



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/27/64

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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
July 29, 1964

JACK L. RUBY;  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Mr. JOHN HENRY BRANCH, residence, 3722 Greenleaf,  
business address, 1710 Hall Street, telephone number TA.  
4-9062, was interviewed at his place of business and advised  
as follows:

He last saw JACK RUBY Saturday, November 23, 1963,  
at about 9:05 PM. He stated the band began playing that  
evening at approximately 9:00 PM and he saw JACK RUBY just  
a few minutes after the band began playing. He said he was  
sure it was Saturday, November 23, 1963, because it was the  
Saturday between the Presidential assassination and the shoot-  
ing of LEE HARVEY OSWALD by RUBY.

By letter dated July 17, 1964, the President's  
Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy requested  
re-interviews with John Henry Branch, Harry Lee Jackson and  
Eva Grant relative to the allegation of Branch that Ruby was  
in the Empire Room, 1710 Hall Street, Dallas, on the night of  
November 23, 1963, as opposed to the statement of Harry Lee  
Jackson that he saw Ruby at the location on November 17,  
1963.

BRANCH said this was not a prearranged appointment.  
RUBY just happened to come by the Empire Room to discuss  
hiring a new piano player on behalf of his sister, EVA GRANT.  
RUBY told BRANCH his sister was not satisfied with her pianist.  
She didn't like this pianist because he did not play what she  
wanted. BRANCH told RUBY he would get a piano player, but he  
did not advise RUBY whom he would hire. BRANCH said RUBY and  
he discussed the hiring of a piano player for approximately  
thirty minutes and then RUBY left for the Carousel Club.

Attached are reports of interviews with Branch,  
Jackson, Grant and Patrolman William M. Starks in the above  
connection.

BRANCH said it is possible he saw HARRY LEE JACKSON  
that evening, but he could not be certain that he actually  
saw him.

BRANCH said that when he saw RUBY on November 23,  
1963, RUBY had on dark blue or black pants, white shirt,  
string, western-type tie, grey sport coat, and a black Fedora  
hat. RUBY did not wear this hat at the bar.

When RUBY left BRANCH accompanied him to the door.  
The Hall Diner is next door to the Empire Club and he last  
saw RUBY walk from the diner towards Ross Avenue, where he  
had parked his car.

on 7/23/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639  
by Special Agent EDWARD DENNIS KENNEY/eah Date dictated 7/27/64

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Since RUBY shot OSWALD on the following day, it would have been futile for BRANCH to hire a piano player on RUBY's behalf. BRANCH never contacted a piano player to honor RUBY's request of November 23, 1963. BRANCH stated he never contacted Mrs. GRANT concerning the hiring of this piano player. BRANCH stated that he had, on several previous occasions, discussed the hiring of Negro musicians with Mrs. GRANT, but he did not discuss the hiring of a piano player with her.

BRANCH was unable to recall anyone who might have seen RUBY talking to him at the Empire Club on November 23, 1963. He stated that Patrolman WILLIAM STARKS, Dallas Police Department, may have been present that evening and might be able to verify RUBY's presence at the club on November 23, 1963.

Mr. HARRY LEE JACKSON, 2536 Romine Street, Dallas, Texas, telephone number HA 1-4594, was interviewed at his residence and advised as follows:

The last time he saw JACK RUBY was Sunday, November 17, 1963, the Sunday before RUBY killed OSWALD. JACKSON walked into the Empire Room, 1710 Hall Street, between 8:30 PM and 9:00 PM. He was unable to recall the specific time.

When JACKSON entered the Empire Room, he immediately saw RUBY standing at the bar. RUBY was engaged in a conversation with JOHN HENRY BRANCH. JACKSON was not aware of the conversation between BRANCH and RUBY. RUBY offered JACKSON a beer, which he declined. RUBY then invited JACKSON to drop in at the Carousel Club whenever JACKSON was in the neighborhood and have a drink. JACKSON stated this was the extent of the conversation between himself and RUBY at that time. Following this, JACKSON walked off to mingle with the patrons in the Empire Room.

JACKSON stated that when he arrived at the Empire Room the band was already playing. On Sundays the band begins playing at about 8:30 PM and JACKSON's habit was to arrive at a dance early in the evening. He stated this was why he estimated that the time was between 8:30 PM and 9:00 PM.

JACKSON recalled that when he saw RUBY on November 17, 1963, RUBY was wearing dark colored slacks, a light colored sport shirt, and a dark colored suit jacket. JACKSON was unable to remember the exact color of RUBY's clothing. He thought the suit jacket matched the pants, but he was not certain. When JACKSON saw RUBY, he was not wearing a hat.

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Mrs. EVA GRANT, JACK RUBY's sister, 3929 Rawlins, Dallas, Texas, advised as follows:

JOE JOHNSON, band leader and saxophone player, left her employ on or about November 2, 1963. LEONARD WOODS, who was JOHNSON's pianist, elected to remain as pianist at the Vegas Club. However, a few days later, Mrs. GRANT determined that WOODS was unable to read music and deemed his services as unsatisfactory.

On Thursday or Friday of the week prior to the assassination, she telephonically contacted JOHN HENRY BRANCH, Booking Agent, concerning the hiring of a piano player to replace LEONARD WOODS. She was certain that any discussion she had with her brother, JACK RUBY, concerning the hiring of a piano player transpired prior to the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

She does not know her brother spoke to BRANCH at all concerning the piano player, although this is possible. She stated that, if he did speak to BRANCH, it is probable it was at the same time she spoke to BRANCH.

She stated she spoke to her brother, JACK, about midnight, November 23, 1963, and he did not mention he had contacted BRANCH about the piano player. She stated it was probable that if he did speak to BRANCH it occurred on a Sunday, since many Negro musicians gather at the Empire Room on Sunday evenings.

on 7/27/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639  
by Special Agents EDWARD DENNIS KENNEY & LANNING C. CLEMENTS/eah Date dictated 7/27/64

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2336-Continued

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Patrolman WILLIAM M. STARKS, Shield No. 610, Dallas Police Department, 3202 Carpenter Street, was interviewed at his home and advised as follows:

He is acquainted with and has known JOHN HENRY BRANCH, Manager of the Empire Room, for approximately sixteen years.

He never met RUBY or had any contact whatsoever with him. The only time he heard of RUBY was after LEE HARVEY OSWALD was shot. Following this, he remembered seeing RUBY somewhere before, but could not recall the location.

STARKS worked from 3:30 PM to 11:30 PM, Saturday, November 23, 1963, and, therefore, was not at the Empire Room that night, November 23, 1963.

STARKS is certain he was at the Empire Room on Sunday, November 17, 1963, but does not specifically remember seeing BRANCH at the club that evening. STARKS stated he cannot recall ever seeing RUBY at the Empire Room and has never seen RUBY engaged in conversation with JOHN HENRY BRANCH.

on 7/24/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639  
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