



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 20535

June 15, 1964

**JACK L. RUBY;
LEE HARVEY OSWALD - VICTIM
(DECEASED)
CIVIL RIGHTS**

**RE: Ruby's Association with American
Federation of Labor and Congress
of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)**

On June 12, 1964, Mr. E. Logan Kimmel, Record Administration, AFL-CIO National Headquarters, 815 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., made available the following records pertaining to Waste Material Handlers Union, Local 20467, Chicago, Illinois.

Application for Certificate of Affiliation to the AFL-CIO was submitted by the Scrap Iron and Junk Handlers Union on March 9, 1937, at Chicago, Illinois. The organization's officials were listed as:

President	Harry Winnick 4302 North Bernard Street Chicago, Illinois
Secretary	Maurice L. Levinthal 5360 Kenmore Avenue Chicago, Illinois
Financial Secretary	Leon E. Cooke 1135 South Sacramento Chicago, Illinois

The membership was comprised of sixty individuals whose work consisted of employment in various junk yards and in the dismantling of old automobiles and separation of the parts for resale or conversion as scrap iron. In addition, these workmen received other junk consisting of papers, rags, scrap iron and other materials from any sources obtainable.

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On August 27, 1941, Local 20467 amended its charter to change the title of the Union to Waste Material Handlers Union, Local 20467, Chicago, Illinois. The organizer at this time was Joseph A. Briegel. A letter from Briegel, dated August 23, 1941, to the AFL-CIO Headquarters, Washington, D. C., stated that the name change was being requested due to the following reason:

Approximately a year previously, the former financial secretary, Leon Cooke, died from the effects of gunshot wounds inflicted by an unknown assailant. As a result, a stigma was attached to the old name of the Union, and the membership felt it could be removed by changing the name.

The identities of the individuals inscribed on the new charter are as follows:

James Logan
1910 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, Illinois

Charlie Jones
4514 Indiana Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Alf Johnson
1342 West 14th Street
Chicago, Illinois

Paul J. Dorfman
903 Independence Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

R. D. Buchanan
3207 Prairie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Charles Strickland
603 Maxwell Street
Chicago, Illinois

Albert Bryant
4940 Vincennes Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

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AFL-CIO Local 20467, Chicago, Illinois, by communication dated February 2, 1961, directed to AFL-CIO Headquarters, Washington, D. C., advised that the Union had voted to transfer its status from that of a directly affiliated local union to affiliation with the United Transport Service Employees of America. This affiliation became effective January 26, 1961, and was attested to by Daniel J. Healy, Regional Director, AFL-CIO.

Mr. Kimmel advised that the National Headquarters did not maintain a record of individual union membership, and therefore he could not produce any records which would identify individual union members of a local for a specific year. He explained that they also do not maintain any list of union officials or business agents other than that which is included on the original charter record.

Mr. Kimmel advised that during the period 1937 to 1961, while Local 20467 was affiliated with the AFL-CIO, it could not have been jointly affiliated with any other national or international union inasmuch as dual membership was not permitted. He stated that this did not rule out the possibility that this local had been affiliated with another Chicago Labor Federation which was city-wide and not national in scope.

Mr. Kimmel stated that when Local 20467 transferred its affiliation in January, 1961, it had a total of 814 members as compared to its original membership of 60. He explained that any disciplinary action such as the expulsion of a member is handled entirely by the Executive Board on the local level and that the National Headquarters would not be informed of such action. The only way in which such a matter would come to the attention of the National Headquarters would be if the particular member filed a grievance petition with the Headquarters. Such a petition would be maintained in the file of the individual local union.

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Mr. Kimmel recalled that following the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack L. Ruby, articles had appeared in the local press concerning Ruby's prior affiliation with Local 20467. He stated that these clippings had been placed in another file which concerned legal action involving this particular local. He explained that in 1956, the committee on ethical practices of the AFL-CIO had conducted an exhaustive inquiry and investigation into the activities of Paul Dorfman, the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 20467. As a result, Dorfman was suspended and the Union placed in trusteeship. Among the material compiled by the committee which was used in this hearing were photostatic copies of the minutes of the meetings held by Local 20467 during the period encompassing February 2, 1940, to June 3, 1954. Examination of these minutes contained only one reference to one Jack Rubenstein. The minutes of this particular meeting are set forth below:

"Minutes of Meeting, 2/2/40

"A meeting of the officers and Executive Committee of the Scrap Iron & Junk Handlers Union Number 20467 was held on Friday, Feb. 2, 1940, at 8 p.m. in the offices of the Chicago Federation of Labor, 688 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

"Brother Briegel acted as chairman.

"Those present were Mr. Paul Dorfman, Sec-treas; Mr. Jack Rubenstein & Miss Walsh. Our president, Mr. Mallon was not present due to illness.

"The Executive Committee present were Miss Nettie Johnson, Mr. Alf Johnson, R. D. Duchanna, Clarence Brown & James Logan. Miss Maxwell Ellis asked permission to attend the meeting to report to the members at her plant that the union is still in existence & not disbanded as rumors have it. Permission granted.

"Brother Briegel called the meeting to order. Brother Brennan was unable to attend the meeting owing to the fact that it was the opening night of the W.C.F.L. Frolics, one of the largest affairs of the Labor Organization. He then spoke on the organization of our union from the beginning, with a short summary of its activities & explained

that his aim in the future is to have a good union that will demand for its members fair wages, good working conditions & a clean union. He said that the American Federation of Labor was going to see to it that we have a clean organization. Bro. Briegel gave a few short illustrations where unions were not being run in the order they should, and pointed out where under his guidance and advice, they now have some of the finest organizations in the field. He explained the check-off system & said in his opinion it is not as satisfactory as direct contact with the Union members if a union clause was in the agreement.

"Brother Dorfman then addressed the Executive Committee & told them they should have no animosity toward the American Federation of Labor & from now on, with the guidance of Brother Briegel, cooperation of Union officers they would have an organization to be proud of. He advised the members, if they have any grievances, to bring them up at the meetings, and not to be afraid of their jobs, as some of them seem to be. He also cited a few cases he has before the Wage & Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor.

"Brother Briegel then brought up the subject of conducting meetings & assured the members that he would give them any advice desirable in such matters and that an open report be read at each meeting.

"Brother Brown, who is also steward at his plant, reports that some of the members are not in favor of the union, but he thought about 75% of them were for the union. He also brought to light the fact that he thought the new agreements should classify the minimum rates of wage for pressmen, pickers, laborers, etc.

"Sister Ellis reported that members at Aetna Paper Grading Company complained that the rate of union dues of \$1.50 was too high & in her opinion should be reduced to \$1 per month.

"Bro. Briegel explained to her that the aim of the union in the future is to increase wages to the point where their investment would only be a small part of their earnings.

"Sister Johnson asked for something definite to report to her plant in regard to vacations, etc. & Bro.

Dorfman assured her that he would keep this in mind but could make no definite promises at this time.

"Brother Briegel convinced the members that the main objective of the union at this time was job security, with a seniority roster set up & also advised that all agreements, before being presented to plants for consideration, be adopted by the union. He then brought out the question of local autonomy & explained to the Executive Board that they have a right to select leadership of men outside of the craft, citing the case of Brother Schoenberg of the United Cement, Lime and Gypsum workers as a precedent.

"Then came the question of fund obligation & passport, all of which are to be taken up at the next meeting to be held at the Bohemian-American Hall, 2430 W. 19th Street, Monday, Feb. 12th at 8 p.m. Brother Dorfman explained that he is having circulars printed & distributed through all of the plants as to the meeting & advised the Executive Committee to advertise as much as possible.

"Reporting on the case of Evelyn Carter, Bro. Dorfman explained that after due investigation, he found she was only hired during the busy season.

"Bro. Briegel, after asking for any more questions or suggestions, moved that the meeting be adjourned. So ordered.

"Meeting adjourned.

"/s/ Gladys H. Walsh
Acting Sec."

The minutes of Local 20467 meetings contained the following list of union officials who were elected to office on April 25, 1940:

President	James Logan 1510 W. Roosevelt Road Chicago, Illinois
Vice President	Charlie Jones 4614 Indiana Avenue Chicago, Illinois

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Recording Secretary Alf Johnson
1112 Wolcott Street
Chicago, Illinois

Secretary-Treasurer Paul J. Dorfman
903 South Independence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Guide Mickey Cooper
24 North Laoms Street
Chicago, Illinois

Guardian Ros Hall
2125 Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois

Trustees R. D. Buchanan
3207 Prairie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Golden Novis
4743 Forestville Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Ellis Elliott
1220 Hastings Street
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Kimmel advised that a thorough examination had been made of all records maintained at the National Headquarters for Local 20437, and that the above meeting was the only instance in which the name of Jack Rubenstein has been mentioned. He did not know if the minutes of any previous meetings prior to February, 1940, were in existence, but considered the possibility that they could still be maintained by the local under their present affiliation with the United Transport Service Employees of America, Chicago, Illinois. He stated there was no additional information in their records to indicate that the nature of the union's activities had ever been other than the collection and processing of scrap materials.

Mr. Kimmel advised that based upon the information contained in the minutes of Local 20437 meetings, it would appear that Jack Rubenstein had not been present at any

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meetings subsequent to February 2, 1940. He noted that Rubenstein had not been a union official and that the fact that his name had been mentioned in the minutes of this particular meeting would possibly indicate he had been present for a specific purpose.

He noted that if any disciplinary action had been taken against Rubenstein, such as his expulsion from the local, it would not necessarily appear in the minutes of the meeting, due to the fact that activities of this type are often conducted off the record.

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