

1 Q It's 428 -- What is the number on it? Jefferson
 2 485257

3 A Jefferson 48525. Yes.

4 MR. TONAHILL: we offer it into evidence.

5 MR. WADE: We have no objection to anything this
 6 gentleman says is their records.

7 Q (By Mr. Tonahill) What time does it show that the
 8 telephone call was made from the Ft. Worth number, Jefferson
 9 48525, to Jack Ruby in Dallas on November 24, 1963?

10 A Ten eighteen A.M.

11 Q Ten eighteen in the morning, is that right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q It was made to Jack Ruby at Whitehall 16601, in Dallas?

14 A Yes, sir, that's correct.

15 MR. TONAHILL: I believe that's all.

16 CROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. WADE:

18 Q Do you know, Mr. Templin, how long the conversation
 19 was? Is it on that card?

20 A It's on the card. I believe it's two minutes and
 21 nineteen seconds, roughly.

22 Q Roughly like that?

23 A That's correct.

24 MR. WADE: That's all. Thank you, sir, for
 25 coming down.

15 1 WESLEY A. WISE

2 a witness called by the State, being first duly sworn,
 3 testified on his oath as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. ALEXANDER:

6 Q Your name is Wes Wise?

7 A Wesley A. Wise is the full name.

8 Q And how are you employed, please sir?

9 A Newsmen at KRLD.

10 Q I believe that station is the one affiliated with the
 11 Dallas Times Herald?

12 A Right.

13 Q Directing your attention back to Saturday, November 23,
 14 1963, were you working in your capacity as a newsmen for KRLD?

15 A I was.

16 Q And directing your attention to about three o'clock that
 17 afternoon, did you have occasion to be across the street from
 18 the School Book Depository, down here on Houston Street?

19 A I did.

20 Q And what, if anything, were you doing there?

21 A I was on assignment to retrace as close as possible, the
 22 steps of Lee Harvey Oswald, after he allegedly shot the presi-
 23 dent.

24 Q All right. At that time did you know the defendant in
 25 this case, Jack Ruby?

16

1 A I did.

2 Q And did you see Jack Ruby there that afternoon?

3 A I did.

4 Q And where was he when you first saw him?

5 A I tried to gain entrance to the building and failed to
6 do so, so went back to my unit, called in to the station
7 there, and I didn't particularly want anybody to hear the
8 transmission. I had rolled up the window on the drivers
9 side, and after I -- or right near the end of the trans-
10 mission, somebody, as I recall, knocked on the window and I
11 put it down and it was Jack. And he re-introduced himself
12 to me.

13 Q Did you have a conversation with him then?

14 A I did.

15 Q And what was the nature of your conversatic ?

16 A Well, it's hard to recall the details, but we discussed
17 the killing of the president, general conversation about how
18 terrible it was. I mentioned that I had been at the Trade
19 Mart the day before when he was due -- when the president was
20 due to arrive. And we discussed the reactions of -- the
21 terrible reaction there to the president's killing.

22 Q Now, would you tell the layout of the streets at this
23 intersection that your car was parked close to? Let me help
24 you a little bit with it. Elm Street runs nearly east and
25 west, passes the Records Building, crosses Houston Street,

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1 and then as it goes in front of the School Book Depository,
2 makes a turn before going under the triple underpass,
3 doesn't it?

4 A Right.

5 Q Then the School Book Depository would be on the north-
6 west corner and the Records Building; that is, this building,
7 would be on the southeast corner, and across the street west,
8 across Houston Street, would be Dealy Plaza where the
9 fountains and the statues are?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Now where, in relation to the intersection of Houston
12 Street and Elm Street, was your mobile unit parked?

13 A I was close to the northeast corner, parked cata-
14 cornered across the street from the Texas School Book De-
15 pository Building.

16 Q I take it then that your car would have been facing
17 north, or towards the railroad tracks?

18 A No, my car would be facing northeast actually, because
19 I was cata-cornered, you see.

20 Q Did you see what direction Jack Ruby came from?

21 A He came from in the general direction of the railroad
22 tracks, which is north, I believe.

23 Q That would be north of the School Book Depository?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Let me ask you if he mentioned that Captain Fritz and

13

1 Chief Curry were in the near vicinity at that time?

2 A As I recall it, we held a conversation, oh, maybe
3 eight, nine, ten minutes there, then I believe I got ready to
4 leave, and he came back -- as I remember it, he came back to
5 the car and said, "Did you know that Will Fritz and Jesse
6 Curry were here?" And I said, "No, where are they?" And he
7 said, "Well, they're over there looking at the flowers which
8 had been placed there by people in Dallas." And I think hinted
9 that I might want to take pictures, which I did.

10 Q Was there anything unusual about your conversation
11 with him?

12 A The only thing I noticed was that when I mentioned
13 that at the Trade Mart I had gone into the room where President
14 Kennedy's rocking chair and straight line to Washington were
15 located, and saw the two large presents meant for Caroline and
16 John, and they were western saddles that were going to be given
17 to Kennedy to give to his children, and I mentioned to him that
18 I had taken pictures of them, and I noticed tears in his eyes.

19 Q Did he appear excited at that time?

20 A I wouldn't say excited. I would say touched.

21 Q And where did he go when you last saw him?

22 A He walked back in a northerly direction, back toward
23 the railroad tracks.

24 Q This was in the vicinity of three o'clock on Saturday
25 afternoon?

14

1 A Right. I'd say probably by the time he left, it would
2 probably be around three-twenty, because we held a conversa-
3 tion and I went and took pictures of Mr. Fritz and Mr. Curry,
4 and then he spoke -- I thanked him on the way back to my unit.
5 I turned to him and said, "I sure thank you. I would have
6 missed that if you hadn't told me they were here." And he
7 smiled and left.

8 Q At that time had the crowd begun to assemble around
9 the County jail, anticipating the transfer of Oswald at four
10 o'clock?

11 A I don't believe, as far as I remember, that there was
12 a crowd around the County jail at that time. There was quite
13 a crowd around -- down at the slant, where the flowers were
14 being placed, and I noticed as I left that Jack took pictures
15 of a lot of people walking along the street, taking flowers to
16 the slant.

17 Q Well now, let me ask you this. At the time you had
18 your conversation, they had not roped off the area around the
19 driveway entrance to the jail and the rest of the block towards
20 Elm?

21 A I don't believe. I don't believe. In fact, I can't
22 remember now whether we knew at that time that Oswald would
23 probably be moved the next day or not. I don't remember
24 whether -- what I'm getting at, I didn't know there was a
25

1 discussion that he might be moved at four o'clock.

2 Q But at that time the crowd hadn't gathered around the

3 driveway entrance to the County jail?

4 A No, I don't believe so.

5 MR. ALEXANDER: I believe that's all.

6 CROSS EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. TONAHILL:

8 Q Mr. Wise, when you discussed the saddles for the

9 little Kennedy children on that occasion with Jack, the fact

10 that you had been out there and seen them and photographed

11 them, did Jack break down and cry?

12 A I wouldn't describe it as breaking down and crying.

13 I'd say that tears definitely came to his eyes. He was

14 touched.

15 Q He was touched very deeply, was he not?

16 A I would say so, yes.

17 Q And you have known Jack for a long time, have you not?

18 A I'd say about five or six years.

19 Q Over the period of time you've known him, you've come

20 to appreciate the fact that he is a highly emotional man and

21 sometimes irrational, due to a violent state of mind?

22 A Frankly I didn't know that of my own personal experi-

23 ence, Mr. Tonahill. I had heard that.

24 Q Did you ever work as a sportscaster?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Attend some prize fights here?

2 A Oh, yes.

3 Q Did you see Jack at any of those fights?

4 A Yes. All of them.

5 Q Did Jack ever react violently at any of the prize

6 fights as a result of disagreeing with some of the decisions

7 of the judges?

8 A Yes, I'd say -- I don't know whether you'd use the

9 term "violently" or not. He would take exception to some of

10 the decisions more than most, yes.

11 Q Describe how he would do that, if you would?

12 A He would -- in the first place, he would always have

13 a ringside seat, I believe. And he would always -- as I re-

14 member this now -- he would see someone that he knew, either

15 at the press table, or at ringside, and go over there and say,

16 "Did you hear that? Don't you think that so and so --" You

17 know, that type thing. That kind of excitement.

18 Q He would take exception to the decisions in pretty

19 strong --

20 A I'd say so, yes. More than most.

21 Q Did he ever tell you how he had witnessed the Barney

22 Ross fight, and he bet against Barney and Barney had won the

23 fight, and Barney's a good friend of his, and he passed out

24 and had a blackout seizure after Barney won?

25 MR. ALEXANDER: That we object to, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

1

2 Q (By Mr. Tenhill) Did he ever discuss his friend,

3 Barney Ross, with you?

4 A I know that he knew Barney Ross.

5 Q Did he ever discuss seeing Barney win a fight that

6 upset him?

7 A Well, I can't remember whether Jack himself told me

8 that, or whether I had heard that from someone else.

9 Q You had heard that?

10 A Yes.

11 Q When Jack left you that afternoon, did you later see

12 him in his car and he tooted his horn at you and kind of waved

13 and acknowledged he had done you a favor in pointing out that

14 Captain Fritz and Chief Curry were there so you could inter-

15 view them and photograph them at the scene?

16 A Well, I don't remember his calling from his car. I

17 remember his speaking to me about it, and I remember my thank-

18 ing him. My recollection was that he was on foot and going

19 back to his car. He may have been in his car and turned and

20 waved at me and said that. I don't really remember the de-

21 tails. But I do remember my acknowledging and thanking him

22 and his -- you know, returning the thanks.

23 Q Wes, you have seen Jack react rather violently to

24 various episodes in his night clubs, the Carousel and the

25 Vegas Club, have you not, over some disputes with people?

1 A I have observed that once, yes. I don't know whether

2 I'd use the term "violently." I just don't know whether I

3 would use that term or not. Excitable, yes.

4 Q He's a highly excitable individual?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And have you seen him there in his night club where

7 he would reprimand his employees in a highly emotional, ex-

8 citable state?

9 A I don't believe I ever saw him reprimand an employee,

10 but I haven't been in his night clubs too often.

11 Q Have you seen him reprimand customers for interfering

12 in an act?

13 A Yes.

14 Q He gets pretty excited about that, when customers

15 interfered with the act?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Now, you know Jack to be more or less a character

18 around town, do you not Wes, sort of a Damon Runyon character?

19 A Yes.

20 Q When he walked up to you that afternoon, did he not

21 say, "I'm Jack Ruby of the Carousel Club, do you remember me?"

22 Or words to that effect?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And you remembered him right away?

25 A Yes.

26

1 Q Was Jack concerned about the effect of the tragic
2 loss of the president upon his widow, Mrs. Kennedy, and the
3 children?
4 A Yes.
5 Q You all discussed that?
6 A Yes.
7 Q Did Jack impress you as being a patriotic citizen?
8 A I never knew that until I read it. We never dis-
9 cussed that.
10 Q You are impressed with that fact?
11 A Not?
12 Q Yes.
13 A Yes, from what I've read, yes. That's just hearsay
14 though. I would gather that he was. Are you relating that
15 to the Kennedy assassination?
16 Q Yes.
17 A If you're relating it to the Kennedy assassination,
18 he was disturbed from what I gather, from seeing him at the
19 School Book Depository Building, about the president having
20 been shot.
21 Q Did you ever see him when Buddy Turman fought?
22 A Yes.
23 Q Did he get upset about any of his fights or any of the
24 decisions?
25 A I just can't place it specifically to Buddy Turman's

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1 fights, but I have seen him excited at fights.
2 Q He was pleased, was he not, with the fact that he
3 called your attention to the fact that Chief Curry and Cap-
4 tain Frits were down there looking at the flowers, and
5 pleased because he had told you about it so you could go
6 down and interview them?
7 A Yes. I got the impression -- I had kidded him about
8 the fact that he had given KLIF a scoop the night before,
9 which I had heard on the radio on the way home.
10 Q Was that the scoop where he got Mr. Wade on the
11 telephone so that he could tell the KLIF people about the
12 fact that the Oswald case was broken and he wants the death
13 sentence?
14 A I only -- yes, I believe that was. I remember it re-
15 lated to Wade, but I don't remember specifically what it was.
16 If I may say this, I didn't really consider it a real, big
17 beat, but I was listening to the competition in order to see
18 what they were doing.
19 Q You were just pulling his leg, like a good reporter --
20 A Yes. I got the impression he could have taken it a
21 little more seriously, and was trying to -- you know --
22 Q Jack likes to get along with you men of the press be-
23 cause he asks you to give him plugs every now and then and he
24 appreciates that type thing, doesn't he?
25 A I don't think he ever requested me to give him a plug.

25

1 I think he knows I probably wouldn't.

2 Q Now when you and Jack were talking there, shortly be-
3 fore Chief Curry and Captain Fritz came up, and discussing the
4 loss of the president, the tragedy, did he at any time joke or
5 appear to be joking to you?

6 A The only time I saw any sign of that was when I said
7 something to him about the KLIF scoop.

8 Q And when you were talking about the loss of the presi-
9 dent, the great tragedy, and the saddles to the children,
10 tears welled up in his eyes at that time? He was touched
11 very deeply?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Now, do you recall when the news broke that Oswald was
14 to be moved at ten o'clock on Sunday, November 24th?

15 A No. I heard that Mr. Curry had said to the newsmen, I
16 suggest that you be alert, or aware, or something like that,
17 at ten o'clock the next morning.

18 Q Ten o'clock. Then word did get out to you folks that
19 Oswald was to be transferred from the City jail to the County
20 jail at ten o'clock Sunday morning?

21 A Sometime after ten o'clock.

22 Q Where were you at the time of the shooting of Oswald?

23 A I was at the -- I was on the street out there at the
24 County courthouse. I was awaiting the arrival of Oswald at
25 the County jail.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2413--Continued

27

1 Q There were a number of people here at the County Build-
2 ing awaiting the arrival of Oswald, isn't that right?

3 A Yes, there was.

4 Q About how many?

5 A My guess would be around three, four hundred. Some-
6 thing like that.

7 Q And when the news was released there to the crowd that
8 Oswald was shot, what reaction did it have on that crowd?

9 MR. BOWIE: To which we object.

10 THE COURT: Sustain the objection to it.

11 MR. BELLI: It's offered for the state of mind
12 of Mr. Ruby, both before and after, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

14 Q (By Mr. Tonahill) Where were you standing when it was
15 announced to the crowd that Oswald had been shot?

16 A I was standing in the street, which had been roped off,
17 or else the police were holding the traffic off. I was stand-
18 ing in the street with a microphone.

19 Q Didn't loud cheers go up?

20 MR. BOWIE: To which we object, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

22 MR. TONAHILL: Exception.

23 That's all.

24 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. ALEXANDER:

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2413--Continued

1 Q Just a couple more questions. At the time that Ruby
2 walked up to your mobile unit there on Saturday afternoon,
3 did he give you the impression that he wanted to be inter-
4 viewed?

5 A No.

6 Q Did he impress you as a person that seeks publicity
7 and wants to be included in everything?

8 A He was -- he liked to be friends with the newsmen and
9 that sort of thing, but I don't believe he really -- he knew
10 that I -- in other words, if I had been Tony Zoppi or the
11 amusements editor, then he might have expected that. He knew
12 that there was nothing I could do for him in the way of a plug.

13 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you. That's all.

14 Call Officer Harkness.

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2413--Continued

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 11/26/63
11-23-63

BILLY JOE WILLIS, 6922 Forno Road, furnished the following information:

WILLIS advised he has been employed as a drummer at the Club Carousel for approximately two years. During this period he has become well acquainted with JACK RUBY. RUBY's closest friends appear to be GEORGE SENATOR and RALPH PAUL. He believes PAUL may have a financial interest in the Club Carousel.

WILLIS is personally interested in history and has tried unsuccessfully to draw RUBY into conversations of history and politics. RUBY seemed to be uninterested in current events and politics. At one time he did become emotionally disturbed and was practically in tears over a discussion of the persecution of the Jews in Germany. WILLIS has heard RUBY speak of CASTRO in such a derogatory manner that it was obvious he did not like him and was not in sympathy with the CASTRO government in Cuba.

WILLIS advised that it has become common in the entertainment world to put on harlequin skits making fun of the KENNEDY family and often after the presentation of such skits, RUBY would off-stage, openly express great admiration for President KENNEDY.

WILLIS talked by telephone to RUBY on the afternoon of November 22, 1963, and at that time, RUBY informed him the Club Carousel would be temporarily closed because of the President's assassination. RUBY said that the assassination was the most horrible thing that had ever happened and expressed great personal distress over the incident. He said, "Can you imagine what a miserable critter that OSWALD is". He was half sobbing during the conversation and WILLIS was amazed at the manner in which RUBY was affected by the tragedy. Nothing further was said about OSWALD and he did not see RUBY or talk to him again.

WILLIS stated that RUBY is a highly emotional person who has no control over his emotions. He was prone to argue with his employees and acquaintances over trivial matters and to fire his employees with the slightest provocation. He reacted violently when aroused and was often involved in brawls.

506
on 11/26/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
RALPH E. RAWLINGS & OTHER 89-73
by Special Agents EDMOND C. HARDIN/cab Date dictated 11/26/63
ECH

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COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2414