

STATE OF ILLINOIS
 MENTAL HEALTH
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

INSTITUTE FOR JUVENILE RESEARCH
 807 SOUTH WOLCOTT AVENUE
 CHICAGO 18, ILLINOIS
 TELEPHONE BEALEY 8-4070

April 15, 1964

P E R S O N A L

Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel
 President's Commission on the
 Assassination of President Kennedy
 200 Maryland Avenue, North East
 Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Below is a resume of the data collected and clinical evaluation done at the Institute for Juvenile Research on Jack Ruby in 1922.

The report consists of three sections. Section one contains a systematic presentation of the data apportioned from the case record. Section two contains a summary of data on action taken by the Institute on completion of the evaluation. Section three contains a psychiatric evaluation of the data contained in the case record. There is no evidence in the record that such an evaluation was made by the psychiatric staff at that time. You will also note that it is our impression that the material in the case record is sketchy according to current psychiatric standards. With these qualifications the following report is hereby submitted.

CASE-RECORD SUMMARY

Name: Jacob Rubenstein
 No: 4376

Institute for Juvenile Research

1. Factual Data based on the material compiled from the case history.

- a. Background Information: Jacob was admitted to the Institute for Juvenile Research on June 6, 1922. He was 11 years and 3 months old at the time and April 26, 1911, (Chicago) was listed as his birthdate. The family was described as "partially dependent" and their address listed as 3647 Roosevelt Road in Chicago. The family occupied a five room apartment with electric light and gas, with a bathroom inside in the hallway. The monthly rent was \$32. Patient slept in the same bed with two brothers. The referral was made by the Jewish Social Service Bureau and the reason was given as follows: "Truancy and incorrigible at home." He was described as quick-tempered and disobedient. At the time of admission Jacob attended 5th grade.

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Jacob Rubenstein
 Gur # 4376

Background Information (cont'd):

The family obviously had numerous contacts with various social and welfare agencies in the city. Between 1913 and 1920 the case record lists thirteen different entries including such agencies as the Jewish Welfare Service and the Municipal Court. Jacob's father, Joseph, was, at the time of the examination, separated from the family. He was 51 years of age, was born in Russia, of Jewish religion, had been in the United States for 17 years and his occupation was given as carpenter. He was described as a quick tempered, alcoholic, and sexually promiscuous man in good health. Mr. Rubenstein was not interviewed by the clinic staff. The mother was born in Russia. Her occupation was listed as a housewife. She was 46 years of age -- 17 years in the United States. She complained of severe headaches during menses, otherwise her health was good. The record indicates that Mrs. Rubenstein had so little self control that during any conversation of the slightest importance she became highly excited talking most rapidly and often unintelligibly. She admitted losing her temper with the children and hitting them. She yelled at the children most of the time; there was always a lot of noise in the home. She was described having a very disagreeable disposition and a sharp tongue which led to frequent quarrels with her neighbors, to the point where she was ready to come to blows with them. In spite of her temper and severity with the children she was unable to control them and was always getting into brawls with them mainly because of their delinquencies, their deceptive tendency and disregard for other people's property. Patient's truancy and incorrigibility at home as well as the rest of his "bad behavior" was considered by the examiners to be caused by mother's extreme temperament. It was implied that the boy's truancy was the result of his not being able to get up on time, and this in turn was related to Mrs. Rubenstein's excessive sleeping habit. The examiners thought that the unusual amount of sleep might have been due to physical causes in both mother and patient.

The siblings were listed as follows:

1. Hyman, 20, graduated from high school, nervous, quick-tempered.
2. Hannah, 20, graduated from business college, was in ill health, graduated at 14.
3. Mary, 16, graduated at 14, finished 1 year of high school.
4. Gennie, died at 3 months.
5. Eva, 13 years, grade not known.
6. Jacob, patient.

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a. Background Information (cont'd):

7. Sam, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ years in school, grade not known, described as nervous.
8. Steve, 7 years in school, truant from second grade.
9. Ida, 5 years

- b. Clinical Information: The clinical data and part of the basic information apparently was collected through semistructured interviewing methods. The bulk of the record, however, consists of two identical sets of self-administered questionnaire forms. One set filled out by the mother and the other presumably by the patient (obviously someone filling it out for the patient). Some of the questions produced information more or less significant but most of the questions were irrelevant. Among other things this questionnaire form reveals that patient always had enough to eat at home, did not belong to any clubs, was not a member of any athletic team. He was not fond of his parents, but still preferred his father to his mother. The question "does he like girls" was answered with a "no" on the other hand the question whether he liked boys or whether he had any friends with "yes." It was evident from the questionnaire that he was not a sleepwalker and a bedwetter but he did bite his nails. Both mother and patient felt he was bigger than other children in his class but contrary to his mother's statement patient found that he was stronger than others. He also differed with mother about his department which in his opinion was good. Jack felt that his classmates were picking on him and he gave his nickname as "Jack" whereas his mother thought that his nickname at school was "Jackass." Jack indicated that he wanted to be a mechanic but felt he was too little to know why he chose this occupation. He also felt that he did excel in athletics and swimming and that his work was at least as good as that of others. Though he had friends, he could not get along with them. He was described as being a good ballplayer and was proud of making a home run. In general mother tended to describe him on more negative terms than the boy's self-description indicated. The mother complained mainly about his disobedience at home and school. She did not consider him a leader and thought he allowed his friends to lead him. The mother answered with "Yes" the question whether he ever broke his word or whether he ever planned to injure anybody. Mrs. Rubenstein also indicated that though she was fond of patient she was not proud of him.

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The educational history reveals that he entered the public school system at the age of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and he always attended public school. At the time of the examination he was in the low fifth grade and it was stated that he never repeated a grade. His best subject was arithmetic. His worst subject was spelling and history. His department at school was considered not too good. The statement that he did not go to Sunday School probably refers to the fact that he had no religious education outside of the public school system.

A psychiatric interview with patient yielded the following additional data: "He is cooperative, talks freely and states that he does not like to live at home because he does not like his mother. States his mother likes to him and beats him so he runs away. It was also mentioned that there were frequent quarrels between patient and mother. He could give no other good reason for running away from school except that he went to amusement parks. He has some sex knowledge and is greatly interested in sex matters. He stated that the boys in the street tell him about these things. He also claims that he can lick everyone and anybody in anything he wants to do." It was also noted on the "mental tests" that he reacted quickly, often carelessly, his attention was apt to wander so that he had to be held to task. There was no evidence of sex delinquency though it was mentioned that patient masturbated frequently.

Psychological Examination

A Stanford-Binet Intelligence test was administered on July 6, 1922, and yielded an IQ of 94.

Physical examination revealed that his height was 51.3 inches and his weight was 64.7. He was well developed but not well nourished. The physical examination was essentially negative except for the following two items:

1. The thyroid gland was found to be somewhat enlarged.
2. Both testicles were not completely descended yet.

Follow-up Action taken by the Institute

On July 10, 1922, the following letter was addressed to Miss London, Representative of the Jewish Social Service Bureau then located at

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Follow-up Action (cont'd)

1800 South Street. The letter which summarizes the diagnostic conclusions and makes recommendations reads as follows:

"Dear Madam: This boy was examined by me on July 6, 1962. Physical examination showed no findings of special importance. By mental test he gave 10 years, 7 months and his IQ is 94. This boy was cooperative and talked freely. His attention wandered and he states that he does not like to live at home because he does not like his mother. States his mother beats him so he runs away. He could give no adequate reason for running away from school but said that he went to amusement parks. He has some sex knowledge and is greatly interested in sex matters. He stated that the boys in the street tell him about these things. This patient is egocentric, states that he can lick everyone and is as good as anybody at anything he wants to do. The most important factor in this boy's problem is the home situation. He is egocentric and expects much attention and is unable to get it as there are many children at home. His behavior is rather colored by his early sex experiences, his great interest and the gang situation in the street. From a superficial examination of his mother who was here with him, it is apparent that she has no insight into his problem and that she is inadequate in the further training of this boy. It is therefore very advisable that he be put into a new environment where his characteristics will be understood and where he will get adequate supervision and recreation. This will tend to take his interest away from the street gang and will be a good substitute for his sex delinquency."

On March 9, 1963, the Jewish Social Service Bureau inquired at the Institute about the progress of the boy. They complained that they had not received a written report and had to rely entirely on several telephone contacts. They reported that they referred Jacob to the Jewish Home Finding Society for placement and before this placement could be arranged it would be necessary for the agency to have a report from the Institute. The case at the Institute was closed with the following letter to the agency:

"In our last conference with regard to this boy the conclusion reached was that the mother's mentality and general behavior is

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Follow-up Action (cont'd)

such that it is impossible for her to adequately give this boy the right kind of training and supervision. In our last conversation with the boy it was noticed that he felt that the mother was inferior, therefore, he did not have to abide by her rules. Placement in a home where intelligent supervision and discipline can be given him is recommended.

(signed) Herman M. Adler, M. D.
Director
Institute for Juvenile Research"

III. Evaluation of the factual information

From the point of view of current psychiatric knowledge the above data is sketchy and contains many gaps so that it is not possible to make a diagnosis with any degree of certainty. A few facts, however, seem firmly established.

1. Family relationships were characterized by a high degree of instability and disorganization. The many agency contacts are indicative of the family's marginal social status. All the children apparently were involved in some form or less minor delinquent activity not clearly specified. No detailed description of father is available and it is not possible to reconstruct from the accumulated data the nature of mother's disturbance. She might have been an emotionally and materially grossly deprived individual suffering from a severe character disorder but by the same token she could have been of low intellectual endowment (mentally deficient?) or grossly disturbed emotionally to the point of being psychotic.
2. The unstable and disorganized home could not provide Jack with the necessary controls and discipline. His relationship to both parents was apparently poor and while he claimed that he preferred his father, he evidently had serious open conflicts with his mother.

The evaluation does not contain a formal diagnosis. The term used in lieu of diagnosis "egocentric" would be very hard to translate into any of the modern diagnostic categories. It is strongly implied, however, that the poor social environment and the emotional, possibly

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 April 15, 1964Evaluation of the factual information (cont'd)

also material deprivation were considered as causative factors. The gross maternal inadequacy and the complete breakdown of limit setting and disciplinary parental functions were obviously considered as the main causative agents. It is also hinted that father's absence from the home might have played a role. Jack's contacts with delinquent or quasi delinquent sub-cultures, street gangs, etc., might also have been contributing to the problem.

4. The data failed to yield any definite information concerning any possible Central Nervous System damage. Electroencephalographic examinations were not yet available in 1922, neither were any clear concepts formulated yet as to how central nervous system dysfunction might influence the more subtle aspects of behavior. Consequently, the data contained in the record do neither support, nor rule out the presence of some mild degree of central nervous system involvement.
5. No physical condition of any great importance is mentioned in the record. The note on enlarged thyroid glands appears to be a very marginal finding with a questionable significance. The only medical finding of some interest is the undescended testicles. This may be of a certain physical as well as psychological importance.
6. Measured by contemporary standards the clinical methods utilized to gather the information were inadequate. The testing methods, e.g., the self-administered questionnaire forms are grossly outdated and many of the questions asked were outright naive from the point of view of our current knowledge. Such isolated data for instance as "low average IQ 94" convey little useful information. It can be stated, however, in summary, that even on the basis of very incomplete and even archaic clinical data, it was possible to formulate certain valid conclusions about Jacob Rubenstein's background and family situation.

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We hope that this information will be of help to you and the President's Commission. Please feel free to contact us if you wish additional information or if you wish to discuss the report.

Sincerely,

Raymond E. Robertson
 Raymond E. Robertson, M. D.
 Superintendent
 Institute for Juvenile Research

John E. Halesz, M.D.
 John E. Halesz, M. D.
 Acting Head,
 Department of Psychiatry

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