

DL 44-1639/ev

CG 44-645  
DL 44-1639

1

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mrs. BERNADINE COLEMAN, Maple Manor Hotel, 65 West Maple, advised an Agent of the Chicago Office, on November 26, 1963, she was married to HARRY RUBENSTEIN from 1942 - 1960 and lived at the above address. She described HARRY RUBENSTEIN as a white male, age 68, 5'11", 180 lbs., dark hair, brown eyes, Catholic religion. He came to Chicago from Seattle, Washington, in 1927 and managed the Olympic Hotel, Chicago, 1927 - 1945.

HARRY RUBENSTEIN got into trouble in 1945 when he killed a bartender in his club, but was later exonerated. He next owned the Hollywood Show Lounge, Randolph Street, Chicago, from 1946 to 1960. He also owned the Randcraft Hotel, which has been demolished.

She stated positively HARRY RUBENSTEIN is no relation to JACK RUBY. She had never heard the name JACK RUBY before. She advised the names JACK RUBY and JACK RUBENSTEIN were never mentioned by anyone to them when they were in the business of operating night clubs. She recalls she once bought some tickets to the play "Oklahoma" through a ticket scalper named "SPARKY" approximately right after World War II, but never saw the man.

She denied HARRY was a close friend of the hoodlum element in Chicago, although she stated anyone in this business would have to associate with some. She would furnish no further details in this regard.

She stated HARRY's present address is unknown to her and he is believed to be clerking in some cheap hotel, Chicago, and broke. They no longer associate together. She stated she is attempting to contact HARRY RUBENSTEIN through mutual friends to set up interview.

257

The following investigation was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, November 24, 1963:

NATE ZUCKERMAN, bartender at the "Front Page", a Chicago tavern owned by JAMES ALLEGRETTI, advised SA AUGUST C. KEMPF that he has known numerous members of the Chicago criminal element for the past twenty years but does not recall JACK RUBY or JACK RUBENSTEIN. ZUCKERMAN stated that the only RUBENSTEIN he knew was HARRY RUBENSTEIN, the former owner of the Olympic Hotel.

IRVING "BUZZY" RIFKIN, Manager, "Le Bistro", a near northside Chicago night club, advised SA JOHN R. BASSETT that he was a good friend of JACK "SPARKY" RUBENSTEIN. He stated that RUBENSTEIN had attended Marshall High School in Chicago many years ago at which time RIFKIN first made his acquaintance. According to RIFKIN, RUBENSTEIN was not connected with the criminal element in Chicago and made his living while in this city by the purchase and sale of low cost merchandise.

RIFKIN advised that RUBENSTEIN was a good friend of ART WAYNE, a singer whom he believed might reside in Hollywood, California. Another close friend of RUBENSTEIN was one YUDIE (phonetic) JACOBS, a small-time entertainer whose whereabouts is unknown to RIFKIN.

RIFKIN advised that a few years ago RUBENSTEIN came to Chicago accompanied by a young Negro boy seven or eight years old for whom RUBENSTEIN was acting as a manager. RIFKIN stated that the young Negro boy made a television appearance on some show, the identity of which he could not recall.

RIFKIN indicated that he had not seen RUBENSTEIN for the past two or three years, but frequently hears from him. He stated that he has frequently referred female friends, who are visiting Dallas, to RUBENSTEIN, and RUBENSTEIN occasionally refers girls to RIFKIN when they visit Chicago from the Dallas area.

Lt. HARRY SMITH, Chicago Police Department, advised SA JOHN R. BASSETT that he recalled "SPARKY" RUBENSTEIN as having preceded him by a few years at Marshall High School. He stated that as long as he had known RUBENSTEIN, the latter was completely "legitimate" and had no known criminal connections.

FRANK KIERNAN, Special Assistant, United States Attorney, Chicago, advised the Chicago Office of the following information:

He had received on that date from JACK WILNER, a crime reporter on the Chicago Daily News, information that WILNER indicated he had received from his "syndicate sources" information reflecting that JACK RUBY in the mid 1930's, was associated with JOE KRASHOW and LOU SIMON, the latter being presently in Las Vegas, Nevada. WILNER

258

DL 44-1639/cv

2

had been given to understand that RUBY, KRASNOW and SIMON had been involved in a "bookmaking" arrest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, between 1933 and 1935. Following this arrest, RUBY returned to Chicago and according to WILNER's source was arrested with one SAMMY MEMOSE on charges of "confidence games".

Mr. KIERNAN also furnished the following information received from JACK WILNER, above:

WILNER stated his "syndicate sources" reflect RUBY was reportedly involved in 1947 with NICK ST. JOHN, PAUL LABRIOLA, MARCUS LIPSEY and PAUL RONALD JONES, in effort to take over gambling in the Dallas, Texas area. Also involved allegedly were STEVE GUTHRIE, Sheriff of the county, and one GEORGE BUTLER. WILNER advised information on this situation appeared in the KEFAUVER hearings in 1950 and that several individuals were convicted in Dallas in the above connection. (In connection with the above, one GEORGE BUTLER, Dallas Police Department, is known to have been an investigator for the late Senator KEFAUVER in connection with his investigation of criminal activities a number of years ago.)

The Chicago Office has advised that DAVID EYRON, General Manager, Automotive Products Division, Federated Industries, Antioch, Illinois, appeared on a television program of ALEX DRILER on the afternoon of November 24, 1963, indicating knowledge of RUBY.

EYRON on interview by Special Agents of the FBI stated he met RUBY as JACK RUBENSTEIN as a neighborhood acquaintance in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago and knew him casually from about 1928 to 1931. He did not know his family or employment. He stated after his, EYRON's, absence from the neighborhood and state he returned to Chicago and sometime during the period 1939 to 1942 recalled reading in Chicago newspapers which had accompanying photographs of RUBENSTEIN, known also to EYRON as "SPARKY", that RUBENSTEIN had been president of some "junk dealers' union" in Chicago and outsiders were trying to "muscle him out" of the union. A shooting occurred, and RUBENSTEIN was charged with killing a man. He was arrested, convicted and sentenced in Chicago on this charge and served in prison on a location unknown for "a little over a year".

259

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1321—Continued

DL 44-1639/cv

3

EYRON did not see RUBENSTEIN during this period in Chicago and understood he left Chicago about 1943 or 1944. In about 1946 when he intended a business trip to Dallas someone in Chicago suggested he look up JACK RUBENSTEIN who was said to be at the "Silver Spur" or "Golden Spur", South Ervey Street in Dallas. He did so and between 1946 and 1950 stopped in the "Silver Spur" on perhaps ten occasions.

In 1946, RUBENSTEIN told EYRON he had changed his name to JACK RUBY and asked EYRON not to tell anyone in Chicago of his whereabouts as he was "trying to live down" his Chicago background. He said RUBY mentioned that his sister, unnamed, owned the "Silver Spur". He said he never met relatives or business associates of RUBY in Dallas. He said he had no information that RUBY was involved with hoodlums in either Chicago or Dallas, that he had any form of subversive sympathies and that RUBY had no homosexual tendencies to his knowledge.

A check of records of the Chicago Police Department reflected one HARRY RUBENSTEIN, hotel owner, Chicago, was convicted of manslaughter in 1946, sentenced to one year probation.

Indices of the Chicago Office contains no information identifiable with LOU SIMON, JOSEPH KRASNOW, YUDIE JACOBS, ART WAYNE or SAMMY MEMOSE.

JOHN ERMINO CAPONE, brother of ALFONSE CAPONE, (deceased), advised SA JOHN R. BASSETT on November 25, 1963, that he did not know JACK RUBY, also known as Jack Rubenstein, although he was generally acquainted with many of the "so called criminal element" in the Chicago area. CAPONE volunteered he was highly incensed over the killing of LEE HARVEY OSWALD prior to his trial for the assassination of President KENNEDY. He said he felt RUBY must have been insane or motivated by subversive groups. He added that if such was not the case and that if this killing had any criminal overtones, he would attempt to elicit this information from associates and advise SA BASSETT should such be the case.

260

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1321—Continued