say a month, I wouldn't be ashamed to say it. Jack Ruby was the kind of fellow that 6 days would be long enough to be around him. I am sure he wasn't there a month. [Laughter.]

Chairman STOKES. You are pretty sure then?

Mr. McWILLIE. I am not trying to be smart, sir.

Chairman STOKES. I understand.

Mr. McWILLIE. I am telling it like it is.

Chairman STOKES. Did you ever ask Mr. Ruby to get you four guns from Ray Brentley's gun store and send them to you in Cuba?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir; I have been asked that a dozen times and I didn't do that. In the first place, Jack Ruby couldn't have sent

any guns to Cuba and I couldn't have gotten them in Cuba. If I had, I hate to think what would have happened to me.

Chairman STOKES. You have been asked about this a dozen times, you say. You are aware then that Jack Ruby gave this testimony to the Warren Commission?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I am not aware he gave the testimony. But I have been asked by reporters and magazine writers and different people.

Chairman STOKES. Now—

Mr. McWILLIE. I'm trying to think—now, who else asked me that?

Chairman STOKES. Here is Jack Ruby's testimony to the Warren Commission, volume 5, page 201, says that you had called Jack Ruby from Cuba, asking him to pick up four Cobra pistols at Ray Brentley's hardware store and send to you.

According to Jack Ruby, you were concerned about the new regime coming in, you wanted some protection. Your testimony is that this never happened?

Mr. McWILLIE. This never happened, sir, and there is no way I could call Jack Ruby and ask him to send guns over there because every call was monitored in Havana, every call, and I would hate to get caught with a gun in Cuba when I was there.

Chairman STOKES. How about in Las Vegas?

Mr. McWILLIE. He sent me a gun there, yes, and I didn't take it out.

Chairman STOKES. Sir? Pardon me.

Mr. McWILLIE. I called him. They were having a lot of holdups there. I was working on the late shift. I would get up at 2 o'clock in the morning and get off at 10 and the holdup men had beaten several fellows up because they didn't have enough money for them, and so I called Jack and asked Jack to send me a gun out there, and in the meantime my kids were small and my wife wouldn't let me take the gun out and so it went back.

Chairman STOKES. So you never picked up the gun that he sent you?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, I never did.

Chairman STOKES. Did he get that gun from Ray Brentley's?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Chairman STOKES. Did he get that gun from Ray Brentley's?

Mr. McWILLIE. I think he did, yes.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you.

I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you.

Are there any further questions from the members of the panel?

Mr. FITHIAN. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Fithian.

Mr. FITHIAN. If I may have just 1 minute with the chief counsel before proceeding.

[A brief recess was taken.]

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Fithian is recognized.

Mr. FITHIAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After you left Cuba, what was your relationship with Jack Ruby, Mr. McWillie?

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ASSASSINATION

Mr. McWILLIE. After I left Cuba, I stayed in Miami at my mother's home until about the 1st of June, and I drove from Miami to Las Vegas. I had a job at the Cal-Neva Lodge in Lake Tahoe, Nev.

When I got to Dallas, I stayed overnight with Jack Ruby. Got up, oh, I got in there about nine and got up at five in the morning and left. I drove on up to Cal-Neva Lodge and went to work there on the 15th and then I went to, after that was over in September, I went down to Reno and was assistant manager at the Riverside Hotel. During the period I was there, I think I got a couple letters from Jack Ruby telling me about a new place he had and how nice it was and this and that. He sent me some razor blades that just came out. He seemed to be very proud of these blades, and he was going to get a distributorship for them. I may have gotten two letters from him, I don't know.

Mr. FITHIAN. So now, what you are saying is after you got back to the United States, you stayed overnight with Jack Ruby, you received a couple letters from him while you were in Reno and that he, upon your request, sent you a gun in Las Vegas, which you did not pick up.

Mr. McWILLIE. This was later on, sir, this was later on after I left Reno. I left Reno in—let me see, right before Christmas in 1962, I took my family and we drove to Miami and visited with my mother, and then I came back to Vegas and went to work at the—are you ready, sir?

Mr. FITHIAN. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. I came back to Vegas and went to work at the Thunderbird Hotel, I believe, in February, the early part of February 1963.

Mr. FITHIAN. Did you have any other personal contact with Jack Ruby—

Mr. McWILLIE. I'm getting to that now, sir.

Mr. FITHIAN. OK.

Mr. McWILLIE. Then after I was there a while, I got a call from Jack Ruby that he was having trouble with a union named the AGVA. He wanted to know if I knew anybody who knew the president of the union. It just so happened that I knew, a friend of mine named Bill Miller was entertainment director for the Hilton Hotel, I think it was. I called Bill. I managed a casino for him in Reno. In the meantime, he left and went to Vegas, and I called Bill and I said, Bill, I have a friend of mine in Dallas who has some trouble with the AGVA, it is some kind of an entertainment union. I said he wants to know if you know if I know anyone who knows the president, and I am calling you on account of that and if you could help him, I would appreciate it.

I didn't hear any more from Bill Miller, but a couple days later, the next day maybe, I got a call from Ruby. He was just thanking me overwhelmingly. Well, he must have called me five or six times during that period thanking me for getting this straightened out for him. It must have been a minor thing; I don't know.

Mr. FITHIAN. Let me see if I understand you correctly. He called you once to ask if you could help out with the American Guild of Variety Actors problem, and you made a call to Bill Culler, did you say?

Mr. McWILLIE. Bill Miller.

Mr. FITHIAN. Miller.

Mr. MCWILLIE. He called me from Dallas.

Mr. FITHIAN. And you made one call and then dismissed it from your mind and then for five or six or seven additional calls, Ruby called you to——

Mr. MCWILLIE. He called me every day for 4 or 5 days after that thanking me every time. I finally told him, I said, Jack, forget it. I said, I just did you a favor. I'd do it for anybody, and then that was it.

Mr. FITHIAN. Did he know in advance that you had this connection that could do him some good? I am curious as to why he called you on a labor matter.

Mr. MCWILLIE. I don't really know, sir. He just probably thought I could help him with it. I don't know why he thought that, but he called me anyway.

Mr. FITHIAN. Did anyone else ever tell you or did you ever learn that Jack Ruby had contacted other people in regard to the AGVA dispute, the labor dispute?

Mr. MCWILLIE. No, sir. He had contacted other people? If he did, he didn't tell me.

Mr. FITHIAN. Did anyone else that Jack contacted contact you and let you know that Jack was having this problem?

Mr. MCWILLIE. No, no. The only time I ever heard of it was when he called me.

Mr. FITHIAN. The only input you had or the only indication you had of the labor problem was a single phone call from Jack Ruby?

Mr. MCWILLIE. That's right, and I told him that I didn't know who the president was, but I thought I knew a man that would know. Incidentally, this man was a very good friend of mine and he got very upset about it, about me having Ruby call him and what happened. I told him, I said, well, I didn't know he was that kind of a fellow which I didn't.

Mr. FITHIAN. What was your reaction when you learned that Jack Ruby had shot Oswald?

Mr. MCWILLIE. Well, I tell you, like I said I was working late at night and I was in my bedroom asleep and my wife had a radio or a TV in the kitchen. She came running in the room waking me up. She said, "My gosh, come in the kitchen, she said, someone just shot Oswald," and jokingly I said, "I hope its no one I know." We went in the kitchen and the announcer said a man named Segal had shot him. I said, "Well, I don't know him," laughing. All of a sudden, they said, "We made a mistake, it was a man named Jack Ruby." I said, "Oh my God, I know this man, my goodness." I told my wife, well, now, the FBI will be out here. Sure enough, in about 3 hours, the FBI came out.

Mr. FITHIAN. Besides your wife and the three FBI agents, who were the other people you talked to, after Ruby shot Oswald, about this, about the fact you knew Ruby and he had shot Oswald?

Mr. MCWILLIE. Well, several people brought it up that I knew him. I don't know who they were. I said isn't this an awful thing to know someone like this and have to go through all this problem over nothing? That's about the only thing I ever said. It has been an ordeal for 15 years.

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Mr. FITHIAN. Mr. McWillie, in your deposition to the committee, you indicate that you participated in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, is that correct?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Mr. FITHIAN. You indicated in your deposition to the committee, I believe, that you participated in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, is that correct?

Mr. McWILLIE. Before I left here, I was going to get that straightened out. It is on page 121, I think, of paragraph 11 or 12; is that right? Do you have it in front of you?

Mr. FITHIAN. I believe you are correct in your citation.

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir?

Mr. FITHIAN. I believe you are correct in your citation.

Mr. McWILLIE. Do you want me to read it to you?

Mr. FITHIAN. I will be happy to have you straighten it out, if you can.

Mr. McWILLIE. I think it is page 121. It says "Subsequent to your returning to the United States——"

Mr. FITHIAN. Could you just get the microphone a little closer? Thank you.

Mr. McWILLIE. It says, "Subsequent to your returning to the United States, you were involved in an incident at Miami Airport, is that correct?"

Subsequent, that means after I left Cuba; right?

Mr. FITHIAN. Right.

Mr. McWILLIE. And I answered, "That's right."

"Is it fair to characterize you as anti-Castro?" And the answer here is, which is untrue, "I was in an outfit called Fair Play for Cuba. I am not proud of it. But, I was just mad."

I think they got that mixed up. The fellow I had the altercation with was with the Fair Play, an organization named the Fair Play for Cuba. Could that be taken out of this record because I didn't say that I was with the Fair Play——

Mr. FITHIAN. I believe I have been informed by the staff that the "he" in the transcript when it got transcribed was attributed to you and actually it was the person with whom you had some differences—we will correct the record.

Mr. McWILLIE. Will this be changed?

Mr. PREYER. Your explanation will be made a part of the record and the record will be corrected.

Mr. McWILLIE. It will be changed. Thank you, sir.

Mr. FITHIAN. I just have one other quick area to explore and then I will be done.

Mr. McWILLIE, do you know Earl Ruby?

Mr. McWILLIE. Earl Ruby. I don't know him intimately. I have seen him a couple times.

Mr. FITHIAN. When did you meet him?

Mr. McWILLIE. I met him about 7 or 8 months ago. He came by the place where I worked and I looked around and there was a little fellow walking in the pit, we call it the pit. He walked up to me and he says, are you McWillie? I said yes, I am. And he said, well, I'm Earl Ruby. Well, I like to fell out when he told me he was Earl Ruby, but I had never seen him before in my life and that was the last person in the world I wanted to see. I said—he said, I am

here, I'm making a documentary for one of the networks—NBC or one of them—and how have you been and this and that. I finally told him, I said, Earl, if you don't mind, would you just get out of here and let me alone.

I have had enough problems knowing your brother, and I don't want any more problems.

Mr. FITHIAN. And is that the only time you met Earl Ruby then?

Mr. McWILLIE. That's the only time I ever met him, yes.

Mr. FITHIAN. Did Jack ever mention his brother, Earl, to you to 1959?

Mr. McWILLIE. Did he ever mention him to me?

Mr. FITHIAN. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. The best I remember it, he had a brother named Sam, I believe. I'm not positive. But, I am sure he had two brothers. He was a little skinny fellow and was ill in some way. He had a sister and he told me that she was ill. He never explained it, I don't know what illness she had or they both had.

Mr. FITHIAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions.

Mr. PREYER. Are there any further questions from the panel? If not, Mr. McWillie, under the rules of the committee, when the questioning of a witness is completed, the witness has the right to take 5 minutes to explain anything about his testimony that he wishes to explain or to clarify or to just tell the committee anything he wants to. Is there anything further that you would like to say to the committee? If so, you will be recognized at this time.

Mr. McWILLIE. Here is a question on page 121. "Subsequent to your return to the United States, were you ever approached by individuals regarding assassinating Castro?" And it took me by surprise and I said, Oh, my God, no, because I never was there. This was the last question that was asked me as I was getting ready to leave the room, if Mr. Purdy will recall, as I was putting my coat on, I got up and was going out to leave, I am sure that he asked me this question and it was so absurd that I—it astounded me because I wouldn't assassinate a flea.

Mr. PREYER. Do you wish to make any further comment on your answer to that question?

Mr. McWILLIE. What, sir?

Mr. PREYER. Do you wish to say anything further about that question at this time?

Mr. McWILLIE. Sir, I can't hear you. I'm sorry.

Mr. PREYER. Do you wish to add to your answer at this time anything further you want to say about that?

Mr. McWILLIE. No, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Do you have any other comments that you wish to make, Mr. McWillie, on anything?

Mr. McWILLIE. On anything pertaining to this thing?

Mr. PREYER. Yes.

Mr. McWILLIE. Not that I know of, sir.

Mr. PREYER. All right. Thank you. If there are no further questions, Mr. McWillie, you will be excused at this time. Thank you for being with us.

[Witness excused.]

RECEIVED
ASSASSINATION

Jack Ruby Associates

P. 240

Mr. PREYER. The Chair will recognize Mr. Blakey. You are excused at this time, Mr. McWillie.

Mr. McWILLIE. Congressman, am I free to go back home?

Mr. PREYER. You are free to go, Mr. McWillie. Thank you.

Mr. McWILLIE. I'm sorry I could not hear you any better than I did.

**NARRATION BY G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND
STAFF DIRECTOR**

Mr. BLAKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Obviously there is not much to be learned from Mr. McWillie's testimony, but we do know certain things. First, McWillie was an associate of Jack Ruby. Second, McWillie may have been associated with Santos Trafficante, that is, at least if Trafficante had an entrance in gambling casinos in Havana, though the extent and nature of that relationship is as yet unclear and, third, there may be a possibility, just a possibility of an association or at least one meeting between Jack Ruby and Santos Trafficante himself. So who is Santos Trafficante? What is his background? Who are or were his associates? This was obviously some thing that the committee could not avoid getting into and, of course, it did, as these hearings are designed to illustrate.

But before deciding whether or not to hear from Mr. Trafficante himself, it may be useful to hear the testimony of two other men who may have been associated with Santos Trafficante. The first must be summarized for the record, since he was an American intelligence agent assigned to operations in Florida in the early 1960's and he cannot publicly appear, otherwise his identity would be revealed. On September 25, 1978, a sworn statement was given to the committee by a retired official of the CIA.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that it be entered into the record at this point as JFK exhibit F-600.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, it is ordered into the record at this point as JFK exhibit F-600.

[JFK exhibit F-600 was received into the record and follows:]

JFK EXHIBIT F-600

KENNEDY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name _____ Date 9-25-78 Time _____

Address _____ Place _____

Interview:

McDonald: The date is September 25 and I'm present in a room at the Central Intelligence Agency at Langley, Virginia. Present in the room with me is a former official of the CIA and Committee staff member Patricia Orr. The former official of the CIA has just been administered an oath for the information that he is about to relate to the Committee. The following will be a sworn statement by this former CIA official. We are not using the course of this sworn statement because of the sensitivity of the subject matter and a agency policy that his name not be revealed at this time.

Sir, what is your present occupation?

"X": I'm a retired government employee. I am doing some part-time real estate work and I'm also a security consultant for a private firm.

McDonald: Have you ever been employed by the FBI?

Interviewer Signature _____

Typed Signature James McDonald

Date transcribed 9-26-78

By: br Form #4-A

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ASSASSINATION
NOV 1 1978

CIA Interview
Page 2.

"X": Yes.

McDonald: In what capacity and during what years?

"X": I was a Special Agent, employed during the period of 1947 to 1951.

McDonald: Have you been employed by the CIA?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: During what years?

"X": 1951 through 1973

McDonald: And you retired from the CIA in 1973?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: What was the nature of your duties while employed at the CIA and if you would, please explain to the Committee by starting with the position you held and if you would give us your title and the years of service in that position and briefly describe what your duties entailed?

"X": Well, that's going to be rather difficult for me to do it unless I have something that I can refer to.

McDonald: All right.

"X":

I was originally employed by the CIA as an investigator. I subsequently held various positions in the Office of Security, starting with the position as Desk Chief of Operational Support, eventually I became, that became a branch and I became

CIA Interview
Page 3.

the Branch Chief. I served as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge of one of the field offices, domestic field offices, and then became Chief of the Operational Support Division at headquarters. In 1962 I was transferred to the Far East, where I became the Chief Regional Security Officer for the entire Far East, and upon returning to headquarters I assumed the title of Deputy Director for Physical, Technical and Overseas Security. I had retired in June of 1973.

McDonald: Directing your attention to the years 1960 through '62, you were Chief of the Operational Support Division, Office of Security at that time?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: Where were you stationed during those years?

"X": At headquarters.

McDonald: And who was your superior during those years?

"X": My superior was "Y."

McDonald: And what was his position?

"X": He was the Deputy Director for Investigations and Operational Support.

McDonald: During that time, did you report to or work for Colonel Sheffield Edwards? 60-62

"X": Colonel Edwards was the Director of Security and

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through--let me put it this way--my ordinary chain of command was through "Y."

McDonald: And did he report to Colonel Edwards?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: Directing your attention to 1960, did there come a time when you in your official capacity at the CIA became involved in an operation to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: Did this operation involve the cooperation and participation of individuals not connected with the CIA?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: Who were these individuals?

"X": Well, Robert Maheu, who was a private investigator, was approached by the Agency to recruit somebody to handle the assignment. He in turn talked with one John Roselli, who he knew to be a person who had connections with people that probably could handle such an assignment.

McDonald: Did you personally know Robert Maheu?

"X": Yes, I knew him.

McDonald: How did you know him?

"X": He was originally recruited in 1954 by the Office of Security to perform certain operational support

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activities.

McDonald: And what official at the Agency brought Maheu and Roselli into the project?

"X": Colonel Sheffield Edwards.

McDonald: Were there any other CIA personnel at the time involved in this operation?

"X": Richard Bissel.

McDonald: And what was his position?

"X": At that time, he was Deputy Director of Plans.

McDonald: And who else?

"X": And there was a Colonel J. C. King, who was Chief of the Western Hemisphere Division, who I understood was involved.

McDonald: Okay. When Edwards first advised you of this project, how did he put it to you? How did he explain what the Agency was about to get itself into?

"X": Well, he suggested that he felt that it was in the national interest, at least he was advised by some higher official, that it was in the national interest that Mr. Castro be liquidated.

McDonald: And when you say "liquidated," what do you mean?

"X": Well, I assume that was to be put out of the picture.

McDonald: Which means killing him, assassinating him?

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"X": I, I gathered that.

McDonald: Okay. And did Colonel Edwards speak to you regarding Maheu bringing in individuals with contacts in the gambling world?

"X": No, he didn't specify the gambling world. He just knew that Mr. Maheu was actively engaged in some businesses in Las Vegas and assumed that he knew people who might be of the type that could handle this assignment.

McDonald: Okay. Who did Maheu bring into this project, what individuals?

"X": Only one, at that time. It was a John Roselli.

McDonald: Did you know who John Roselli was at that time?

"X": Mr. Maheu identified him as a individual who had the ice concessions in Las Vegas and who was a rather knowledgeable person in the groups that were in gambling interests, international I suppose.

McDonald: Did you personally meet with Roselli?

"X": Yes, I met Roselli through Mr. Maheu.

McDonald: Where did you meet him the first time?

"X": As best I can recall, it was at the Plaza Hotel in New York City in about September of 1960.

McDonald: Were any specifics discussed as to how the plan was to be carried out?

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"X": Yes.

McDonald: And what was said?

"X": Well, Mr. Maheu indicated to Roselli that he represented an international group of clients who had heavy vested interests in Cuba and they were quite upset about the confiscation of their interests by Castro and they were very much interested in doing something that they felt would be of interest to the United States as well as themselves in terms of liquidating Mr. Castro.

McDonald: And who was present during this conversation, you're talking about the one in the Plaza Hotel in New York?

"X": Maheu, Roselli and myself.

McDonald: All right. Did there come a time when other individuals were brought into this project?

"X": At this point in time--no.

McDonald: When in fact did other individuals become involved in the operation?

"X": Well, uh--after Mr. Roselli rather reluctantly agreed to participate in this type of operation, he brought in other individuals who I knew only by pseudonym--Sam Gold and a "Joe," one "Joe."

McDonald: When these individuals were identified using those names, had you met them personally?

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"X": No.

McDonald: When did you first learn their true identities, the identities of "Sam Gold" and "Joe"?

"X": It was, and this I have to just play by ear, because the time frame was a little vague, but it probably was several months after the operation got underway, and I was staying at one hotel in Miami Beach and Mr. Maheu was staying in another hotel. And one Sunday morning he called me and asked if I had read the paper. Now, I think there were two newspapers in Miami at the time--I can't tell you which one it was. But in any event, he said there was something of interest and if I hadn't gotten the paper would I go down and purchase one and come back and call him, which I did. And in the Sunday Supplemental, which as I recall was something like the Parade that we have in the local paper here, there was an article identifying the leaders of the Mafia, and in that article there were pictures of Sam Gold, who was identified as Momo Giancana and Joe who was identified as Santo Trafficante. And Mr. Maheu claimed that this was the first time that he was aware who we were actually dealing with.

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McDonald: And in what year was this? What year are we referring to?

"X": Uh, this--it's very difficult for me to say whether it spilled into 1961 or whether it was 1960. But I have a faint recollection and I'm not sure of this that it was, the article was something about Bobby Kennedy's ten most wanted individuals. And now on that point I can't say for sure whether he would have been the Attorney General or, it seems to me before he became the Attorney General he had some dealings with a committee on looking into organized crime. Now the time I'm very vague on--I don't really know.

McDonald: When did this operation begin? In other words, when did you first meet with Roselli?

"X": Well, that would have been September of 1960.

McDonald: Okay. And how much after that meeting with Roselli in New York did you learn the true identities of Sam Gold and Joe?

"X": Well, that's the thing that I can't pin-point. I'm sorry, I just don't know. It could have been two months after the operation or it could have been several months. And I've thought about it but I just can't pin-point it.

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McDonald: Is it possible that it could have been as much as six months later?

"X": It could have been. I don't know.

McDonald: All right. What did you do upon learning that the individuals involved in this operation were in fact organized crime leaders?

"X": I contacted Colonel Edwards and told him what we had discovered or at least as far as I was concerned it was the first indication I had who we were dealing with, and apprised him of the identities.

McDonald: And what did he say to you? What instructions did he give you, if any?

"X": Well, he just said, well, this is probably what we could have expected, I suppose. And I don't want to be quoting because I don't recall really what he said but he apparently did not feel that we should alter our approach to the assignment.

McDonald: Did he give any further instructions? Did he give you any additional instructions upon learning of the individuals' identity who were involved in this operation?

"X": No. As I recall, we just proceeded.

McDonald: Now, Mr.--Sir, we've been speaking of the effort

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to assassinate Premier Castro. Did this project involve two phases?

"X": If you call it two phases--there was a uh--after the Bay of Pigs, I think the decision was to forget about the whole thing, and there was a lull. And then it was reactivated later on when they decided to turn Mr. Roselli over to another individual.

McDonald: Were you involved in what we can term Phase II, after the Bay of Pigs?

"X": Very generally, as I recall it, and again I'm calling upon my memory here. And I'm not sure-- I remember we--meeting one of the members of the Cuban Junta, an individual by the name of "D." Now whether that was before the Bay of Pigs or after the Bay of Pigs, I'm at a total loss to tell you. That I think was part of the second phase.

McDonald: Directing your attention then to what we will call Phase I, you were most actively involved in that phase. Is that correct?

"X": Yes, yes.

McDonald: What was your role?

"X": Basically I was sort of, if you want to call it

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for lack of anything else, a babysitter for Johnny Roselli, because at that time Mr. Maheu was actively engaged in an almost fulltime activity with the Howard Hughes organization, and it was taking more and more of his time. And because of the lull between any activity on the project he was not able to spend any excessive time in Miami. Most of his time had to be spent out on the West Coast or in Vegas. So, I was enlisted by Colonel Edwards to stay with Roselli when he was--while there were lulls in between, while he was in Miami. Just a babysitter so to speak.

McDonald: Could you also describe your role as that of being a liaison between the agency, the CIA and the individuals involved in the operation?

"X": Only with Roselli.

McDonald: In your capacity as liaison, would all reports or information given to the CIA come through you?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: Would you please tell us what method of assassination was decided upon during the phase of the project, Phase I as we've described, when you were actively involved?

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"X": Well, I think several things were considered.
But it ended up with a thought perhaps, the best method would be the use of some sort of a lethal pill.

McDonald: And how was this assassination going to be carried out?

"X": Well, the plan was that the courier was to-- well, first of all, I think, in backing up, they were to recruit somebody who would be in a position to administer the pill to the principal. And initially they were thinking in terms of a cook or somebody who had access to Castro's meals. And I guess the plan was to have him place the pills in his food.

McDonald: All right. Did you ever meet Santo Trafficante during the period of this operation?

"X": Uh, I am told I did.

McDonald: Would you please elaborate?

"X": Yes. One time, one afternoon Roselli and I were just wiling away the time. We were staying at a motel in Miami Beach and he suggested we go downtown to--not downtown Miami Beach--to just look around at the sights. And we went down to a shopping mall and he suggested that we stop by a haber-

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dashery store and for some reason or other he took a dislike to my shirt that I was wearing and he suggested that he'd buy me a real fancy shirt which I wasn't particularly keen on--his choice of it--but to humor him I went along. We went in and he bought a very fancy silk shirt for me. And while we were in there it became obvious that he knew quite a few of the employees and it ended up by our going to the back of the store where, instead of it being a stockroom as I envisioned it would be--it was rather a rather lavish lay-out which looked like a club of some sort. And there were several individuals there and he introduced me to those people. They were just a sea of faces as far as I was concerned. The names were thrown out, first names which I didn't get or meant nothing to me. And then after we left the store, when we were walking away, he said remember the fellow that was sitting at such-and-such a location in the back room, he says that's "Joe," he's our courier. I wasn't really focusing on this individual because they were just a lot of faces as far as I was concerned. But there I guess I did meet Trafficante, because I found out later that he was "Joe," and that's

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my extent of my ever meeting "Joe."

McDonald: When you met him in the store, was this prior to your reading the article in the Sunday Supplement?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: What was Trafficante's role in the operation?

"X": Well, as I understood it, he was a courier that was running back and forth from Miami to Havana and he was representing the casino interests in Cuba.

McDonald: And what do you mean by "courier"?

"X": Well, he apparently--they, Castro had closed down the casinos and they were--I guess the people that owned them were back here in the States and he was running back and forth trying to determine what their status was and whether they were going to be reopened and whether they were going to be taken over by the Government?

"X": But he did have accesss to several people in the Cuban Government, at least that was the understanding I got.

McDonald: And was it to be his role to transmit the poison pill to Cuba?

"X": Yes.

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McDonald: Sir, in 1967 the Inspector General's Office of the CIA prepared a report dealing with the CIA/Mafia plots to assassinate Castro. In this report, the Agency states that Trafficante was the person who contacted and procured "Q," a Cuban official and "K"; a Cuban exile leader as two persons who could serve as potential assassins or accomplices to the assassination plot. Is this consistent with your conception of Trafficante's role?

"X": I recall both of these individuals and I met one. I met "K" but it was my understanding that they were possible--they were people that could probably take care of the assignment, but I don't know whether that was Trafficante's recommendation or it was a recommendation made by Sam. That was not clear to me at all.

McDonald: All right.
Well, if the Inspector General's Report--and as I say, I'm quoting from it or reading, paraphrasing from it--you would have been the person in a position to transmit information to the Agency at that time, such information that is now contained in that report. Is that not correct?

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"X": I was the only conduit actually from Roselli through Maheu to the Agency.

McDonald: Okay, so if the report--the '67 Inspector General's Report states that it was Trafficante who was the person who was supposed to contact "Q" and "X" then, would that fact be true?

"X": If I understand the way it was running that would be true because Trafficante was the individual who was in touch with the Cubans in Havana.

McDonald: Sir, the '67 Inspector General's Report also states that Trafficante, after receiving the poison pills to be used in the assassination, passed these on the Cuban contacts in an attempt to kill Castro. Is this also consistent with your conception of Trafficante's role in the assassination plots?

"X": Yes.

McDonald: Thank you very much.

Mr. BLAKEY. With your permission, I would like to summarize it. Mr. PREYER. Mr. Blakey is recognized.

Mr. BLAKEY. The former official stated that in September 1960, when he was Chief of Operational Support Division, Office of Security, he was approached by his superior, Colonel Sheffield Edwards and was told of an operation to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. He was told by Edwards that Robert Maheu, then a private investigator, had been approached by the CIA to assist in the operation. Maheu, in turn, recruited one John Roselli. Subsequently, Roselli brought two other individuals into the operation. These individuals were known to the officials as Sam Gold and Joe.

According to this official, he subsequently learned the true identities of these men. Sam Gold was alleged Mafia leader Sam Giancana and Joe was another alleged Mafia chief man, Santos Trafficante. The official stated that he was the CIA liaison with these two men. It was to be Trafficante's role to serve as a courier. Trafficante was to arrange to get poisoned pills into Cuba which were to be put in Castro's food. Trafficante's participation also included the procuring of a Cuban Government official and a Cuban exiled leader as two persons who could serve as the actual assassins. The official stated that Trafficante did, in fact, pass the poison pills on to his Cuban contacts in an effort to carry out the plot.

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This official also stated that when he learned the true identities of Giancana and Trafficante, he reported this fact to Colonel Edwards who, nevertheless, allowed the project to proceed.

Mr. Chairman, the evidence you have just heard, in particular that part that identifies Santos Trafficante, is corroborated in a 1967 report of the Inspector General of the CIA. Part of that report, which the committee has secured for public distribution, indicates:

The man Maheu [deletion] knew as Sam Gold appeared as Salvatore (Sam) Giancana, a Chicago-based gangster. Joe Pecora, who was never identified either to Maheu or [deletion] in any other way, turned out to be Trafficante, the Cosa Nova chief man in Cuba.

As to Santos Trafficante's role, as well as that of the late Giancana, it is described in a section designated as "Comment." It reads:

Giancana was flatly opposed to the use of firearms. He said that no one could be recruited to do the job because the chance of survival and escape would be negligible. Giancana stated a preference for a lethal pill that could be put in Castro's food or drink. Trafficante, Joe Pecora, was in touch with a disaffected Cuban official with access to Castro and presumably of a sort that would enable him to surreptitiously poison Castro.

Mr. Chairman, the evidence we have just heard indicates that Santos Trafficante apparently participated in plots to assassinate Fidel Castro. He was, in short, willing to kill the head of state.

In this connection, it may be well to note one possible reason for Santos Trafficante's participation in these plots. The reason was offered to the committee by the Cuban Government. In its trip to Havana, the Cuban Government made available to the committee a report dealing on Mafia activities in Cuba. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that that report be entered into the record as JFK exhibit F-653 and the translation as JFK exhibit F-654.

Mr. PREYER. Without objection, they will be entered into the record at this point.

[JFK exhibit F-653 was entered in the record and with a notation follows:

[Pages 11-18 of JFK exhibit F-653 were photostatic copies of documents originally generated in response to requests to the Cuban Government from the Warren Commission in 1964. Due to their extremely poor reproductive quality, legible copies could not be reproduced here. Page 19, a copy of Jack Ruby's tourist card, is reproduced elsewhere in these hearings as JFK exhibit F-583 and F-584.

[Page 11 is a copy of Oswald's Cuban visa application, and is reproduced elsewhere in these hearings as JFK exhibit F-408.

[Page 12 is a copy of a letter from Juan Nilo Otero and can be found in the Warren Commission Report as C.E. 2564.

[Page 13 is a copy of a certificate signed by the then Secretary of State, Dean Rusk.

[Page 14 is a letter to the Secretary of State from the Warren Commission requesting information regarding Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico in September and early October 1963. It also requests cooperation by the Cuban Government in furnishing copies of documents relating to Lee Harvey Oswald's visit.

[Pages 15-18 are letters from the Swiss Embassy in response to State Department correspondence regarding Oswald.]

ASPECTOS QUE CONTEMPLA EL CUESTIONARIO ENTREGADO
POR EL COMITÉ SELECTO SOBRE ASESINATOS DE LA CAMA
RA DE REPRESENTANTES DE ESTADOS UNIDOS.

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ASPECTOS QUE CONTEMPLA EL CUESTIONARIO ENTREGADO
POR EL COMITÉ SELECTO SOBRE ASESINATOS DE LA CAMA
RA DE REPRESENTANTES DE ESTADOS UNIDOS. -

En este informe aparecen varios de los aspectos contemplados en el cuestionario entregado por ese Comité, contestados en forma de temas.

I. - SUPUESTA VISITA DE OSWALD A LA EMBAJADA DE LA UNION SOVIETICA EN CIUDAD MEXICO. -

En relación a este tema, consideramos que el Comité debe dirigirse al Gobierno Soviético.

En cuanto a lo que nos compete, podemos señalar que el propio día 27 de setiembre, al solicitar Oswald la visa de tránsito para continuar viaje a la Unión Soviética, el Consulado Cubano en México se puso en contacto telefónico con la Embajada de la Unión Soviética, la que respondió que ellos para otorgar visas de entrada a su país, tenían que esperar la autorización del MINREX en Moscú, lo cual tardaría alrededor de cuatro meses.

II. - MAFIA. -

La información que se posee relacionada al papel de la Mafia norteamericana en los planes de atentado contra los líderes de la Revolución Cubana y otras actividades contrarrevolucionarias, está dada, en las revelaciones que al respecto ofreció el Comité del Senado en su informe sobre los Complots de Asesinatos contra dirigentes de otros países.

La Mafia inició sus actividades en Cuba durante los años 20, - aprovechando la corrupción existente entre los gobernantes de turno.

Durante los años 40 extendió sus mecanismos de control, aunque de forma encubierta, a los Sindicatos de trabajadores de distintos sectores, lo que le permitiera en un futuro manejar de cierta forma todo lo que se relacionara con sus intereses. Estos se ven fortalecidos con el golpe del 10 de marzo, momento en que la Mafia comienza a asentar sus capitales en negocios de bienes raíces, construcciones de hoteles de lujo, - casinos y centros de atracción turística, para así fomentar el turismo para su explotación.

Con referencia a la administración y operación de negocios - de la Mafia durante el año 1958, la misma posee el control de los Casinos de juego, que radicaban en los hoteles de lujo y - cabarets.

La dirección de la Mafia, la representaba Santos Trafficante, quien era el delegado del juego, mientras que los administradores de estos Casinos eran en su mayoría cubanos o figuras extranjeras vinculadas a la Mafia.

Las salas de juego las dirigían los jefes asignados por la Mafia, que velaban por la organización y el funcionamiento de las mesas de juego.

La Mafia obtuvo grandes beneficios por utilidades del juego, - citándose como ejemplo que el Casino del Hotel Riviera, en un año, obtuvo una ganancia neta de un millón cuatrocientos - mil dólares.

Los negocios de la Mafia no sólo correspondían al juego sino además amparaban el control del tráfico de narcóticos, joyas, divisas, trata de blancas y las exhibiciones de películas pornográficas.

Al triunfo de la Revolución en 1959 se cierran todas las salas

de juego, siendo reabiertas luego posteriormente por considerar al Gobierno Revolucionario, que a pesar de que el juego de azar constituía una verdadera lacra social, el cierre repentino de estos Casinos y Cabarets significaba el desplazamiento de cientos de trabajadores. Se dispone entonces la regulación del funcionamiento de las salas de juego a través de un Decreto emitido el 4 de marzo de 1959, en que se autoriza por mediación del INAV (Instituto Nacional de Ahorro y Viviendas) la apertura de tales centros.

El Decreto entre otros requisitos establecía que :

- Los Casinos serían operados exclusivamente por personas de probada solvencia moral y los extranjeros requerían, además, la previa aprobación por escrito de la Embajada correspondiente.

El 28 de setiembre de 1961 son cerrados de manera definitiva las salas de juego que aún permanecían abiertas.

III.- ORGANIZACIONES Y ACTIVIDADES ANTI-CUBANAS .-

La organización contrarrevolucionaria que desde un inicio se destacó por propagar las supuestas actividades de Oswald en favor de Cuba fue el DRE (Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil), la cual publicó una edición especial de su órgano de prensa denominado "TRINCHERA" al día siguiente del asesinato de Kennedy.

En el mismo se divulgaba ampliamente todo lo relacionado con Oswald, indicando una vinculación de Cuba con los hechos. Muchos de los elementos sostenidos en esa publicación, entran en contradicción con lo planteado en las investigaciones posteriores, sobre todo en las ubicaciones de lugares y fechas en que supuestamente estuvo Oswald, lo que establece la falsedad de algunas informaciones difundidas.

Cuatro días después del asesinato, un norteamericano partidario de los contrarrevolucionarios cubanos declaraba en su programa de la radiocomisora de Miami WQAM haber entrevistado a varios de estos elementos, uno de los cuales le había manifestado que tenía la información de que Oswald había estado en Cuba entre setiembre y octubre de 1963 (fecha en que Oswald se encontraba en México haciendo gestiones para viajar a Cuba).

También se observan las supuestas "revoluciones" de Frank Sturgis y otros contrarrevolucionarios cubanos acusando a Cuba de la muerte de Kennedy, las cuales han sido difundidas ampliamente por diversos rotativos de la prensa norteamericana.

La organización contrarrevolucionaria "La Cruz" fue una de las tantas auspiciadas por la C. I. A. como fachada para la ejecución de los planes contra Cuba.

Una de sus acciones consistió en la infiltración por la zona de Punta Hicacos, Matanzas a mediados de 1960, de los apátridas Mario Taulier Sague y Armando Cubría Ramos, quienes habiendo recibido entrenamiento de la C. I. A. cumplían la misión de atentar contra la vida del Comandante en Jefe y realizar distintas actividades de sabotaje.

Para ejecutarlo le fueron entregados detonadores, explosivos, ametralladoras, pistolas, así como proclamas de la organización contrarrevolucionaria "La Cruz".

Otra de las organizaciones contrarrevolucionarias, Resistencia Cívica Anticomunista (RCA), era la agrupación de las denominadas: Ejército de Liberación Nacional (E. L. N.), Movimiento de Recuperación Revolucionaria (M. R. R.), Agrupación Montecristo y otras; siendo dirigida desde el exterior por el contrarrevolucionario y agente C. I. A. Nino Díaz.

Uno de los complots fraguado por la RCA fue el que debía -

tener lugar el 7 de abril de 1963 en el Stadium Latinoamericano, donde participarían 16 hombres armados de pistolas y granadas de fragmentación.

Dentro del grupo se encontraban Enrique Rodríguez Valdés, Ricardo López Cabrera, Onorio Torres Perdomo y Jorge Carlos Espinosa Escarles, quienes vestirían con uniformes de oficiales del Ejército Rebelde y cuyo propósito era asesinar al Comandante en Jefe.

Unos meses después se elabora otro plan, esta vez contra la vida del Ministro de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, Raúl Castro Ruz, con motivo de la celebración del 26 de Julio. El principal coordinador de esta acción lo era Ibrahim Machin Hernández quien cumplía instrucciones del agente C. I. A. Nino Díaz.

Algunas de las personas empleadas por la C. I. A. en las acciones de atentados y planes contra Cuba fueron :

Nino Díaz :

Ex-Capitán del Ejército Rebelde. Participó en la conspiración fraguada por el traidor Huber Matos.

Mantuvo contactos en la Base Naval de Guantánamo donde entrenó mercenarios y desde donde orientó la realización de distintos planes contra Cuba.

En Miami al servicio de la C. I. A. se ha vinculado a través del Movimiento de Recuperación Revolucionaria a elementos como Artime, Tony Varona, Díaz Lanz y Miró Cardona.

Saúl Carballo Moreno :

Fue detenido en marzo de 1963 cuando la operación contra la organización contrarrevolucionaria Resistencia Cívica Anti-

comunista encontrándosele documentación falsa a nombre -
de Serafin Dugas Sablon. Perteneció a la Marina de Cua-
ma antes de 1959.

Emilio Adolfo Rivero Caro :

Agente de la C. I. A. infiltrado en el territorio nacional jun-
to con un grupo. Traía documentación falsa a nombre de -
Carlos Ramirez Valdés.

Este Agente utilizaba el seudónimo de Brand para sus acti-
vidades con la C. I. A.

Adolfo Mendoza :

Agente de la C. I. A. que utilizaba el seudónimo de Raúl pa-
ra sus actividades enemigas. Se infiltró en el territorio -
nacional junto con el también Rivero Caro, antes menciona-
do.

Jorge García Rubio :

Agente de la C. I. A. con el seudónimo de Tony. Se infiltró
como radista de un Team de Infiltración de la C. I. A.

Este grupo (Rivero Caro, Mendoza y García Rubio) traía la
tarea de reorganizar las organizaciones contrarrevolucion-
rias después del fracaso de Girón y realizar un atentado al
General de Ejército Raúl Castro combinado con una autoa-
gresión a la Base Naval Norteamericana de la Bahía de -
Guantánamo.

Pierre Owen Díaz de Ure :

El nombre correcto es Pierre Quang Diez de Ure; Agente -

de la C.I.A., uno de los principales involucrados en la organización del plan de atentado al Comandante en Jefe, preparado para el 28 de setiembre de 1963 Aniversario de los Comités de Defensa de la Revolución (C.D.R.). Este plan consistía en dinamitar las conductoras del alcantarillado que pasaba por debajo de la tribuna.

Pierre Ouang, ciudadano francés, fue reclutado por la C.I.A. en 1961, actuando como informante del Agente Francisco Blanco de los Cuetos.

IV.- SUPUESTO CONTACTO DE OSWALD CON ESTUDIANTES CUBANOS EN MINSK.-

Hasta el momento no se ha ubicado ningún ciudadano cubano de los que cursaron estudios en Minsk que haya tenido contacto con Lee H. Oswald en esa ciudad.

Consideramos que esta información, al igual que otras reflejadas por Priscilla Johnson Mc. Millan, en su libro "La Formación de un asesinato", son falsas, respondiendo las mismas a un interés sensacionalista en medio de la campaña desatada para vincular a Cuba con Oswald.

V.- ACTIVIDADES DE E. HOWARD HUNT EN MEXICO.-

No se posee información sobre las actividades desarrolladas por Howard Hunt durante el año 1963.

VI.- SECUESTROS DE AVIONES.-

El día, de mayo de 1961, Antulio Ramirez Ortiz, ciudadano norteamericano de origen portorriqueño fue el primer sujeto -

que llegó a La Habana secuestrando un avión, cumpliendo así instrucciones de la C. I. A., manteniendo en Cuba una actitud conflictiva y diversionista.

Fue procesado judicialmente por salida ilegal del país y sancionado a dos años de privación de libertad. En 1975 abandonó nuestro país, a partir de las gestiones realizadas por la Embajada Suiza con el MINREX de Cuba en relación a este elemento.

El 24 de julio de 1961 un avión Electra de la Eastern Airline con 33 pasajeros, en ruta Tampa a Miami, fue desviado de su ruta hacia Cuba por un viajero que solicitó a la prensa no revelara su identidad por temor a las represalias que tomarían en los Estados Unidos contra su familia. Agregó a los periodistas que tomó esta actitud ante las reiteradas negativas de los funcionarios norteamericanos de permitirle realizar el viaje.

El 9 de agosto de 1961, Albert Charles Cadon, súbdito francés secuestró un DC-8 de la Pan American en ruta de Houston a Guatemala. El avión fue devuelto y el secuestrador extraditado a México a solicitud del Gobierno de ese país, siendo condenado a 7 años de encarcelamiento por robo con violencia y amenazas.

VII.- AGENCIAS DE INTELIGENCIA .-

Desde mucho antes de la derrota de la invasión de Playa Girón e incluso casi coincidentemente con el triunfo de la Revolución, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos comenzó a actuar contra Cuba en primer lugar a través de sus Agencias de Inteligencia, en particular la C. I. A.

Después de la derrota de Girón, según el informe del Senado de Estados Unidos, se inicia la llamada Operación "MONGOOQ

SE" que de acuerdo con dicho informe, concluye en noviembre de 1962, después de la Crisis de Octubre y que consistió en - "la utilización de exiliados cubanos y disidentes en Cuba", para derrocar al Gobierno.

Lo cierto es que aún después del período de vigencia de la cita de Operación, la actividad contra Cuba de las Agencias de Intelligencia de Estados Unidos no cesó.

Para tener una idea de la intensidad de estas actividades basta decir que entre 1962 y 1963 se produjeron más de 80 infiltraciones por las costas cubanas, con los objetivos de introducir armas y explosivos, realizar sabotaje, infiltrar o exfiltrar Agentes, reclutar colaboradores, abastecer Redes de la C.I.A., etc, de las que más de 50 son posteriores a noviembre de 1962; y que por otra parte, el trabajo de los Agentes infiltrados o reclutados antes y durante "MONGOOSE" no se concluyó al cierre de dicha Operación, sino continuó hasta ser liquidado por los Organos de Seguridad cubanos.

Anexo se adjuntan distintos documentos relativos a :

- Visita de Oswald al Consulado Cubano en México (planilla de solicitud de visa y respuesta del MINREX).
- Correspondencia enviada a La Habana por la Comisión Warren en 1964, que demuestra la cooperación del Gobierno de Cuba con la investigación que esta Comisión llevaba a cabo.
- Tarjetas de identidad llenadas en el aeropuerto de La Habana por un individuo que dio el nombre de Jack Ruby, que visitó nuestro país en dos oportunidades en 1959.
- Breve resumen de actividades directas de la C.I.A. entre los años 1962 y 1963, acompañado por una pequeña muestra gráfica de las mismas.

Appendix

ASSASSINATION
DOCUMENT

CONSULADO DE CUBA, MEXICO, D.F.

Solicitud de visa No.: 779Fecha: 27 de Septiembre 1962Nombre: Leo Laver, CanaleCiudadanía: CanadienseFecha y lugar de nacimiento: Octubre 1, 1929 - New Orleans, U.S.A.Pasaporte No.: D-304523Dirección en el extranjero: 1007 W. Main St. St. Orleans, La., U.S.A.Ocupación (expresando empresa para la que trabaja): Notario Público CanadienseEstancias anteriores en Cuba: ---Motivos de las estancias anteriores: ---Familiares o personas conocidos residentes en Cuba: ---10 OCT 1962

Ha sido investigado desde Cuba? (SI:) (No:)

Con que objeto? ---Cuál es el motivo del viaje propuesto? Visita a familiares para un tiempo.¿Excepciones? ---¿En el mismo? 2 meses; si se prolonga mas tiempo.Fecha propuesta de llegada a Cuba: septiembre 30 de 1962Dirección en Cuba: ---Leo L. Canale
(firma del interesado)

PARA USO DE LA MISION

OBSERVACIONES EL SOLICITANTE LEO L. CANALE DEL P.O. INTERCOMUNICACION...
 En la ciudad de Nueva Orleans, Louisiana, el 27 de Septiembre de 1962, fue allí que el Sr. Leo L. Canale, Notario Público Canadiense, se presentó en la Embajada de Cuba para solicitar una visa para viajar a Cuba. Se le informó que el Consulado de Cuba en Nueva Orleans, Louisiana, no tiene la facultad de emitir visas para viajar a Cuba. Se le indicó que debe dirigirse al Consulado de Cuba en la ciudad de México, D.F., para solicitar la visa correspondiente. Se le informó que el Consulado de Cuba en México, D.F., tiene la facultad de emitir visas para viajar a Cuba. Se le indicó que debe dirigirse al Consulado de Cuba en México, D.F., para solicitar la visa correspondiente. Se le informó que el Consulado de Cuba en México, D.F., tiene la facultad de emitir visas para viajar a Cuba. Se le indicó que debe dirigirse al Consulado de Cuba en México, D.F., para solicitar la visa correspondiente.

Leo L. Canale

SECRETARIADO
GOBIERNO DE CUBA

14897

La Habana, 15 de octubre de 1933

"AÑO DE LA COMUNICACION"

Estimado compañero:

Complase notificar a usted, en relación con la solicitud de visa de tránsito del ciudadano norteamericano LEE HARVEY OWENS, que para acceder a su solicitud debe comunicarnos por cable con respuesta pagada cuando tenga la visa de la Embajada de la USA autorizada.

Con saludos revolucionarios de "PAZ Y LIBERTAD", me refiero de usted,

Fraternamente,

Juanillo Guezo
Juanillo Guezo,
Director

Al comp. Alfredo Mirabal Díaz
Comandante de Cuba en México, D.F.

No. _____

United States of America

13



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

For signature of one person or more, *George*

Having the

In testimony whereof, I, _____

Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Depart-

ment of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting

Section Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in

the District of Columbia, this _____ day of _____,

19____.

Dean Rusk

Secretary of State

By

Robert W. Patterson

Authentication Officer, Department of State

(Traducción hecha por la Embajada)

Swiss

Al Secretario de Estado le ha sido pedido por el Chief Justice Warren, en su calidad de Presidente de la Comisión Presidencial referente al asesinato del Presidente Kennedy, la solicitud del Gobierno de Cuba cualquier información que el Gobierno de Cuba tenga en su posesión en relación con las visitas, a fines de septiembre y principios de octubre de 1963, al Consulado Cubano en Ciudad de México, de Lee Harvey Oswald, presunto asesino del Desaparecido Presidente. (el texto de la carta del Chief Justice al Secretario de Estado se encuentra anexo a esta lista).

Al transmitir esta solicitud al Gobierno de Cuba, el Departamento de Estado no tiene intención alguna de infringir la soberanía del Gobierno de Cuba y reconoce plenamente que la toma de medidas en relación con esta solicitud es una decisión que se encuentra dentro del pleno y libre ejercicio de los poderes soberanos del Gobierno de Cuba. El Departamento de Estado desea expresar la esperanza, no obstante, de que en vista del interés suscitado en el mundo entero por el asesinato del desaparecido Presidente, el Gobierno de Cuba podrá acceder a la solicitud.

AMBASSADE DE SUISSE

Lausanne, 17 de noviembre de 1955

Señor Ministro:

Tengo el honor de referirme a la Nota número 107 de esta Embajada, que también a la carta de Miquelín Escobedo de fecha 3 de junio de 1954 relativa al caso Jose Horacio Gualá.

Con mucho gusto he conocido a Juanita Escobedo de la Embajada en la recepción de la Embajada de Colombia, tengo el gusto de expresar una vez más por la presencia—de parte del Departamento de Estado en Washington—cuando el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América ha expresado la cooperación del Gobierno de la República de Cuba al consentir en suministrar informaciones y documentos referentes al asunto Gualá, que van a completar los archivos de un caso que ha despertado un interés mundial.

En el -

Excelentísimo Señor

Doctor Raúl Ben García

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

M. A. H. A. R. A.

En el ministerio de la Defensa Marro, es de suponer que el primer el texto de la nota del Saldier-
 no hontemariense recibida el 23 de mayo del pro-
 pinto año, la carta de contestación del Gobierno
 francés del 9 de junio y los dos documentos que el
 General adjunto de la Defensa Marro, entregó al
 Señor adjunto de Guira, Sr. A. Stachelhofer, el
 27 de junio de 1974.

Después de esta oportunidad, el Sr. Minis-
 tro, para redimir a la vez su deber al testi-
 monio de la más alta y más plena consideración.

En la Península
 Delegado de la Defensa de Guira, A.E.

AMBASSADE DE SUISSE

La Habana, 22 de octubre de 1964

Señor Ministro:

Dejé el honor de referirme a su carta de fecha 4 de julio de 1964 por la cual Vuestra Excelencia tuvo a bien responder a la Nota de esta Embajada número 103 (22 de mayo de 1964), concerniente al caso Lee Harvey OSWALD.

A petición del Departamento de Estado Norteamericano, se le pidió a mi colega suizo, en el momento de su representación de los intereses de los Suizos Unidos de América en la Revolución de Cuba, en ser ejemplares, el Informe de la Comisión Warren, intitulado "Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy" que se ha publicado en Washington.

Le estaría sumamente agradecido si Vuestra Excelencia tuviera a bien hacer llegar uno de estos ejemplares al Excelentísimo señor Primer Ministro, Comandante Fidel Castro para su información y a quien seguramente interesarán en lo mismo, dando la cooperación y ayuda necesarias durante las investigaciones que dieron origen al Reporte en cuestión.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia el testimonio de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Arthur Hombor

Encargado de Negocios, a.i. de Suiza

Excelentísimo Señor

Doctor Raúl Roa García

Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

La Habana

TARJETA DE IDENTIDAD			
Nombre y Apellido Name		Edad y Sexo Age and Sex	
Nacionalidad Nationality		País de Nacimiento Country of Birth	
Fecha de Embarque Date of Departure		Fecha de Llegada Date of Arrival	
Número y Nacionalidad del Pasaporte o Documento Number and Nationality of Passport or Travel Document		Fecha de Embarque Date of Departure	
Punto de Embarque Point of Departure		Punto de Llegada Point of Arrival	
Dirección Permanente Permanent Address		Dirección durante la estancia en el país Address during stay in country	
Turista Tourist		Inmigrante Immigrant	
Firma Del Funcionario de Inmigración Signature of Immigration Officer		Firma Del Pasajero Passenger's Signature	

TARJETA DE IDENTIDAD/CUBA			
Nombre y Apellido Name		Edad y Sexo Age and Sex	
Nacionalidad Nationality		País de Nacimiento Country of Birth	
Fecha de Embarque Date of Departure		Fecha de Llegada Date of Arrival	
Número y Nacionalidad del Pasaporte o Documento Number and Nationality of Passport or Travel Document		Fecha de Embarque Date of Departure	
Punto de Embarque Point of Departure		Punto de Llegada Point of Arrival	
Dirección Permanente Permanent Address		Dirección durante la estancia en el país Address during stay in country	
Turista Tourist		Inmigrante Immigrant	
Firma Del Funcionario de Inmigración Signature of Immigration Officer		Firma Del Pasajero Passenger's Signature	

ALGUNAS DE LAS ACCIONES DIRECTAS DE LA C. I. A. CONTRA
CUBA OCURRIDAS ENTRE LOS AÑOS 1962 Y 1963.

Entre 1961 y 1964 funciona la Red dirigida por Ramón Grau Alsina, reclutado por la C. I. A. en 1961.

Grau Alsina recibió orientación de formar una red subversiva y de espionaje, dándole como medio de comunicación, entre otros, una plaza automática AT-3.

Entre algunas de sus misiones, esta red preparó un atentado al Comandante en Jefe, cumpliendo además otras tareas como búsqueda de información de todo tipo y en especial militar.

La C. I. A. recluta en Venezuela al contrarrevolucionario Esteban Márquez Novo, entrenándolo en Estados Unidos y siendo introducido ilegalmente en Cuba en marzo de 1962 por la provincia de Pinar del Río.

Márquez Novo recibió orientaciones de crear una amplia red con misiones subversivas y de espionaje, para apoyar una posible invasión al país. En este sentido la C. I. A. realizó más de 30 Operaciones marítimas; infiltrando y exfiltrando Agentes para entrenamiento en el exterior e introduciendo gran cantidad de armas y explosivos para cumplir sus misiones.

Paralelamente a esto, realizan actividad de espionaje, principalmente militar.

En 1963, sin abandonar la búsqueda de información militar, se orienta por la C. I. A. la búsqueda de información económica, enviándose datos técnicos de equipos soviéticos y movimiento de especialistas de países socialistas.

Esta red tenía además varios Agentes entrenados en Estados

Unidos que impartían instrucciones en Cuba a grupos de miembros de la red.

Operaban en la zona de Pinar del Río, La Habana e Isla de Pinos hasta su liquidación definitiva en 1964.

El ciudadano norteamericano Larry Lunt, residente en Pinar del Río y previamente reclutado por la C.I.A. en 1961, conoce alrededor de mayo del 62 a Félix Lima Blanco, a quien recluta posteriormente. La información solicitada a Lima Blanco entonces, fue de tipo militar.

Algún tiempo después Larry Lunt le entrega como medio de comunicación papel carbón y lo adiestra en el uso de éste. Posteriormente Lima Blanco recibe de la C.I.A. un radio-receptor RM-42-A y otros medios.

En el lugar conocido por Carahatas, Las Villas, se infiltran - en octubre de 1962 Tomás Gilberto Fernández Solas, Nilo Fernández y Roberto Fuentes.

Fernández Solas, quien salió del país ilegalmente, fue reclutado por la C.I.A., pasando un curso intensivo en el manejo de armas y explosivos.

Por orientaciones de la C.I.A. se infiltró en el país en esta fecha con el objetivo de hacer contacto con un cabecilla de bandidos, y crear una red de espionaje.

El 19 de octubre de 1962 se infiltran por Pinar del Río, dos teams C.I.A. al frente de los cuales venían los Agentes Miguel Angel Orozco Crespo y Raynaldo García Martínez.

Estos teams de infiltración fueron transportados hasta nuestras costas por los buques "Vibrio" y "Cuties" habiendo partido de las costas de Estados Unidos.

La misión orientada por la C.I.A. a ambos grupos era realizar un sabotaje en las Minas de Matahambre en Santa Lucía, -

Plano del Río, para lo que tenían gran cantidad de armas y explosivos.

El grupo liderado por Orozco Crespo debía enterrar las armas y explosivos en lugares cercanos a la costa. El otro grupo dirigido por García Martínez, debía sabotear el cable que transportaba el mineral desde la mina hasta Santa Lucía, lo que provocaría dejar 400 obreros atrapados dentro de la mina.

El reclutamiento de Orozco Crespo por parte de la C. I. A. fue efectuado por Manuel Artime en mayo de 1959. De sus declaraciones se conoce de sus relaciones personales con "Bob Wall" Jefe del Grupo de Misiones Especiales y las actividades - C. I. A. en Miami en esa fecha, así como con distintos Oficiales C. I. A. que brindaron instrucción u ocupaban cargos dentro de la Agencia.

En diciembre de 1952 la C. I. A. reclutó por correspondencia a Mariano L. Pinto Rodríguez, elemento de la burguesía villacirreña.

Posteriormente la C. I. A. le envía a Pinto Rodríguez medios de comunicación y este recibe la misión de organizar una red a la que la C. I. A. encomienda el suministro a las bandas de alzados, la búsqueda de información militar y el sabotaje a objetivos económicos.

A fines de 1963 la C. I. A. comienza a solicitar también información económica en general y en especial de la industria azucarera.

En diciembre de 1962 se infiltran los Agentes C. I. A. Pedro Camarón y Manuel del Valle Caral, por Oriente.

Las misiones encomendadas por la C. I. A. eran las de organizar grupos de bandidos en Baracoa y Guantánamo, además de seleccionar lugares en las costas para producir desembarcos

ASSASSINATION

y zonas para suministro de armas y explosivos.

Por Boca de Camarioca, Varadero, Matanzas, en abril de 1963 pretenden infiltrarse los Agentes C. I. A. Silvano Marti-
nez Romero, Antonio Bustillo, Roberto Parson, y Oscar Díaz,
dirigido este último de la infiltración. Esta acción es frus-
trada por la Marina de Guerra Revolucionaria.

En mayo de 1963 en el lugar conocido por "Subida de la Peña"
en San Antonio, Pinar del Río y después de recibir entrena-
miento en el exterior, se infiltran los Agentes C. I. A. Alber-
to del Busto Hernández, José A. Colmenares y Hatuey Infante,
acompañados de un team de infiltración. Estos Agentes reali-
zan el viaje en el buque madre REX, pasando posteriormente a
una lancha tipo V-30.

La misión encomendada por la C. I. A. a este grupo era la crea-
ción de una red que dirigía Del Busto y que debía abarcar des-
de San Antonio hasta Santa Lucía, en Pinar del Río.

Por el estero de Carraguao, Los Palacios, Pinar del Río el 20
de mayo de 1963 se infiltran después de recibir entrenamien-
to, Luis García Sigles Menocal, Rolando Fernández, y Arse-
nio Rodríguez San Román. Este team partió de Estados Uni-
dos en el buque madre REX.

Entre las misiones encomendadas por la C. I. A. el team tenía
la de sustituir al Radista de una red de nueva creación, que se-
ría a partir de entonces García Sigles, ocupar cargos el resto
del team dentro de la dirección de la red e introducir en ésta
armas y equipos.

En junio de 1963 por el lugar conocido por Punta Fraile, en
San Antonio, Pinar del Río, se produce la infiltración de los
Agentes Clemente Inclán Werner y Genaro del Busto Infante.

La misión encomendada por la C. I. A. a estos Agentes era ha-
cerle llegar medicinas, ropas y víveres a una red recién crea-
da.

En la zona de Cayo Blanco, Cárdenas, Matanzas, se produce el 10 de junio de 1963 la infiltración del team compuesto por Manuel Guiza Decal, Jorge Ruffin Lustre, Evangelio Ruffin Lustre, Rolando Lermo Hernández, Juan Espinosa González, Ricardo Morales Navarrete, Roberto de Jesús Rodríguez Triana, Jorge Rodríguez Triana, Eddy Crispín Mors Ruiz y Ramón Cuevas - Condo, quienes partieron de la Florida en un buque madre, pasando posteriormente a una lancha. Este grupo trae la misión de la C.I.A. de dinamitar y volar la Destilería Arrechavala, para lo que contaban con abundante material de demolición, armas, equipos de hombre rara y un entrenamiento especial sobre este tipo de acciones.

Por Cayo Empalizada, Las Villas, el 15 de junio de 1963 se infiltran los Agentes C.I.A. Rolando Mateu Paz, Manuel Marrero Castillo y Francisco Marrero Castillo.

La misión encomendada por la C.I.A. a este grupo fue la de reclutar a dos individuos, uno en La Habana y otro en Isabela de Sagua.

Por la zona conocida como Esenada de Valiente, Matanzas, se infiltran en junio de 1963 los Agentes C.I.A., Sebastián Tápanes Enríquez, Casimiro Otero y Gervasio Rivero los que fueron conducidos por el buque madre Tiburón.

La misión C.I.A. que venían a cumplir era la de infiltrar al Agente Sebastián Tápanes Enríquez.

El 22 de julio de 1963 por la zona de Cayo Verde, Las Villas - se infiltran nuevamente los Agentes C.I.A. Rolando Mateu Paz, Manuel Marrero Castillo y Francisco Marrero Castillo, quienes previamente fueron entrenados para introducir espías y materiales subversivos en el país.

La misión C.I.A. encomendada en este caso fue la de crear una red de espionaje en la zona, que debía en principio obtener información sobre equipos y bases militares.

ATLAS DE ASASSINACIONES

Desde la Bahía de Castilda en Las Villas, el 13 de agosto de 1963 una embarcación pirata del Grupo Comandos Mambises de la C.I.A. atacó los tanques-depósitos de la Empresa Cag sellada del Petróleo de esa localidad.

Los atacantes desembarcaron y emplearon un cañón, un mortero y dos obuses, armas éstas, entre otras, con las que realizaron el ataque,

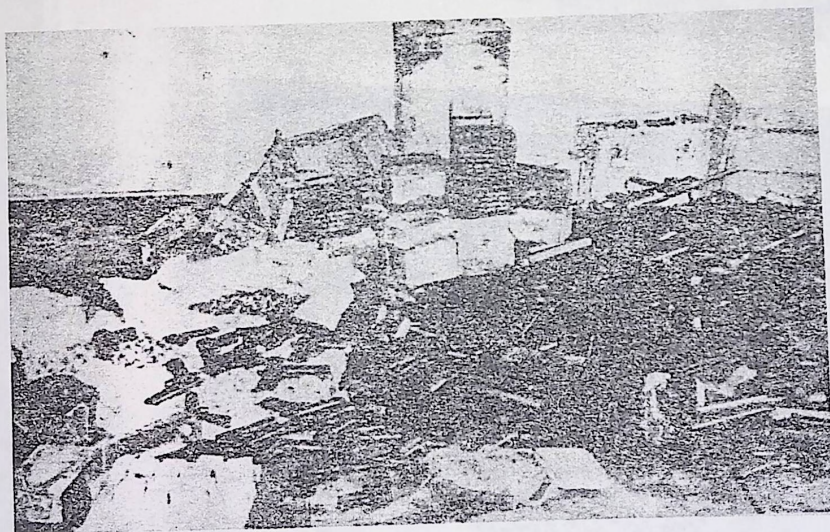
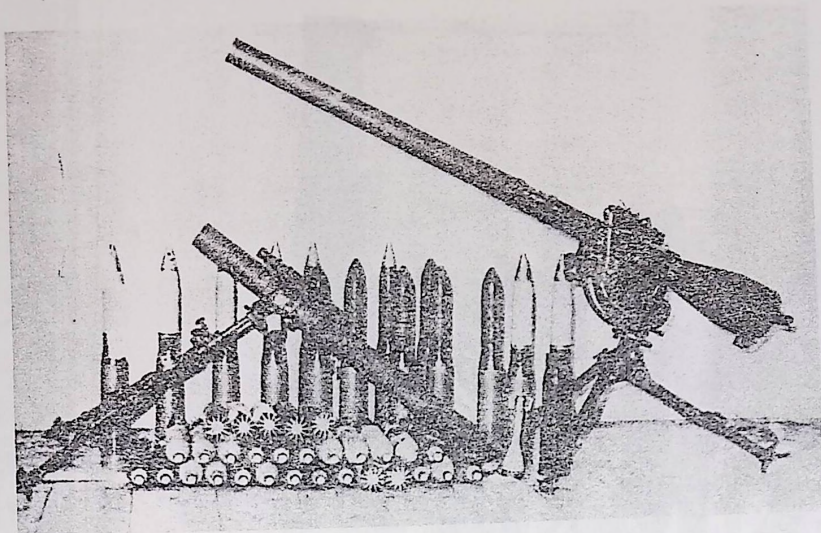
Fue incendiado un carro tanque y lograron impactos en varias casas de vivienda de la zona.

El 2 de septiembre de 1963 en el lugar conocido por Cayo Guin, en Baracoa, Oriente, fue atacada y destruida totalmente la industria maderera de esa localidad, por el Grupo Comandos Mambises al servicio de la C.I.A. En total, dicha industria sufrió 16 explosiones, y fueron ocupadas en el lugar, tres machilas con explosivos y armas de varios tipos.

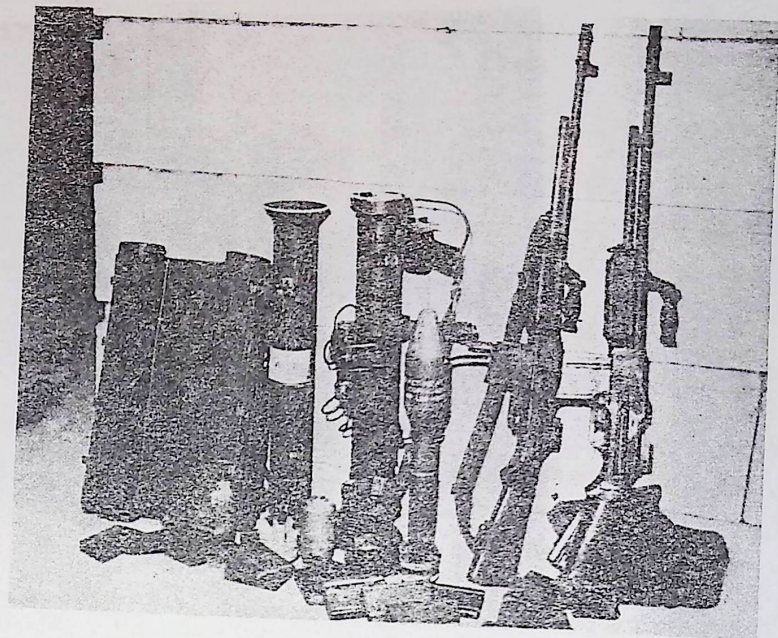
El 22 de octubre de 1963 en el lugar conocido por La Bóveda, cerca del Cabo San Antonio, Pinar del Río, se produce una nueva infiltración de los Agentes C.I.A. Clemente Inclán - Werner, Alberto del Busto Hernández, Luis Montero Carrazza y Roberto Lizama Rodríguez.

Esta acción fue frustrada por la acción de los Organos de la Seguridad de Cuba.

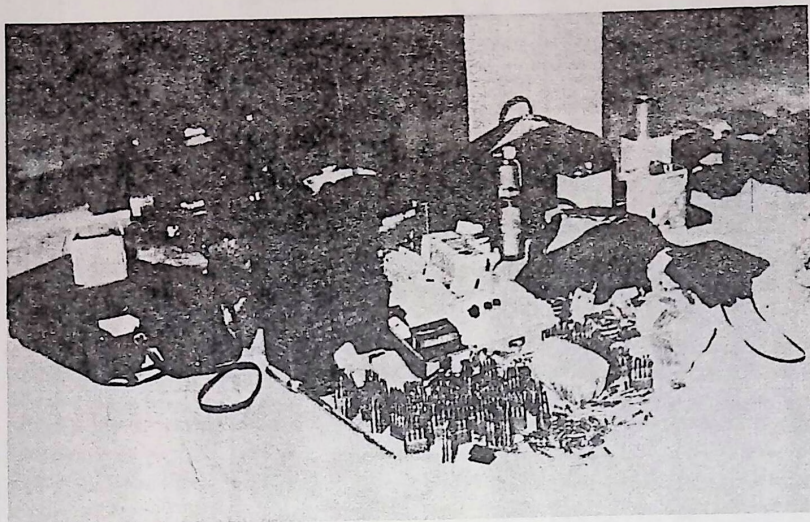
A continuación aparece una muestra gráfica de las armas, explosivos, medios de comunicación y otros equipos utilizados por la C.I.A. en las actividades señaladas y que han sido ocupados por las autoridades cubanas.



REPRODUCTION



MILITARY



NOT FOR PUBLICATION

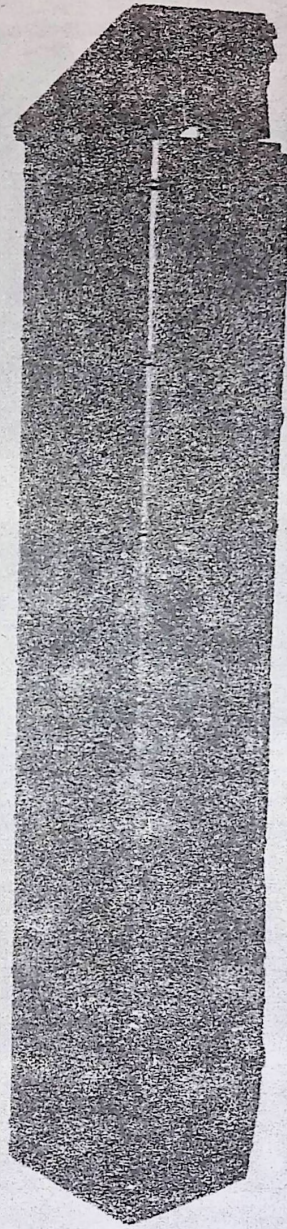
MACHINES

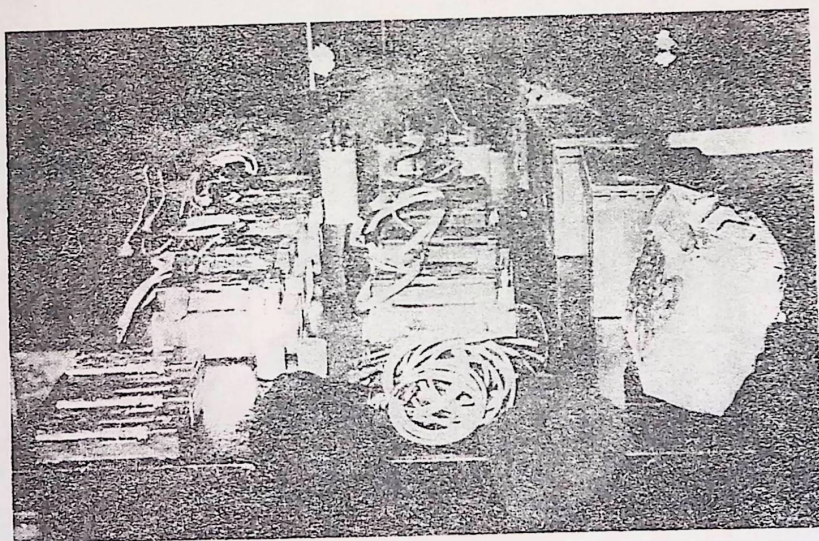
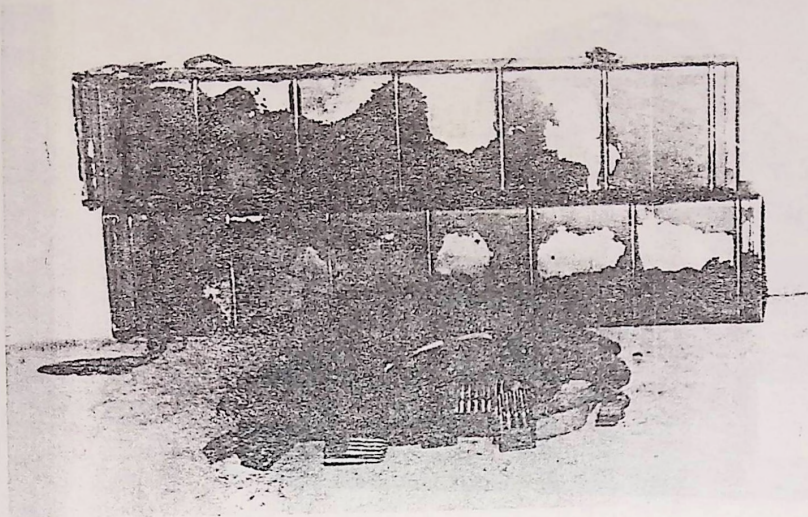




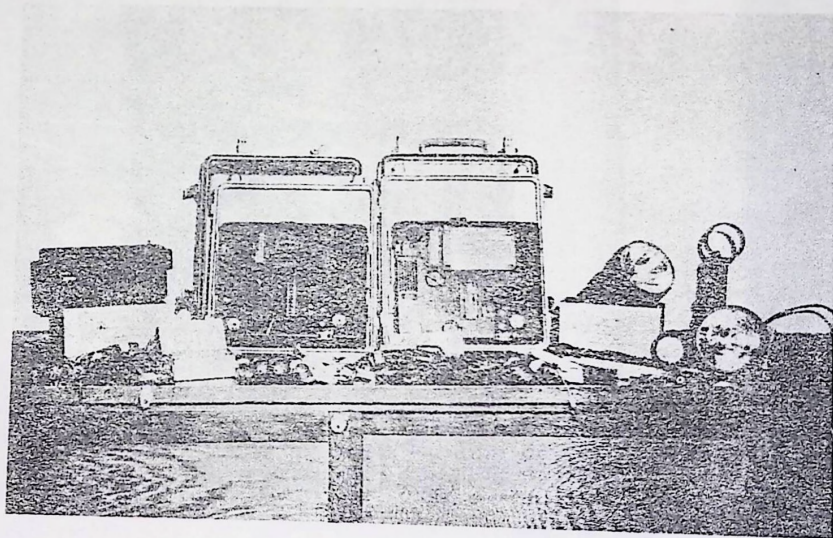
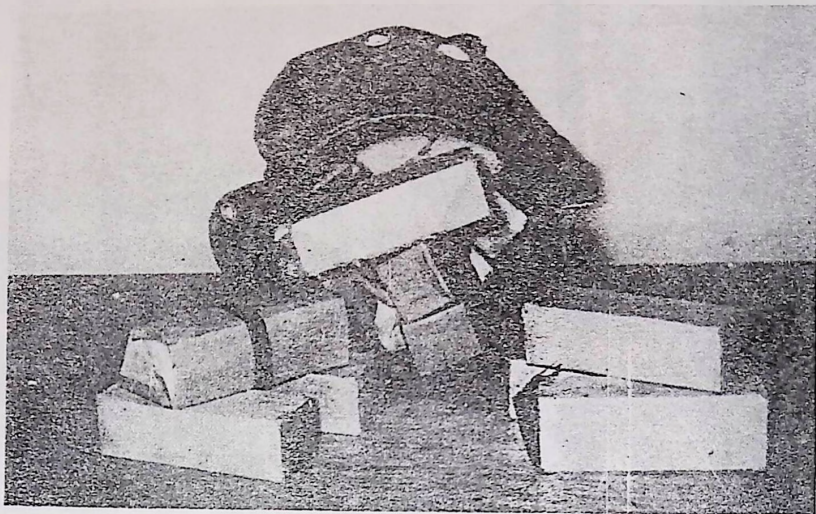
ASSASSINATION

MACHINES





ASSASSINATION



RECHINES



ASSASSINATION

JFK EXHIBIT F-654

ASPECTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE PRESENTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

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ASPECTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE PRESENTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

Several aspects of the questionnaire presented by the Committee are answered in this report by topic.

I. ALLEGED VISIT BY OSWALD TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY

On this matter, we believe that the Committee should direct itself to the Soviet Government.

As far as we are concerned, we can point out that, when Oswald asked for a transit visa on September 27 in order to continue his trip to the Soviet Union, the Cuban Consulate in Mexico called the Soviet Embassy, and was told that authorization to grant entry visas to its country had to come from the Ministry of Foreign Relations in Moscow, which would take around four months.

II. MAFIA

Information on the role of the US Mafia in plans to assassinate leaders of the Cuban Revolution and other counterrevolutionary activities is found in the revelations on this subject made by the Senate Committee in its report on assassination plots against leaders of other countries.

The Mafia began its activities in Cuba during the '20s, taking advantage of the corruption of the successive governments of that period.

During the '40s, it extended its control mechanisms in a covert way to the trade unions of various sectors, which later allowed it a certain amount of control over everything related to its interests. These interests were strengthened with the March 10 coup, which is when the Mafia began to invest its capital in real estate companies and the building of luxury hotels, casinos and other tourist facilities, in order to push and exploit tourism.

The Mafia's business administration and operations in 1958 involved control of gambling casinos in luxury hotels and cabarets.

Santos Trafficante, the gambling delegate, represented the Mafia leadership, and most of the administrators of the casinos were Cubans or foreign figures linked to the Mafia.

The gambling salons were directed by Mafia-appointed chiefs in charge of the organization and operation of the gambling tables.

The Mafia made great profits from gambling. For example, the casino in the Hotel Riviera made a net profit of \$1.4 million in one year.

The Mafia's interests were not limited to gambling, however. It also controlled the traffic in drugs, jewels, the currency exchange, white slavery and pornographic film shows.

When the Revolution triumphed in 1959, all the gambling salons were closed. Later on, they were reopened because the Revolutionary Government considered that, even though games of chance constituted a social defect, the sudden closing of those casinos and cabarets would mean the loss of work for

hundreds of workers. Therefore, a decree was passed on March 4, 1959, regulating the functioning of the gambling salons and authorizing them to reopen under the jurisdiction of the National Institute of Savings and Housing (INAV).

Among other things, the decree established that

- the casinos would be operated exclusively by persons of proved moral character and that foreigners would also need prior approval in writing from their embassies.

On September 28, 1961, those gambling salons that still remained open at that time were closed definitively.

III. ANTI-CUBAN ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The counterrevolutionary organization that immediately made a big to-do out of publicizing Oswald's alleged activities on behalf of Cuba was the Student Revolutionary Directorate (DRE), which put out a special edition of its publication Trinchera the day after Kennedy's assassination.

It gave extensive coverage to everything related to Oswald, indicating that Cuba was linked to the events. Many of the assertions set forth in the publication contradicted what was stated in later investigations, especially data on the places where Oswald was and date on which he was supposed to have been there, which shows the falsity of some of the information it spread.

Four days after the assassination, a US supporter of the Cuban counterrevolutionaries announced during his radio program on Miami WQAM that he had interviewed several of them and that one of them had said he had information that Oswald had been in Cuba in September and October, 1963 (when, in fact, Oswald was in Mexico, trying to travel to Cuba).

The alleged "revelations" of Frank Sturgis and other Cuban counterrevolutionaries accusing Cuba of being responsible for Kennedy's death are also in evidence, accusations which were given ample coverage in several US papers.

The counterrevolutionary organization La Cruz was one of the many sponsored by the CIA as a front to carry out its plans against Cuba.

One of its actions consisted in infiltrating counterrevolutionaries Mario Tauler Sague and Armando Cubría Ramos in the area of Punta Hicacos, Matanzas, in mid-1960. They had been trained by the CIA and were on a mission to try to kill the Commander in Chief and carry out various other acts of sabotage.

To help them in this task, they were provided with detonators, explosives, machine guns, pistols and proclamations of the counter-revolutionary organization La Cruz.

Another of the counterrevolutionary organizations, the Anti-Communist Civic Resistance (RCA), was a grouping of the self-styled Army of National Liberation (ELN), the Movement of Revolutionary Recovery (MRR), the Montecristo Group and others. It was directed from abroad by Nino Díaz, a counterrevolutionary and CIA agent.

One of the plots worked out by the RCA was scheduled to take place on April 7, 1963, in the Latin-American Stadium, with the participation of 16 men armed with pistols and fragmentation grenades.

The group included Enrique Rodríguez Valdés, Ricardo López Cabrera, Onorio Torres Perdomo and Jorge Carlos Espinosa Escarles, who were to be dressed in official Rebel Army uniforms and who were to assassinate the Commander in Chief.

A few months later, another plan was elaborated, this time directed against Raúl Castro Ruz, Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, on the celebration of the 26th of July. The main coordinator of this action was Ibrahim Machin Hernández, who took his instructions from CIA agent Nino Díaz.

Some of the people employed by the CIA in the assassination actions and other plans against Cuba were

Nino Díaz

A former captain in the Rebel Army, he participated in the conspiracy hatched by traitor Huber Matos.

ASSASSINATION

He maintained contacts in the Naval Base of Guantánamo, where he trained mercenaries and directed various plans against Cuba.

In Miami, in the service of the CIA, he had gotten in touch with such elements as Artime, Tony Varona, Díaz Lanz and Miró Cardona through the Movement of Revolutionary Recovery.

Samuel Carballo Moreno

He was arrested in March, 1963, in the operation carried out against the counterrevolutionary organization Anti-Communist Civic Resistance. He had been using false documents in the name of Seraffin Bargas Sablón. He had been in the Navy prior to 1959.

Emilio Adolfo Rivero Caro

A CIA agent who was part of a group infiltrated into the country, he had false documents made out in the name of Carlos Ramírez Valdés.

This agent used the pseudonym of Brand for his CIA activities.

Adolfo Mendoza

A CIA agent who used the pseudonym of Raúl for his enemy activities, he was infiltrated into the country with Rivero Caro, mentioned above.

Jorge García Rubio

A CIA agent who used the pseudonym Tony, he was infiltrated as radio operator of the CIA infiltration team.

This group (Rivero Caro, Mendoza and García Rubio) had the task of reorganizing the counterrevolutionary organizations after the failure at Girón and of trying to kill General of the Army Raúl Castro, while staging a fake attack which the US Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay was to make on itself.

Pierre Owen Díaz de Ure

His real name was Pierre Quang Diez de Ure. He was one of the main CIA agents involved in organizing the attempted assassination of the Commander in Chief prepared for September 28, 1963, an anniversary of the founding of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs). The plan consisted in dynamiting the sewage pipes under the tribune.

Pierre Ouang, a French citizen, was recruited by the CIA in 1961. He served as informer for agent Francisco Blanco de los Cueros.

IV. OSWALD'S ALLEGED CONTACT WITH CUBAN STUDENTS IN MINSK

Thus far, none of the Cuban students who have studied in Minsk have been found to have had any contact with Lee H. Oswald in that city.

We believe that this information, just like other statements included by Priscilla Johnson McMillan in her book The Making of a Murder, is false, responding to sensationalist interests in the midst of the campaign launched to link Cuba with Oswald.

V. ACTIVITIES OF E. HOWARD HUNT IN MEXICO

We have no information about Howard Hunt's activities in 1963.

VI. HIJACKING OF PLANES

Antulio Ramírez Ortiz, a US citizen of Puerto Rican origin, was the first person to hijack a plane to Havana, arriving on May 1, 1961. He came under CIA orders and maintained a conflictive and diversionist attitude during his stay in Cuba.

He was tried for illegal departure from the country and sentenced to two years in jail. He left our country in 1975, after the Swiss Embassy had intervened with the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs on his behalf.

On July 24, 1961, an Eastern Airlines Electra plane with 33 passengers aboard, en route from Tampa to Miami, was diverted to Cuba by a passenger who asked the press not to reveal his identity for fear of reprisals against his family in the United States. He told the journalists that he had taken this step because of repeated refusals on the part of US officials to allow him to make the trip.

On August 9, 1961, Albert Charles Cadon, a French citizen, hijacked a Pan American Airlines DC-8 en route from Houston to Guatemala. The plane was returned and the hijacker extradited to Mexico at the request of the Government of that country. There he was sentenced to seven years in prison for robbery accompanied by violence and threats.

VII. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

The US Government began to act against Cuba through its intelligence agencies, particularly the CIA, long before the defeat of the Playa Girón invasion — in fact, almost at the same time as the triumph of the Revolution.

After the Girón defeat came Operation MONGOOSE, which ended in November, 1962, according to a US Senate report, and consisted of "the use of Cuban exiles and dissidents in Cuba" to overthrow the Government.

The fact is that, even after that operation had supposedly ended, the activities of US intelligence agencies against Cuba continued.

Some idea of the intensity of these activities can be gleaned from the fact that there were more than 80 infiltrations along Cuban coasts between 1962 and 1963 in an effort to bring in weapons and ammunition, carry out sabotage, infiltrate or exfiltrate agents, recruit collaborators, supply CIA networks, etc., and that over 50 of these occurred after November, 1962. Nor did the work of the agents infiltrated or recruited before and during MONGOOSE cease at the end of that operation; rather, it continued until it was eliminated by Cuban security organizations.

The Appendix includes various documents relating to

- Oswald's visit to the Cuban Consulate in Mexico (Application for visa and the reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- Correspondence sent to Havana by the Warren Commission in 1964, which shows the Cuban Government's cooperation with the investigation that Commission was making.
- Identity cards filled out at the Havana airport by an individual purporting to be Jack Ruby, who visited our country twice in 1959.
- A brief summary of direct CIA activities in 1962 and 1963, accompanied by graphic evidence of these activities.

Aleman, José

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Mr. BLAKEY. With your permission, I would like to read part of pages 2 and 3.

The Mafia began its activities in Cuba in the 1920s taking advantage of the existing corruption among successive leaders of Cuba. During the 1940's, they extended their mechanisms of control, though covert, to the workers unions in different sections of Cuba which would allow them in future to control everything related to their entrants. These were strengthened with the blow of March 10.

Mr. Chairman, the reference to March 10 is a reference to the date that then Senator Batista overthrew the lawful government of Cuba at that time.

Continuing the quote:

A time when the Mafia began to build its capital through legitimate businesses in structuring luxury hotels, casinos, and tourist attractions to exploit tourism. With reference to the administration and operation of the Mafia in 1958, the same possessed the control of gambling casinos which existed in the luxury hotels and cabarets.

The don of the Mafia was Santos Trafficante who was in charge of all gambling while the administrators of these casinos were primarily Cubans or foreigners linked to the Mafia. The gambling halls were under the direction of chiefs assigned by the Mafia who made sure all of it functioned properly at the gaming tables. The Mafia obtained great profits through these gambling casinos. We can cite as an example the casino of the Hotel Riviera which in 1 year obtained a net profit of \$1,400,000. The business of the Mafia not only consisted of gambling but also extended to control of the drug traffic, jewelry, foreign currency, matters of prostitution and pornographic movies.

Upon the triumph of the revolution in 1959, all gambling halls were closed.

We see, Mr. Chairman, that through McWillie, if not others, Trafficante may have had an association, at this point an association only with Jack Ruby. How close or to what effect is as yet undetermined. Now it can be fairly asked, could Santos Trafficante also have been involved in plots against President Kennedy? The committee's next witness is Jose Aleman. Mr. Aleman is the son of a former minister of education in the Cuban Government in the late 1950's. He was actively opposed to the Batista regime. In the early 1960's, he was supporting efforts to overthrow Castro. In a context of mutual business entrants, Mr. Aleman and Mr. Trafficante met at least once, perhaps on several occasions, prior to November 1963. It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Mr. Aleman.

TESTIMONY OF JOSE ALEMAN

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Blakey, do I understand that Mr. Aleman also wishes to invoke rule 6?

Mr. BLAKEY. No, Mr. Chairman, he has changed his mind and he will permit both cameras and other recording devices to be operated.

Mr. PREYER. At this time the committee calls Mr. Aleman.

Mr. Aleman, do you solemnly swear the evidence you are about to give this committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. ALEMAN. I do.

Mr. PREYER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Cornwell for the questioning.

Mr. CORNWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Aleman, where were you born?

Mr. ALEMAN. In Havana.

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Mr. CORNWELL. Havana, Cuba?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. I don't believe Mr. Aleman's microphone is on, or put it in front of you a little closer to you.

Mr. ALEMAN. Thank you.

Mr. CORNWELL. What was the occupation of your father in Cuba?

Mr. ALEMAN. He was Minister of Education.

Mr. CORNWELL. Under President Prio?

Mr. ALEMAN. Under President Grau.

Mr. CORNWELL. And how long did your family remain in Cuba?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, until 1947, they came to Miami, and then my father died in 1950.

Mr. CORNWELL. After that, did you remain in Cuba?

Mr. ALEMAN. I was a student at Miami University and then I remained in Cuba for some time.

Mr. CORNWELL. Apart from education in Miami, then you continued to reside in Cuba until approximately what year?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, 1960.

Mr. CORNWELL. And during that period of time, prior to leaving Cuba, you were active in efforts to overthrow Batista; is that correct?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes.

Mr. CORNWELL. What basically was the nature of your role in those attempts?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, we were fighting against a dictatorship, totalitarian government, and we formed part of a few underground activities in Havana.

Mr. CORNWELL. Among other things, I understand that you were one of the leaders of the famous attempt on the Presidential Palace in 1957, is that correct?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, yes.

Mr. CORNWELL. After leaving Cuba, did you continue to be active in attempts during that period to overthrow Castro?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes.

Mr. CORNWELL. And, very briefly, what was the nature of your role in such activities?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, I tried many things, because in Cuba, before I had tried to do something against Communist totalitarian regime of Fidel Castro. Most of the activities, they didn't have any success whatsoever, because I was arrested many times, and there were so many things over there that I had to leave the island, the pressure I had.

Mr. CORNWELL. In 1963, where were you living and what was your occupation?

Mr. ALEMAN. I was living in the Scott Bryan. I had that property of mine.

Mr. CORNWELL. You were living—

Mr. ALEMAN. That is a hotel. Scott Bryan Hotel.

Mr. CORNWELL. You were living in Miami and you owned and managed the Scott Bryan Hotel?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. CORNWELL. During approximately that period of time did you have occasion to meet Santos Trafficante?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes, I did.

Mr. CORNWELL. Who introduced you to him or how did that introduction come about?

Mr. ALEMAN. Mr. George Nobregas came to me after we had some other conversations with some other individuals and there were American businessmen, and those American businessmen had lost a lot of property in Cuba, then he came to me and he said Santos wants to meet you. I some way refused because I had to testify against Santos' people in 1960.

Mr. CORNWELL. All right, who was Mr. George Nobregas?

Mr. ALEMAN. Mr. Nobregas was in all the activities against the Batista regime and also against Fidel Castro.

Mr. CORNWELL. And do you have any knowledge of how it was that he may have known Santos Trafficante prior to that time?

Mr. ALEMAN. The possibility that while we were smuggling arms in the 1950's they had all the connections with other Mafia people and they came about to maybe he was connected with them.

Mr. CORNWELL. So you have told us that when the suggestion was first made that you should meet with Trafficante, you were reluctant to do so, the reason being that you had previously testified against associates of his in a trial, is that correct?

Mr. ALEMAN. Correct.

Mr. CORNWELL. Who were those associates?

Mr. ALEMAN. Sammy Mannarino and Norman Rothman.

Mr. CORNWELL. The trial involved criminal charges and those individuals were convicted; is that correct?

Mr. ALEMAN. I believe so. I am not very sure about it. I left the Chicago grand jury in a hurry and I later on had some threats from them and that was it. I don't know, I didn't even ask about a trial.

Mr. CORNWELL. All right. In spite of your reluctance, however, did you ultimately go to one or more meetings with Trafficante.

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes, I did. I had various meetings with Santos Trafficante.

Mr. CORNWELL. And roughly during what period of time did the meetings take place?

Mr. ALEMAN. July, June, 1963, around that time.

Mr. CORNWELL. Where were the meetings?

Mr. ALEMAN. One of them, the meeting was at Junior's Restaurant. Another was at the Scott Bryan, and I don't know how many there were, three.

Mr. CORNWELL. The name of the restaurant was Junior's?

Mr. ALEMAN. Junior's Restaurant.

Mr. CORNWELL. And the other meetings occurred at the Scott Bryan Hotel?

Mr. ALEMAN. Correct.

Mr. CORNWELL. What was your objective in attending the meetings with Trafficante?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, Mr. George Nobregas came to me and said that J. J. Vila, director of public relations in the city of Miami, wanted to see me because he had a message from President Bosch of the Dominican Republic and President Bosch was a man that was very grateful to my father and that he wanted to talk to me about bringing to the Dominican Republic a lot of businessmen and whoever wanted to invest there.

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Mr. CORNWELL. So you understood that it was a request from people with business interests?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes.

Mr. CORNWELL. That you assist in the introduction?

Mr. ALEMAN. Excuse me. At the same time, he said that one of the possible individuals that was interested in going was Santos Trafficante, going to the Dominican Republic.

Mr. CORNWELL. All right, well, that then explains what you were told about Santos Trafficante's reason for wanting to talk to you, he wanted, I take it, to see if there was a possibility of you achieving some introduction with President Juan Bosch?

Mr. ALEMAN. That is correct.

Mr. CORNWELL. What was your reason for attending the meeting? Did you have a different motive or objective?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, other than the objectives of trying to overthrow Castro. He talked to me about, in favor of, the contracts in Dominican Republic, that I had a project, condominium project, and he wanted to facilitate the means for a loan with the Teamsters Union.

Mr. CORNWELL. So he suggested he could help you by securing a Teamster's loan for a condominium project you were interested in?

Mr. ALEMAN. Correct.

Mr. CORNWELL. Now, it has been reported that at one of these meetings, or on one of these occasions on which you met and spoke with Trafficante, you and he engaged in a political discussion or a discussion of the Kennedy administration.

Mr. ALEMAN. He did most of the talking. I mean, he was talking about President Kennedy and this is a thing that I want to bring to this committee that—

Mr. CORNWELL. Before you tell us what he said, if you wouldn't mind, tell us where the conversation occurred?

Mr. ALEMAN. At the Scott Bryan Hotel.

Mr. CORNWELL. And in what type of room? Was it a type of room that a guest would use?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes; a pretty large room.

Mr. CORNWELL. On this occasion, how many persons were present?

Mr. ALEMAN. There was Mr. Macho Gener, Nobregas, separated from the sofa and a chair, Santos Trafficante was sitting on the chair, and I was sitting on the sofa.

Mr. CORNWELL. It would be like a normal hotel room?

Mr. ALEMAN. It was a apartment, a large apartment.

Mr. CORNWELL. All right, Trafficante was sitting in like a comfortable leisure chair, that sort of thing?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. CORNWELL. What were the other two men doing? Macho—

Mr. ALEMAN. Macho Gener was leaving the room at various times and Nobregas was separating like he didn't want to participate in the conversation.

Mr. CORNWELL. And apart from the part of the conversation that I want to have you explain in detail, why did this particular meeting occur, was it part of the general conversations over the business interests you have already described or was it of some other nature?

Mr. ALEMAN. He talked various things. One of the things he said Hoffa could not secure the loan so far because he had a lot of troubles with the brothers Kennedy.

Mr. CORNWELL. OK. So, in other words, he was providing information on the same subjects that you had previously told us about, the possibility of a loan through Hoffa and the Teamsters for the condominium project?

Mr. ALEMAN. Correct.

Mr. CORNWELL. Then, the conversation, was it a relatively brief one or did it cover a long period of time on this occasion?

Mr. ALEMAN. It covered about 3 or 4 hours.

Mr. CORNWELL. Was it primarily related to business or was it a general discussion just between two people who sit down and talk?

Mr. ALEMAN. It was a general conversation.

Mr. CORNWELL. And during this period of time tell us specifically what was discussed, what was said by Mr. Trafficante, and what, if anything, you said in reply with respect to Hoffa and the political scene?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, he was very much upset. He said that the way the President was getting into Hoffa, a man of the workers, blue collar, and a man that was a very hard-working individual, and that at the same time he was very much upset, I mean, he thought for a long period of time.

Mr. CORNWELL. Very much upset what Kennedy had been doing to Hoffa, and he felt sympathetic toward Hoffa describing him as a man——

Mr. ALEMAN. Very much.

Mr. CORNWELL [continuing]. Of the workers?

Mr. ALEMAN. Very much.

Mr. CORNWELL. Go ahead. What did the conversation lead to next?

Mr. ALEMAN. At one point he said, "You see this man, he is not going to be reelected, there is no doubt about it, he has been the man that has been giving everybody a lot of troubles and he is not going to be reelected" and I don't know why he said that to me or anything. Then he said——

Mr. CORNWELL. Did you make a reply to that?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes; I said he has a lot of Democrats backing him and so far it looks very well. I don't see anything that he is not going to be reelected or anything.

Mr. CORNWELL. And what, if anything, did he reply?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, he said he is not going to be reelected, you don't understand me, he is going to be hit.

Mr. CORNWELL. Prior to that, had you heard the expression "he is going to be hit," the term before? Are you familiar with that expression?

Mr. ALEMAN. Well, it is going to be hit with a lot of votes from the Republicans or anything. I didn't have any idea at that moment, that is why I want to bring this to the committee. I don't have no possible idea why he said it.

Mr. CORNWELL. Have you ever heard anyone use the expression "he is going to be hit" on any other occasion?

Mr. ALEMAN. Not whatsoever. I mean, maybe if you are talking about something, I mean—that is all. I never, I never thought at that moment anything whatsoever.

Mr. CORNWELL. The question is, Have you ever heard that expression, "he is going to be hit"?

Mr. ALEMAN. In what respect?

Mr. CORNWELL. On any other occasion?

Mr. ALEMAN. No.

Mr. CORNWELL. In any of your activities in the attempts on Batista or Castro, any of your dealings with Norman Rothman, or Sam Mannarino, have you heard this expression?

Mr. ALEMAN. That was 1957, 1956, when we were trying to smuggle arms.

Mr. CORNWELL. OK, you had heard it during that period?

Mr. ALEMAN. No, no.

Mr. CORNWELL. The question is had you heard that expression on other occasions?

Mr. ALEMAN. No, no.

Mr. CORNWELL. Well, then, if you hadn't when Santos Trafficante said he is not going to be reelected, he is going to be hit, did you ask him to elaborate on that phrase?

Mr. ALEMAN. To the best of my recollection I thought that he was maybe saying at that time that he could provide a loan and that he was making a story or he was upset about that, and then he just made an alibi about the loan or something like that. That was my thought about it.

Mr. CORNWELL. The question was, when he used the expression did you ask him to elaborate, to explain the exact meaning of his phrase, "he is going to be hit"?

Mr. ALEMAN. He was talking, and I didn't, I wasn't interrupting for about a long time, and he kept on talking and talking and talking, and that is it.

Mr. CORNWELL. So the answer is you didn't ask him to explain?

Mr. ALEMAN. I didn't ask him anything. I just took it like somebody saying something, and I took it as you know, like he is talking about a lot of foolishness.

Mr. CORNWELL. OK, let me see if I can get what is in your mind, then, as to the specific details of the conversation.

You first brought up Mr. Hoffa and the pressure that Kennedy was placing on him. He then suggested that Kennedy would not be reelected. You interjected an opposing view that you thought—

Mr. ALEMAN. No way, whatsoever?

Mr. CORNWELL. No?

Mr. ALEMAN. No way, whatsoever.

Mr. CORNWELL. You said—

Mr. ALEMAN. I respect the President of the United States and in no way whatsoever tried to say anything that I could take that the President was going to have some problem or anything like that, he just said maybe he is going to be, the way he said that word, I interpreted with a lot of votes from the Republican Party or something like that.

Mr. CORNWELL. After Mr. Trafficante indicated that he wouldn't be elected, you said something in reply to the effect that you thought he would be, is that accurate?

Mr. ALEMAN. Yes.

Mr. CORNWELL. And at which point Mr. Trafficante replied no, he is going to be hit.

Now, you told us he went on speaking at that point, is that correct?

Mr. ALEMAN. You see, this happened 15 years ago and to the best of my recollection I think that is the word he put. I am not saying positively that, I mean, the wording he put was something he is not going to make it, something like that, that is it, he is not going to be reelected. In a long conversation like that I didn't pay too much attention on it.

Mr. CORNWELL. Let me ask, Mr. Chairman, if we might show the witness JFK exhibit F-602?

Mr. FITHIAN [now presiding]. Permission granted.

[A document was handed to the witness by the clerk.]

Mr. CORNWELL. This is a newspaper article which we have marked for identification.

Mr. FITHIAN. Does counsel wish that to be entered into the record?

Mr. CORNWELL. We would request that it be entered into the record at this time.

Mr. FITHIAN. Without objection, it shall be ordered.

[The above referred to JFK exhibit F-602 follows:]

ASSASSINATION

MACHINES

The Washington Post

OUTLOOK

Columnists / Editorials

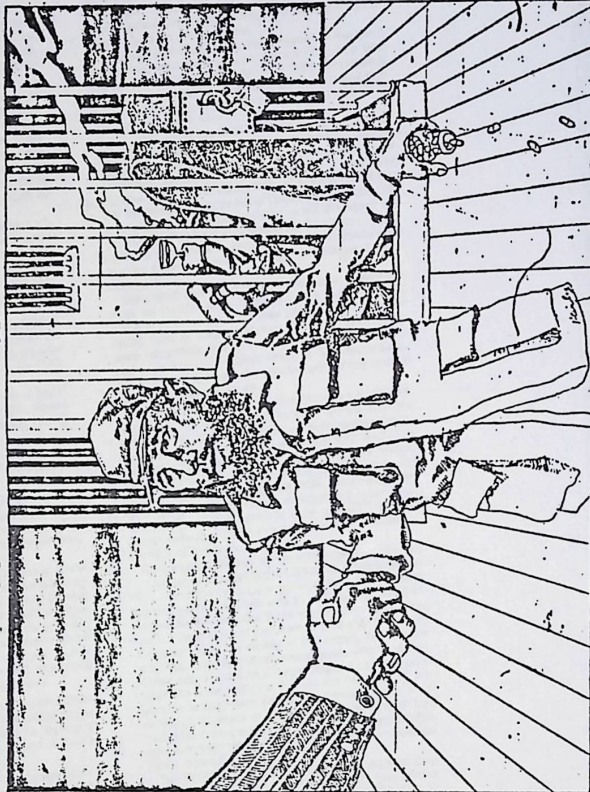
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1976

C1

The Mafia, The CIA And Castro

By George Gale III

Calls for Washington to close off the paper's magazines and its satellite book, the CIA's *Current Awareness in Biological Sciences*. His article on the CIA's role in the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban agent cod-named AN LASH, appeared in *Our* back on May 2. In the article, he examines the CIA's other major attempt to plot the assassination of Fidel Castro, which failed for what may have been similar reasons.



... By George Gale III The Washington Post

MANY ODD TRIBUTES have been offered to the American character, but few can rival that of Sen. Walter Mondale upon reviewing the total failure of the CIA's persistent efforts to kill Fidel Castro. "Thank God," he said, "we're just not very good at that sort of thing."

Most thoughtful observers seemed to draw the same reassuring conclusion. Even the American Mafia does not have been recruited by the Agency to carry out Castro's execution were seen as too incompetent to be really evil. The portrait drawn by the Senate Intelligence Committee casts them more in the light of characters out of "The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight," bombing poor Castro but apparently never getting around to killing an attempt on his life.

Such interpretations of these deadly undertakings are not comforting. But they are unlikely to be more than exercises in wishful thinking. To begin with, Sen. J. Lee Rankin (D-N.C.) tells us "the theory that prevailed in the [Senate Intelligence] Committee was that the Mafia never tried to kill Castro, that we were being misled."

The committee did not pursue this, but an independent examination of the available record of one of the Mafia figures involved in the plot makes us consider the troubling possibility that at least some of the CIA's Mafia associates were working with Castro.

Such a combination would hardly have seemed likely in 1960 when the CIA set out to recruit the Mafia. Almost all the major underworld families had been heavily in Cuba and Castro was fast moving to seize their holdings. He had even put some of his members in jail. The Mafia's willingness to do the CIA's dirty work would not then have required explanation.

Sam Giancana and John Roselli are two mobsters generally identified with the Mafia-CIA plot. Both, like Santo Trafficante Jr., was perhaps the most important of the three, for it was his men, both in Miami and Havana, who were supposed to carry out the murder.

Trafficante is generally identified as the don of southern Florida, but he is also one of the chiefs in the Mafia's loose national confederation. Once the Agency decided to turn to the mob, it was inevitable that Trafficante's assistance would be sought. Alone among the principal dons, he had lived in Cuba. He had built a large organization there and still had a number of associates in Castro's Havana. Moreover, his professional experience made him ideally suited for assassination work.

He had learned the business from his father, Santo Trafficante Sr., who came from Sicily in 1904 to Tampa, where he built and ran his crime family for the next 50 years. In 1954, a year after surviving a shotgun attempt on his life, Santo Jr. succeeded his father.

In the first few years of his rule, Tampa was plagued with gangland murders. He was himself a leading suspect in the 1957 barbershop execution of Albert Anastasia, the old chief of Murder Incorporated. Accompanied by a Cuban associate, Trafficante had been in Anastasia's New York hotel suite the night before the killing. According to reports of the Senate Permanent Investigations Committee, Anastasia had been attempting to move in on Trafficante's Cuban gambling operations.

The following month, Trafficante was arrested at the Mafia national convention at Apalachin, N.Y. Ten years later, his eminence was again confirmed by his appearance at the La Stella Restaurant in New York with Carlos Marcello, Carlo Gambino and several other of the country's leading dons.

He was, in short, one of the major crime bosses in the United States and, significantly, the don most deeply affected by Castro's revolution. Not only were his gambling casinos seized but he had been jailed in Cuba. One would assume that such a man might have cooperated, taking on Castro independently. At that time, in 1960, Castro's grip on Cuba was by no means secure. Once Trafficante accepted his CIA commission, Castro's days should have been numbered.

A Question of Loyalties

THE INITIAL PLOT called for poisoning Castro in his favorite Havana restaurant, where one of Trafficante's men worked. The CIA's Technical Services Division supplied deadly botulinum toxin which Robert Maheu, who was coordinating the mob's efforts for the CIA, passed to an alias associated with Trafficante at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. From there Trafficante's courier was to deliver the poison pills to the man in the Havana restaurant.

All of this took place in March and April of 1961, just

before the Bay of Pigs. Accounts vary as to why the plan failed. One version is that the authorization to administer the poison never came through; another, that Castro stopped going to the restaurant.

The most intriguing theory was proposed by the CIA's deputy-inspector general, Scott Breckenridge, in a Senate staff member. Breckenridge, who had been responsible for investigating the CIA-Mafia plot, maintained that Trafficante had been providing Castro with details of the plot all along.

But why would Santo Trafficante, of all people, do this? One possible explanation is proposed in a July 1961 report on Trafficante by the Federal Bureau of Narcotics: "There are unconfirmed rumors in the Cuban refugee population in Miami that, when Fidel Castro ran the American racketeers out of Cuba and seized the Castro, he kept Santo Trafficante Jr. in jail 10 months. It appears that he had a personal dislike for Trafficante, where in fact Trafficante is an agent of Castro. Trafficante is allegedly Castro's outlet for illegal contraband in the country."

The report goes on to summarize contradictory reports on Trafficante's relationship with Castro but, because of its date, the allegations quoted are of great interest. Back in 1961, the Mafia's anti-Castro credentials were impeccable. The informants relied on by the narcotics agents may have been wrong in their conclusions but it is hard to think of a possible self-serving motive for inventing such a story.

There are other indications that there may have been some working arrangement between Castro and the mob. Several reliable witnesses — most notably Graydon Lynch, who was a senior case officer with the CIA in Miami for eight years — assert that during the crucial early 1960s Castro relied on Cuban Mafia contacts for much of his intelligence in the exile community. And once again Santo Trafficante emerged as a central figure, for Castro is reported to have paid off his Mafia agents through the Florida numbers racket — **BOLITS** — which Trafficante runs.

Here another Bureau of Narcotics report — this one prepared by agent Eugene Marshall — is instructive. Fidel Castro has operatives in Tampa and Miami making heavy Bolita bets with Santo Trafficante Jr.'s organization. The winning Bolita numbers are taken from the last three digits of the lottery drawing in Cuba every Saturday night. "According to this report, prior to the drawing, these operatives communicate with Cuba and advise which numbers are receiving the heaviest play. The Cuba lottery officials then rig the drawing. . . . According to this report and others, Castro's agents were robbing Trafficante of a large share of his profits. The Narcotics Bureau was afraid that, if Trafficante's Bolita operation were ruined, he would concentrate even more on the drug trade."

But Trafficante was in an even better position than the facts in know about rucks on his profits. Had he chosen to, he could have solved the problem overnight by shifting the payoff numbers from the Havana lottery to the weekly dog races in Miami, as he finally did in the late 1960s. If, then, these reports are to be believed, Trafficante's Bolita may have served as one of the paymasters to the Cuban intelligence network in the United States.

Divided Loyalties

TO THOSE ONLY loosely familiar with Cuba in the 1950s, and the Mafia's intricate role there, it must seem absurd to suggest that the underworld could collaborate with Castro's intelligence. But the Mafia is not a monolith and not all of its branches had been Castro's enemies. The Mafia had placed most of its bets on the dictator Fulgencio Batista, but it had also served as the gun runners for the revolutionaries. Castro, as well as most other important Cuban revolutionary leaders, had previously dealt with and relied on one or another underworld family for arms to carry on the fight.

As the owners and managers of the luxury hotels and gambling casinos in old Havana, the Mafia had played a pervasive role in Cuban life. Soon after Castro's victory, his leaders were no longer welcome in Cuba as its operations were progressively closed down; but it still had friends and former business associates high in Castro's government. The complexity of the Mafia-Castro relationship is exemplified by the ambiguities that surrounded the imprisonment and release of Trafficante himself in 1959.

It was a time when thousands of enemies of the revolution (and Trafficante clearly seemed to fall into this category) were being summarily taken out and shot. The Bureau of Narcotics report suggests the possibility that