

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

JUN 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT: Information Concerning Jack RUBY
(aka Jack RUBENSTEIN) and His
Associates

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 19 May 1964, requesting that this Agency furnish any information in its files relative to Jack RUBY, his activities and his associates.

2. This memorandum will confirm our earlier statement to the Commission to the effect that an examination of Central Intelligence Agency files has produced no information on Jack RUBY or his activities. The Central Intelligence Agency has no indication that RUBY and Lee Harvey OSWALD ever knew each other, were associated, or might have been connected in any manner.

3. The records of this Agency were reviewed for information about the relatives, friends and associates of RUBY named in your summary of his background. Our records do not reflect any information pertaining to these persons.


Thomas H. Karamessines
Acting Deputy Director for Plans

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2980

Mr. Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

May 19, 1964

Dear Mr. Helms:

At a meeting on March 12, 1964, between representatives of your Agency and this Commission, a memorandum prepared by members of the Commission staff was handed to you which related to the background of Jack L. Ruby and alleged associates and/or activities in Cuba. At that time we requested that you review this memorandum and submit to the Commission any information contained in your files regarding the matters covered in the memorandum, as well as any other analyses by your representatives which you believed might be useful to the Commission.

As you know, this Commission is nearing the end of its investigation. We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible whether you are in a position to comply with this request in the near future.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2980—Continued

MEMORANDUM

February 24, 1964

TO: Richard Helms, Deputy Director for Plans,
Central Intelligence Agency

FROM: Leon D. Hubert and Durt W. Griffin,
Staff Members, President's Commission
on the Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT: Jack Ruby - Background, Friends and other
Pertinent Information

A Background on Jack Ruby.

Jack Ruby was born on about March 25, 1911, in the United States, the fifth of eight living children of Joseph and Fannie Rubenstein. These other children are: Hyman Rubenstein, born December, 1901, in Poland; Anna Rubenstein Volpert, born June, 1904, Poland; Marion, aka Marian, Rubenstein Carroll, born June, 1906, in United States; Eva Rubenstein (Magid) Grant, born in United States, 1909; Sam (Rubenstein) Ruby, born December 1912 in United States; Earl (Rubenstein) Ruby, born April 1916 in the United States; and Eileen Rubenstein Kaminsky, born July 1917 in United States. Jack and his brothers, Sam and Earl, were known by the name Rubenstein until that name was legally changed by each of them in approximately 1947 or 1948.

Ruby's father, Joseph, was born in Sokolov, Sedlitz Province, Poland on February 2, 1871. He served in the Russian Army Artillery from 1893 to 1898. He married Fannie (Turak) Rutkowska in 1901. Fannie was born in 1875, one of seven children of a reportedly prosperous Polish physician.

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At least two of Fannie's sisters together with her parents remained in Poland. One brother reportedly came to the United States. Joseph also had at least one brother who came to the United States. We have no evidence as to any other family members of either Joseph or Fannie who remained in Europe. Nor have we any information concerning family ties maintained with relatives or friends in Europe.

Jack Ruby spent his early life in Chicago, quitting school at approximately sixteen, and beginning to work thereafter as a ticket scalper and peddler of cheap merchandise. In 1933, he traveled to Los Angeles and remained there and in San Francisco until sometime in 1937. His sister, Eva, accompanied him to San Francisco, and lived with him for most of the time that he was there. Both worked as sellers of subscriptions for daily newspapers in San Francisco. Jack also had employment selling a horse race "Tip sheet" and linoleum. Jack was known both by his Chicago and West Coast friends as "Sparky" Rubenstein.

Jack Ruby returned to Chicago sometime in 1937 and was employed for undetermined periods of time by the Stanley Oliver Company and the Spartan Company. We have no further information concerning those companies. He also continued to engage in ticket scalping, the sale of cheap merchandise, and the sale of punch boards. The punch board operation involved traveling throughout New England and the Eastern Seaboard including Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Sometime between 1937 and mid-1940, Ruby was employed as an organizer and in other undisclosed capacities for the Waste and Material Handlers Federal Union in Chicago. Paul Dorfman later became

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head of this union. At the time of Ruby's association with the union, the President was Jack Martin, another principle figure was an attorney, Leon Cooke. Cooke was shot by Martin in an argument in December 1939, and died as a result thereof in January 1940. Shortly thereafter, Ruby left the union.

Jack Ruby served in the United States Army Air Force from May 1943 to February 1946. He was stationed the entire time in the United States, obtained the rank of Private First Class, and had Army Serial Number 36666107.

After leaving military service, he was employed for approximately one year with Earl Products Co., a Chicago based business jointly owned with his brothers, Earl and Sam Ruby. His brothers became dissatisfied with him because he allegedly was not devoting full time to that business. As a result, they bought out his interest in 1947. We do not have precise information as to what Jack Ruby was doing while he was also employed with Earl Products; however, he is rumored to have frequented and been employed at various Chicago area night clubs in the capacity of a bouncer or other minor functionary.

In early 1947, he went to Dallas, Texas, to manage the Singapore Supper Club, a business in which his sister, Eva Grant, was engaged. He returned to Chicago sometime in the late summer or early fall of 1947. At about this same time, he became the subject of a narcotics investigation along with his brother, Hyman, and Paul Roland Jones. Both Hyman and Jack disclaimed any knowledge of Jones' activity in narcotics and were not prosecuted. Jones was prosecuted and convicted by federal authorities.

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Sometime in late 1947, after having been interrogated by Narcotics Agents, Ruby returned to Dallas and established permanent residence. He continued to operate the Singapore Supper Club with Eva until sometime in 1948 when she moved to California and alone for an undisclosed period thereafter. At some undisclosed point, Ruby changed the name of the Singapore Supper Club to the Silver Spur. He no longer operates that club. He eventually purchased the Vegas Club and operated it with Eva after early 1959. In 1960, he purchased the Sovereign Club, changed the name to the Carousel Club, and continued to operate it and the Vegas Club until his arrest on November 24, 1963. Both the Vegas Club and the Carousel Club have been put under management other than the Ruby family since Ruby's arrest.

Ruby is considered to be a highly emotional person. He speaks with a lisp, has been described as soft spoken, is generally well mannered and well dressed, but is given to sudden and extreme displays of temper and violence. He is known to have brutally beaten at least 25 different persons either as a result of a personal encounter or because they were causing disturbances in his club. The normal pattern is for Ruby to attack his victim without warning, and few of the beatings of which we have knowledge seem to be the result of prolonged arguments. After many of those assaults, Ruby is known to have apologized to the victim.

Ruby is known to have a strong affection for dogs and a great pride in physical fitness. He has owned as many as seven dogs at one time, and one person has stated that he cared more for his dogs than he cared for people. At various times during his life, he is known to have worked out regularly at the YMCA or other gymnasiums,

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and he is reported to have owned and kept in his apartment a set of bar bells during recent years. He neither smokes, nor drinks, and curses rarely.

He is said to have effeminate mannerisms and is alleged by some to be homosexual. However, there is no direct evidence of any homosexual behavior. Although he has never been married, he is known to have dated and at one time was known as a "ladie man." In recent years, some of the women toward whom he has shown interest have indicated that he had perverted attitudes toward sex. One male witness describes an occasion when he masturbated one of his dogs and apparently derived great pleasure from it.

Ruby's friends and close associates are detailed more fully in a subsequent section. To generalize, it can be said that, while living in Dallas, Ruby has very carefully cultivated friendships with police officers and other public officials. At the same time, he was, peripherally, if not directly connected with members of the underworld. The narcotics episode mentioned above concerning Paul Roland Jones is representative. Ruby is also rumored to have been the tip-off man between the Dallas police and the Dallas underworld, especially in regard to enforcement of the local liquor laws. Ruby is said to have been given advance notice of prospective police raids on his own club and other clubs. However, it must be emphasized that such allegations are in the rumor category. Ruby apparently did not permit prostitution to be carried on in his clubs; nonetheless, his associations with stripters and cheap entertainers brought him into constant contact with people of questionable reputations. Ruby operated his businesses

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on a cash basis, keeping no record whatsoever--a strong indication that Ruby himself was involved in illicit operations of some sort.

When it suited his own purposes, he did not hesitate to call on underworld characters for assistance. For example, shortly prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, Ruby was involved in a dispute with the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) concerning the use of amateur stripters in Dallas. Ruby claimed that AGVA was permitting his competitor to use amateurs but denying him that privilege. When he was unable to get satisfaction from AGVA, Ruby called Barney Baker, a Chicago hoodlum who was reputedly a muscle man for Jimmy Hoffa and had been released from prison in June 1963, to ask Baker to give him assistance in his dispute with AGVA. For the same purpose, Ruby also called Frank Goldstein, a San Francisco gambler, who was a friend of his sister, Eva Grant.

Ruby is not known to have been politically active. He is reported to have been a Democrat and an admirer of President Kennedy and President Roosevelt; however, the evidence on this is not sufficiently reliable to warrant a firm conclusion. Prior to World War II, he was a member of a vigilante group which physically interfered with meetings of the German-American Bund in an area of Chicago known as White City. Ruby's group was known as the Dave Miller Gang, but we have no evidence to indicate whether this group was simply made up of aggressive young men who were looking for trouble and were from the Jewish neighborhood in which Ruby lived or whether it was an organized group with a strong political basis. He is not known to have engaged in

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any political activities in Dallas. At the time of his arrest, Ruby was found in possession of various radio scripts issued by H. L. Hunt, a prominent American right wing extremist. There is insufficient evidence as to how these radio scripts came into Ruby's possession, their content and Ruby's reaction to them to be able to pass judgment on the relationship of Ruby to any right wing groups.

In about 1959, Ruby became interested in the possibility of selling war materials to Cubans and in the possibility of opening a gambling casino in Havana. He was in contact at that time with a friend, Lewis J. McWillie. Insufficient evidence is available on that episode to evaluate Ruby's connection with any Cuban (anti-Castro or pro-Castro) groups. Ruby is also rumored to have met in Dallas with an American Army Colonel (LNU) and some Cubans concerning the sale of arms. A Government informant in Chicago connected with the sale of arms to anti-Castro Cubans has reported that such Cubans were behind the Kennedy assassination and are financed by Jewish interests.

Religiously, Ruby is Jewish. He was not a regular attendee at the Synagogue, although he did attend the services on high holidays. We have no information as to whether or not Ruby observed any particular Jewish customs in his home or was active in Jewish lay organizations. Nonetheless, it is established that Ruby was very sensitive to anti-Semitism and to his position in Dallas as a Jew.

On balance, it may be said that Ruby's primary interest in life was making money. He does not seem to have had any great scruples concerning the manner in which he might do so; however, he has usually been careful to avoid prosecution by law enforcement authorities.

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This case did not necessarily involve avoiding violations of the law although there is no evidence that he did commit any flagrant legal violations. His primary technique in avoiding prosecution was the maintenance of friendship with police officers, public officials, and other influential persons in the Dallas community. Ruby appears to be the kind of person who could be persuaded by another person whom he respected (either because of that person's friendship, influence, power, prestige or wealth) to become involved in any activity which was not obviously contrary to the interest of the United States. No one who knows Ruby has indicated that he was politically sophisticated, and some have commented that he was devoid of political ideas to the point of naivete. It is possible that Ruby could have been utilized by a politically motivated group either upon the promise of money or because of the influential character of the individual approaching Ruby. If he is a sex deviate, blackmail is also possible.

B. The following groups and places seem significant in looking for ties between Ruby and others who might have been interested in the assassination of President Kennedy:

1. The Teamsters Union. Ruby's old union, the Waste Handlers in Chicago, is now a part of the Teamsters. Ruby had a contact with Barney Baker, reputed to be close to Hoffa. Ruby also frequented the Cabana Motel in Dallas, alleged to have been built with Teamster money.
2. The Las Vegas gambling community. Ruby was particularly close to Lewis J. McWillie of Las Vegas.
3. Persons involved in the promotion of fad items. Ruby himself was attempting to sell an item known as a "twist board," in the fall of 1963 and has often been involved in the sale of gimmick-type items.

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4. Persons connected with cheap nightclub entertainment.
5. The Dallas Police Department.
6. The Dallas news media, with particular emphasis on entertainment columnists and persons employed at radio station KLIF.

7. The following geographical areas:

- a. Chicago
- b. Denver
- c. Milwaukee
- d. Minneapolis
- e. New York
- f. Los Angeles
- g. San Francisco
- h. New Orleans
- i. Gulf Coast area (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida)

8. Places frequented by Ruby in Dallas:

- a. Adolphus Hotel
- b. Cabana Motel
- c. Egyptian Lounge
- d. Sol's Turf Bar
- e. Bull Pen Drive-in
- f. Vegas Club
- g. Carousel Club

C. The following persons seem, at this writing, to be the most promising sources of contact between Ruby and politically motivated groups interested in securing the assassination of President Kennedy:

1. Family members

- a. Eva Grant, born and reared in Chicago, 1909 to 1933. Lived

in San Francisco 1933 to 1937 and 1948 to 1959. Known to be in Chicago August 1937 and January 1938. Lived in Dallas approximately 1942 to 1948 and 1959 to present. Married about 1930 to Hyman Magid, divorced about 1932. One son, Ronald Dennis Magid, born 1931. Married Frank Grant, aka Frank Granovsky, in San Francisco, 1936. Lived with him about six months, divorced about 1940. Friendships with Frank Goldstein, San Francisco gambler and Paul Roland Jones, convicted in Dallas about 1948 for narcotics violations. While living in Dallas, engaged in export and import of raw materials and managed night clubs.

b. Earl Ruby, born, Chicago, about April 1916, lived in Chicago until 1961. U.S. Navy 1942 to 1944. Sold punch boards on East Coast with brother Jack in early 1940's. Owner and manager of Earl Products, 1944 to 1961. Nervous breakdown 1961. Moved to Detroit and opened Cobo Cleaners in 1961. Telephone records show telegram of undisclosed nature to Havana, Cuba, April 1, 1962, telephone call to Ansan Tool Manufacturing Company, 4750 North Ronald, Chicago, Illinois, owned by Ancel and Norio Umberto, and to Dominico Scorta, 102 West Grant, Chicago, Illinois. Also calls to Welsh Candy Company. Nature of telephone calls in all cases unknown, no further investigation of the call as yet has been initiated.

c. Anna Volpert, sister of Jack Ruby, born June 1904 in Poland. Remained in Chicago until early 1930's. Sometime after 1937 but before 1939 moved to Youngstown, Ohio. Resided in Youngstown, with husband until 1959. Husband was engaged in a company known as National Home Improvement Company.

2. Close Friends

- a. Andrew Armstrong. Ruby's Man Friday at the Carousel Club

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Resident of Dallas, background unknown, Negro.

b. Rhlyh Paul. Resident of Arlington, Texas, born New York City. About 55 years old, came to Dallas about 1948. Owns Bull Pon Drive-in Restaurant in Fort Worth. Co-owner with Ruby of the Carousel Club.

c. George Senator. Roommate of Jack Ruby. Background unknown.

3. Other Associates and Employees.

a. Pharney Baker. Chicago hoodlum. Reported muscle man for Jimmy Hoffa. Requested by Ruby in mid-November of 1963 to assist him in dispute with AGVA.

b. Karen Bennett Carlin. Employed by Ruby as strip-teaser under name of Little Lynn. Borrowed \$5 from Ruby on Saturday night, November 23, telephoned Ruby Sunday morning, November 24, and says she requested him to send her \$25. Mrs. Margarite Oswald (mother of Lee Oswald) believes that she know a Carol Bennett when she (Mrs. Oswald) was employed as a waitress in Dallas. Mrs. Oswald claims that Carol Bennett was the daughter of a Dallas hoodlum who was murdered in a gangland slaying. No information as to whether or not Karen Bennett Carlin and Carol Bennett are the same person or are related.

c. Druce Carlin. Husband of Karen Bennett Carlin.

d. Curtis Laverne Crawford, aka Larry Crawford. About 22 years old, itinerant laborer. Worked for Ruby at the Carousel Club from about October 31, 1963 to November 23, 1963. Became close confidante of Ruby. Fled Dallas arca Saturday, November 23. Located in rural part of Michigan, November 28

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e. Robert Cravens. Age unknown. Resident of Los Angeles. Friend of Ruby's. Came to Dallas about October 1, 1963, to operate a show at the Dallas State Fair called How Hollywood Makes Movies. Called Ruby in November 1963 with respect to the sale of some lumber. No other information concerning Cravens.

f. Leopoldo Ramon Dicos. Life was threatened by a person suggesting that the same group that would kill Dicos had been responsible for getting rid of Kennedy. Name "Leopoldo" has been mentioned by others who claim that Ruby was associated with an anti-Castro group in the procurement of arms. Name "Leopoldo" also mentioned by a woman in Dallas who claims she was introduced to a "Leon Oswald," description fitting Lee Harvey Oswald, in October 1963 by anti-Castro Cuban leaders.

g. Frank Goldstein. Age unknown. San Francisco gambler. Friend of Eva Grant. Requested by Ruby in November 1963 to assist him in his difficulties with AGVA.

h. Sam Gordon. West Coast Resident. Friend of Ruby from childhood in Chicago. Reportedly purchased sixty-first home run ball from Mickey Mantle. General background and connections unknown.

i. Alex Gruber. Resident of Los Angeles. Friend of Ruby. Visited him in Dallas in November 1963. Received telephone call from Ruby on Friday after the assassination of President Kennedy.

j. Thomas Hill. Name found in Ruby's notebook. Official of John Birch Society. Resides in Massachusetts.

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k. H. L. Hunt and Loran Hunt. May be same person. Name Loran Hunt found in notebook of Ruby. Ruby visited his office on November 21. Hunt denies knowing Ruby. Ruby gives innocent explanation. Ruby found with literature of H. L. Hunt after shooting Oswald.

l. Louis J. McWillie. Operates Las Vegas gambling casino. Formerly employed at gambling casino in Havana. Ruby visited him in Havana. Ruby also purchased a gun for McWillie and had it mailed to McWillie in Las Vegas. Ruby and McWillie give innocent explanations of their relationship.

m. Barney Ross. Former professional prize fighter. Former narcotics addict. Long time friend of Ruby from Chicago days. Ruby visited him at least once a year and telephones him two or three times a year.

n. Ancel and Mario Umberto. Owners of Anson Tool Manufacturing Company in Chicago. In telephone communication with Earl Ruby.

o. Billy Joe Willio. Musician employed by Ruby at Carousel Club. Lives in Irving, Texas, across the street from Mrs. Ruth Paine (friend at whose home Marina Oswald resided).

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2980--Continued



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 26, 1964

WILLIAM McEWAN DUFF, Also Known As
William McEwan McDuff, "Sandy,"
"Scottie," "Scotty"
INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GENERAL EDWIN A. WALKER
AND JACK L. RUBY

Investigation concerning William McEwan Duff and subsequent information which he reported has been predicated on information supplied on December 10, 1963, by Mr. Joe Loria, a Restaurant operator, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Loria advised that some 7 or 8 months previously he had seen an individual known to him only as "Scottie" -- subsequently identified as Duff -- with an individual believed to have been Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Loria, who had based his identification on photographs of Oswald which had appeared in Dallas newspapers, advised that he could recall only one time that he thought he had seen Oswald and "Scottie" together.

On January 24, 1964, William McEwan Duff, U. S. Army Serial Number RA 18 678 666, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, identified as "Scottie," was interviewed concerning his reported association with Oswald, an allegation which he denied. On this occasion he reported employment during the period November, 1962, to about April, 1963, in the household of General Edwin A. Walker, Dallas, Texas. Concerning Jack Ruby, Duff stated on January 24, 1964, that he had seen many photographs of Ruby in the newspapers; that he was positive he had never seen Ruby at any place, and had no information about him. He said he had never been in Ruby's night club in Dallas. On May 25, 1964, however, Duff laid claim to an association between Ruby and General Edwin A. Walker, alleging that he had seen Ruby at the Walker residence, according to information supplied by James R. Cantrell, Special Agent, Secret Service, U. S. Treasury Department, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as follows:

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2981