

XII. Ralph Paul

(1270) During the intensive examination of Jack Ruby's background following the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, the name of one individual arose more often than any other: Ralph Paul. Paul was consistently recognized as Ruby's associate or business partner, and Paul stated that he was Ruby's closest friend. (2064) Ruby once wrote, "Ralph Paul knows more about me than anyone." (2065)

Biographical Summary

(1271) It is known that Paul was an immigrant from Russia, having come to New York in 1901 or 1902 with his father. He had been born in Kiev on December 17, 1899. Paul's mother came to the United States in 1907 or 1908. Paul had two brothers and one sister who had always resided in New York. (2066)

(1272) Paul was married in 1920 and fathered two daughters. This marriage ended in a divorce in 1932, (2067) and Paul never remarried (although he was a close companion of Tammi True in the 1960's and allegedly lived with her at times). (2068) His former wife was interviewed by the FBI and described Paul as hard working and a good provider. (2069)

(1273) Paul worked with his father at a fruit market and owned his own market (Ralph's Fruit Exchange) for 20 years at a site in the Bronx. His father died in 1945, and at the end of 1947 Paul moved to the Dallas area. (2070)

(1274) For many years, including 1963, Paul lived in a lower level room in the home of his one-time partner, Bert Bowman. (2071) Paul stated in 1964 that he was living with friends on Copeland Road in Arlington at that time, while waiting for a new house to be built at 1602 Browning Drive. (2072)

Association With Ruby

(1275) Ruby and Paul spoke to each other every day, either by telephone at Paul's commercial enterprise (The Bull-Pen Drive-In), or when Paul visited the Carousel, which he did at least every Tuesday and Friday. (2073) On a business level, Ruby was constantly indebted to Paul for loans to operate his nightclubs, and Paul held a half interest in the Carousel until early 1964. (2074)

(1276) Their relationship began in 1948 when Ruby came up and introduced himself to Paul, (2075) who was operating a bar called the Sky Club at the time. Several years later, this friendship took on new dimensions when Paul loaned Ruby and another individual (Martin Gimpel) \$2,000, which was supposedly only needed as front money and was to be repaid the next day. (2076) This did not turn out to be the case, and shortly thereafter this loan was increased to \$3,700, with Paul accepting a note on the Silver Spur as partial collateral for the indebtedness. (2077) This was the first of a number of loans from Paul to Ruby, loans which were never fully repaid and which eventually may have totaled \$15,000. (2078)

(1277) Paul reportedly loaned Ruby \$2,500 to start the Vegas Club, again accepting a note on the club. (2079) There was another \$2,200 loan to help the Sovereign Club through hard times, which led Paul to force Ruby to change the Sovereign from a private club to a

burlesque house, which became the Carousel.(2080) Eva Grant once said that "Paul must have put in a fortune (in the Carousel), but he ain't telling." (2081)

(1278) There is also an indication that Paul loaned Ruby a larger sum of money (allegedly \$15,000 to \$17,000) to assist Ruby when he was having problems with the Internal Revenue Service.(2082) There is no indication that any of these loans were made for reasons other than friendship.(2083)

(1279) As stated earlier, Ruby was never able to reduce fully his outstanding debt to Paul. Paul told the FBI that Ruby had never repaid any money he loaned Ruby or the Carousel.(2084) Andrew Armstrong, Ruby's assistant at the Carousel, told the committee that Paul was supposed to get the cash (approximately \$3,000) which Ruby had on his person and in his car when he was arrested following the Oswald shooting. Since the money was impounded, Armstrong gave Paul the cash that he had been given by Ruby several days earlier (from the club receipts) to pay the Carousel's bill.(2085)

(1280) Ruby did give Paul 500 shares in the Carousel or, more specifically, in the S & R Corporation. This corporation was formed in February 1960, with Paul as its registered agent.(2086) The corporation issued 1,000 shares of stock, so Paul had a half interest in it when he received his 500 shares. (Paul was never able to ascertain who held the remaining 500 shares.)

(1281) After the Oswald shooting, Paul immediately assumed the day-to-day management of the Carousel, since Ruby was incarcerated and Paul wished to protect his "investment." (2087) Paul changed the club's name to the "Big D Copa" (2088) to lessen unfavorable publicity and attention, and attempted to keep it economically viable, but it was a losing battle. Business was very poor, the club lost its beer license,(2089) and Paul stated that he was too old to run two businesses. (2090) After 2½ months, he relinquished management and turned his 500 shares over to Eva Grant, without asking for return consideration.(2091)

(1282) The other business Paul was referring to was The Bull-Pen, a drive-in eating establishment located in Arlington, Texas.(2092) It was an apparently successful venture(2093) which Paul bought in 1960 with Bert Bowman. In January 1963, Paul bought out Bowman and became the sole owner.(2094)

(1283) Before The Bull-Pen, Paul was involved in a number of less successful commercial endeavors. In 1947, shortly after arriving in the Dallas area from New York, Paul bought the Sky Club with Joe Bonds and Dale Belmont.(2095) Paul got out of the Sky Club 1 year later and opened the Blue Bonnet Hotel, which lasted until 1953.

(2096) This was followed by the Miramar Restaurant, with Chris T. Semos as co-owner.(2097) In 1957, Semos bought Paul out, after a dispute concerning Paul's allegedly rude treatment of patrons.(2098) Paul then operated an ice cream parlor with Sam Ruby, but this only lasted 3 or 4 months.(2099) For the next 9 months, Paul helped Jack Ruby at the Vegas Club.(2100) The Bull-Pen came next.

(1284) The last personal contact between Ruby and Paul before the Oswald shooting occurred on Thursday night, November 21, 1963, when Paul went to the Carousel, and Ruby and he then went to the

Egyptian Lounge for dinner, then back to the Carousel.(2101) On Friday and Saturday, Ruby made a number of telephone calls to Paul, although the exact number is in doubt.

(1285) Paul's Warren Commission and other testimony are somewhat confusing and occasionally contradictory concerning these calls. The first came shortly after the assassination, when Ruby wanted to know if Paul heard the tragic news.(2102) Several hours later, Ruby called Paul to state that he was closing the Carousel for the weekend and Paul should do the same with The Bull-Pen. Paul declined, saying that he had an eating place rather than a burlesque club.(2103) At approximately 6 p.m., Paul stated that Ruby called to let Paul know he would be attending synagogue services that evening. Paul was not interested in accompanying Ruby.(2104) Paul also mentioned another call at about 8:40 p.m. that evening.(2105)

(1286) On Saturday, November 23, there was an afternoon call (2106) and another in the early evening.(2107) There were several calls Saturday evening, including a controversial call to The Bull-Pen, which was partially overheard by one Bull-Pen employee, Wanda Helmick. She told the FBI that Paul had said he had a date with Tammi True (Nancy Powell), one of the Carousel dancers, that evening.(2108) Then she heard Paul ask Ruby if he was "crazy" or perhaps "have you lost your mind?"(2109) Helmick also recalled something being said about a gun.(2110) She stated Paul spoke of this on Sunday, November 24, and mentioned something about a gun at that time.(2111)

(1287) Obviously, if it were true, this information would be crucial in determining Ruby's intent that weekend. All other Bull-Pen employees on duty that evening were interviewed; none could corroborate Helmick's statements.(2112) When questioned by the Warren Commission, Paul never mentioned a call from Ruby to The Bull-Pen on Saturday night, although he admitted receiving a call on Saturday.(2113) In a November 24, 1963, FBI interview, Paul stated that his last contact with Ruby was a call at 3 p.m. on Saturday.(2114)

(1288) Telephone records, however, indicate a 9-minute call from Ruby to The Bull-Pen at 10:44 p.m.(2115) In a September 1, 1964, FBI interview, Paul admitted the "crazy" remark (thereby implicitly admitting a Saturday night call to The Bull-Pen), and explained it by stating that it referred to the closing of Ruby's club rather than to Ruby himself or any plans he may have had.(2116) Paul remained certain that he had never made a statement about Ruby's gun to anybody.(2117)

(1289) Shortly after receiving this call at The Bull-Pen, Paul said he went home, leaving word that he felt ill.(2118) This information was given to Ruby when he again called The Bull-Pen, and Ruby's next call was to Paul's home; Paul said it was at 10 or 10:30 p.m.(2119) Apparently Ruby wanted Paul to go somewhere with him, but Paul refused.(2120) Another call came at approximately 11:30 p.m., with Paul saying that Ruby was at Eva Grant's apartment. By this time, Paul was annoyed, telling Ruby that he was not feeling well and not to call again.(2121) The telephone records differ in some respects from Paul's memory and show a 1-minute call from the Carousel to The Bull-

Pen at 11:18 p.m., an identical 2-minute call at 11:36 p.m., and a 1-minute call from the Carousel to Paul's home at 11:47 p.m. (2122) (1290) On Sunday, November 24, Paul was at The Bull-Pen when he received the news of Oswald's shooting; (2123) it made him visibly upset and shaken. (2124) He called Ruby's apartment, getting no answer, (2125) and then called Tom Howard, an attorney who had represented both men in the past. Howard said that he would see what he could do. (2126) Paul then drove with John Jackson, the manager of The Bull-Pen, and Tammi True, into Dallas, first stopping at the police station, where Paul tried unsuccessfully to see Ruby. (2127) The trio then went to Tom Howard's office nearby and watched television until 3 p.m. (2128)

(1291) Paul, Jackson, and True then returned to Arlington and split up. By this time, Paul was somewhat frightened, having heard that Ruby's roommate, George Senator, had been arrested and that the police and the FBI were looking for him (Paul). He took shelter in a motion picture theater for 90 minutes to avoid the press and the police, (2129) then went to Jackson's home, and then to the home of Jackson's sister. (2130) Finally, Jackson persuaded Paul to allow FBI agents to interview him. Paul stated that he knew nothing about Ruby's plans for the Oswald shooting. (2131)

(1292) Paul continued to take an active role in Ruby's legal defense, attending defense meetings and giving at least one check for the payment of defense investigators, (2132) although Paul denied making any payment for Ruby's defense. (2133) Paul also visited Ruby several times in prison. (2134)

(1293) These visits were probably Paul's only trips to a prison. There is no evidence that he had a criminal record, nor is there evidence that he had any connections to organized crime, or any political or law-enforcement connections.

xiii. George Senator

Biographical Summary

(1294) George Senator was born to Abraham and Anna Senator on September 4, 1913, at Gloversville, N.Y. He had two brothers—Jake, living in Gloversville, and Sam, living in Rochester—and three married sisters, Frieda, Pearl, and Lena, all in New York City. His formal education ended with his graduation from grammar school at Gloversville in June 1929. He went to New York City and worked in a hat factory, for Western Union and in the wholesale silk industry, and was unemployed at times.

(1295) Senator developed lung trouble around 1932 and returned to Gloversville for about 1 year, part of which time he worked for his brother Jake, who operated a small restaurant. He returned to New York City and again worked in the silk industry. About 1934, Senator left New York with Ike Heilberum and the Sebring family for Florida. He worked in Miami at various resorts as a kitchen worker. Between 1934 and 1941 he lived and worked in both New York City and Miami. (2135)

(1296) On August 21, 1941, he entered the Army Air Force and was assigned serial number 12,006,042. He served mainly as an aerial