

# 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.