

tempted bribery of Steve Guthrie. Ruby did know Jones and may have known other individuals who were involved in the incident or who were Chicago gangsters who had moved to Dallas. Ruby may also have desired to participate in the bribery attempt or be part of the Chicago group generally, but there is no significant evidence that he did in fact participate. There is also no evidence that Ruby was to be involved in the final setup of the gambling establishment, had the bribery attempt been successful, or that Ruby came to Dallas for that purpose. Jones did state he would bring one man from the outside into the arrangement and that the remainder of the participants would be local people.(444) It is doubtful that Jones had Ruby in mind at that time as the "outside representative," since Jones had not yet met Ruby. (The evidence indicates Ruby did not meet Jones until after the bribery attempt had failed.) Jones mentioned several people who might have been involved in the operation of the gambling club,(445) but apparently he did not mention Jack Ruby.(654) That this incident occurred in 1946 made it difficult, if not impossible, to resolve definitely. The primary participants are dead, including Jones, Labriola, Weinberg, de John, Nitti, and Manno.(446) Memories have faded, and there would have been no reason for people to attach any significance to Jack Ruby's name at that time. It is, therefore, unreasonable to expect witnesses to remember, in detail, Jack Ruby in the 1940's. In addition, the committee was unable to interview Steve Guthrie.

(655) Despite problems with obtaining statements from witnesses, the documentary evidence regarding this incident is detailed and comprehensive. George Butler's notes and the FBI reports and transcripts of the recordings provided a surprisingly clear picture of the meetings that occurred in 1946. Because of the comprehensiveness of this coverage, it is logical to assume that had Ruby been involved in any significant way, his name would have appeared some place among these documents. On the basis of a review of these documents and the recordings, it would seem that Ruby knew Jones, but there was no significant evidence of his participation in the the bribery attempt.

C. RUBY'S ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CUBA*

TRIPS TO CUBA

(656) The Warren Commission Report makes reference to a trip Jack Ruby made to Cuba:

In September 1959, Ruby traveled to Havana as a guest of a close friend and known gambler, Lewis J. McWillie. Both Ruby and McWillie state the trip was purely social.(447)

The report explicitly states that there "is no reliable evidence that Ruby went to Havana subsequent to September 1959."(448) Interestingly, it contains no such statement about prior trips, nor even mentions that possibility.

(657) Although admitting some "uncertainty" about Ruby's trip to Cuba, the report strongly implies the trip was purely for vacation. It concludes that there was "no substantiation * * * for rumors linking

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Ruby with pro- or anti-Castro Cuban activities.”(449) It does, however, state that Ruby might have been involved as a middleman in a jeep sale to Cuba.(450) Despite this, the possibility that Ruby’s trip might have been connected to organized crime interests was not discussed.

(658) There was evidence that two Warren Commission staff attorneys, Leon D. Hubert and Burt W. Griffin, who were assigned to investigate the Ruby area, had doubts about the report’s conclusions. In a memorandum to the Commission, dated March 19, 1964, they discussed Ruby’s activities with regard to Cuba, specifically stating:

The number and length of Ruby’s stays to Cuba are not entirely clear. Ruby admits to having been in Cuba only once: in 1959 for about 10 days. However, records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service show that Ruby flew to Havana from Miami on the night of September 12, 1959, and returned to New Orleans on September 13, 1959. Ruby has not explained this trip, unless it is the trip to which Ruby admits.(451)

(659) The memorandum also stated that Ruby claimed his trip to Cuba was to discuss with McWillie “gambling opportunities in Cuba.”(452)

(660) Griffin and Hubert further discussed various rumors which they characterized as “possible links among Ruby, Oswald, and various Cuba groups.”(453) These included the possibility that Ruby might have been involved in illegal activities in Cuba.(454) The two men stated that the rumors had not been “sufficiently investigated or substantiated.”(455)

(661) In his testimony before the committee, Griffin stated that the Warren Commission’s investigation did not adequately focus on the possibility that Ruby was involved in illegal activities with Cuban elements who might have had contact with Oswald.(456)

(662) In a letter dated April 3, 1964, the Warren Commission requested the FBI to conduct further investigation so as “to clarify the number of trips which Ruby made to Cuba in 1959 and succeeding years.”(457) This letter also requested that the FBI investigate further several of the allegations raised in Hubert’s and Griffin’s memorandum. The FBI did reinterview several of the individuals they had previously interviewed.(458) Nevertheless, a review of Jack Ruby’s FBI file and Warren Commission documents failed to reveal any resolution of these issues.

(663) In light of its conclusions, the Commission either did not fully investigate the allegations and rumors raised by Hubert and Griffin or, if it did investigate, concluded that these issues did not warrant inclusion in the report. This omission has raised serious questions among critics of the Warren Commission. Allegations have been made regarding both the number of Ruby’s trips and the activities he pursued on them. One critic claimed Ruby “may have traveled to Havana six or more times,”(459) another that Ruby “developed a business interest in Cuba.”(460) It has also been suggested that Ruby was serving

as a courier for organized crime figures.(461) In addition, allegations have arisen regarding possible associations between Ruby and organized crime members who were involved in the CIA Mafia plots to assassinate Fidel Castro.(462) One of the most serious is that Ruby assisted in obtaining the release of Santos Trafficante, Jr., a leading organized crime member, from a Cuban prison.(463) The evidence would seem to indicate that the Warren Commission's inadequate investigation of Ruby's trips was a major reason for the resulting speculation and that the issue warranted further investigation.(664) While the committee acquired additional information regarding some of these activities, the evidence was not sufficient to resolve all the allegations.

Statements by Ruby

(665) *FBI and Secret Service interviews.*—On December 2, 1963, Ruby was interviewed by Secret Service Agent Moore. The report of this interview states:

Ruby admitted to Agent Moore that he did make a trip to Cuba, which was supposed to last for 10 days, on an invitation from Louis McWillie, described by Agent Moore as a gambler who is well known in Fort Worth and Dallas, Tex. McWillie was known to run gambling games in Dallas prior to 1959, according to Moore * * *. McWillie, according to Ruby, wrote Ruby or sent word to Ruby in Dallas that he, McWillie, would like for Ruby to visit him in Havana. McWillie reportedly sent Ruby plane tickets to Havana and Ruby went down as a guest. Ruby told Agent Moore although he was supposed to spend 10 days in Cuba, following his arrival, he found he did not have a good time as he expected, he was not a gambler, and after several days in Havana with nothing to do, he was glad to return to Dallas.(464)

(666) On December 21, 1963, Ruby was interviewed by FBI Special Agent C. Ray Hall.(465) Ruby stated he had visited McWillie in Havana, Cuba, during August 1959.(466) He lived at the Fosca Apartments with McWillie for 8 to 10 days.(467) Ruby claimed he spent all his time in Havana "except to go to a small area on one occasion with one of the Fox brothers who owned the Tropicana.(468)" Ruby also told Hall he had never been in Cuba "since or before." (469)

(667) *Warren Commission Testimony.*—During Ruby's testimony before the Warren Commission, he repeatedly stated he had been in Cuba only once(470) and that this trip was in August 1959.(471) The visit was made at the invitation of McWillie, who sent him his airplane ticket.(472) When asked about his travel route to and from Cuba, Ruby appeared confused. He stated:

I think I told Mr. Moore I stopped in New Orleans. Sometime I stopped in New Orleans, and I don't remember if I stopped in Florida or New Orleans, but I know I did stop in New Orleans, because I bought some Carioca rum coming back. I know I was to Miami on a stopover. It could have been on the way back.(473)

Continuing, Ruby conjectured :

* * * here is what could have happened. I could have made— a double stop from Havana on the way back in taking in Miami, and then taking another plane to New Orleans, I am not certain. But I only made one trip to Havana. Yet I know I was in Miami, Fla., and I was in New Orleans. (474)

(668) According to Ruby, when he arrived in Havana, the Cuban customs agents delayed him "for hours" while searching his luggage. (475) Ruby claimed the reason for this delay was the discovery in his luggage of a photograph of one of the Fox brothers. Ruby stated McWillie met him at the airport (476) and that he stayed with McWillie at Volk's Apartments in Havana for approximately 8 days. (477) Ruby again stated he was bored in Cuba. (478) The only activities Ruby discussed were going to the club every evening with McWillie and swimming at the Capri and Nacional once or twice. (479) He stated he was with McWillie "constantly." (480) (669) During Ruby's polygraph examination, he again spoke of his trip to Cuba:

When people ask me—they say, "Jack, you went to Havana, Cuba" and I say, "I went there for a vacation." They say, "How long did you stay?" When I say, "8 days" you somehow have got to answer specifically that it was a vacation, because a person can be very evasive and say he went for a vacation but yet had other dealings there. (481)

(670) Following this statement, Assistant District Attorney William Alexander asked Ruby if his trip to Cuba was purely for vacation and pleasure; Ruby replied, "That's right." (482) During the actual examination, Special Agent Herndon asked Ruby if he did business with Castro and Cuba; Ruby replied, "No." (483) Herndon also asked if Ruby's trip to Cuba was solely for pleasure, to which Ruby replied "Yes." (484) Unfortunately, the conditions under which the polygraph examination was conducted were such that the test has to be considered invalid, and therefore the results cannot be interpreted. (485)

(671) *Other Statements.*—Ruby made several statements to other individuals regarding his trip and activities in Cuba. An FBI interview report on Clarence Rector states:

He [Rector] went to Cuba for 2 days in late 1959 and in early 1960 he was back in Dallas and went to the Vegas Club and saw Ruby. He mentioned he had been to Cuba and Ruby stated he had recently been to Cuba himself, as he and some associates were trying to get some gambling concessions at a casino there but it did not work out. (486)

(672) The FBI also interviewed Tony Otillar, a ticket agent for Delta Airlines in New Orleans. (487) According to the FBI report of this interview:

* * * approximately 7 years ago Jack Ruby flew from New Orleans to Havana, Cuba. At that time Ruby was at the New Orleans Airport to catch this flight. Otillar struck up a con-

versation with him and then became acquainted with him. He advised that prior to leaving on the flight, Ruby made a long distance call to Dallas, Tex., and talked with someone who was employed at his nightclub. He told whoever he was talking to that he was going to Havana and that the entire trip was being paid for by someone else and was not costing him anything. He advised the person he was speaking to on the telephone not to disclose his whereabouts unless it was to the police or some other official agency. (488)

(673) Alice Nichols, who dated Ruby during the 1950's, informed the committee that in September 1959 Ruby called her and told her he was going to Cuba on vacation. (489) Nichols believed Ruby was away for 1 or 2 weeks. She provided the committee with a postcard of the Fosca Building as seen from the Nacional that she had received from Ruby. (490) Dated September 8, 1959, it states:

Dear Alice, the Tropicana is beautiful and do wish you were here. These people are the most carefree I've ever seen. They party in the street all nite. This is the building we are staying in. Mac says hello.—Love, Jack. (491)

(674) The committee interviewed Samuel Ruby, Jack's brother, on December 27, 1977. (492) He stated that some time in 1960 Jack Ruby had told him that McWillie had sent him a ticket to visit him in Cuba and that while there he had met George Raft. (493) Jack Ruby also told his brother that he had only spent a weekend in Cuba. (494)

(675) Wally Weston, a comedian and emcee who worked for Ruby, informed the committee that while visiting Ruby in jail some time after Ruby was convicted, Ruby mentioned Cuba:

When I went to see him [Jack Ruby] that one time he was shook he said gez, Wally, now they're going to find out about Cuba, they're going to find out about the guns, find out about New Orleans, find out about everything. (495)

(676) Robert Ray McKeown told the committee that Ruby had visited him in 1959 to discuss selling equipment (i.e., jeeps) to Castro. (496) McKeown claimed Ruby told him he knew some members of the Mafia in Cuba and had visited the country once while on vacation. (497)

Statements by Lewis J. McWillie

(677) *FBI and Warren Commission investigation.*—McWillie was first asked about his relationship with Jack Ruby on November 25, 1963, when he was interviewed by the FBI. (498) According to the report of this interview, McWillie said that "some time in 1959, Ruby had been in Cuba for about a 1-week vacation and he had seen Ruby there at that time." (499) McWillie disclosed no additional information about Ruby's trip.

(678) During this initial interview, the FBI also asked McWillie about a statement made by Elaine Mynier, a mutual friend of Jack Ruby and McWillie. (500) Mynier had advised the FBI that shortly after Castro took over, she took a vacation to Cuba. Ruby had given her a "short-written message in code consisting of letters and numbers

and including the word 'arriving' " and asked her to convey this message to McWillie. (501) In a later FBI interview, Mynier said Ruby gave the message to her in Dallas and told her to "tell McWillie that Sparky from Chicago is coming." (502) She delivered the message that said McWillie made some comment about Ruby to the effect that "he is nuts." (503)

(679) When asked about Elaine Mynier, McWillie advised that she was a resident of Dallas who worked for the Avis rental agency at the Dallas airport, and that she was acquainted with Ruby. (504) McWillie remembered that she had visited Havana and stayed for approximately 2 weeks. He denied that he had used her as a courier between Ruby and himself. (505)

(80) The FBI reinterviewed McWillie on June 8, 1964. McWillie supplied additional details about Ruby's trip. (506) The report of this interview states:

In 1959, date unrecalled, he wrote to Ruby and asked him if he would like to come to Havana for a week. He stated there was no ulterior motive and that he had been a close friend of Ruby's and extended this invitation as one would to a brother. He realized Ruby was working hard with his Dallas nightclub and felt that Ruby needed a rest. Because the cost of plane tickets in Havana could be paid for by pesos for approximately one-fifth of a cost of a ticket in the United States, he purchased a round trip ticket for Ruby at his own expense and mailed it to Ruby in Dallas, after which Ruby boarded a plane and flew to Havana for a visit. (507)

McWillie believed that Ruby did some sightseeing while in Cuba and visited the Tropicana. (508)

(681) The FBI also interviewed Meyer R. Panitz, (509) a Miami resident and friend of McWillie's and Ruby's. (510) McWillie had stated that Panitz was a bookmaker active in the gambling trade. Panitz advised that in the summer of 1959, he was working at the Booker T. Lounge in Miami Beach, Fla. During this time, he received a phone call from McWillie who was in Cuba. (511) According to Panitz, McWillie told him that Ruby had visited him in Cuba and was then in Miami Beach. Panitz subsequently contacted Ruby at Wolfie's Restaurant, 21st Street and Collins, in Miami Beach. (512) Panitz stated he visited Ruby on two occasions over a couple of days. (513) He could not recall the month of these visits but was somewhat certain it was in the summer of 1959. (514) There is no evidence that the FBI questioned McWillie about the phone call to Panitz.

(682) Another FBI report, dated March 26, 1964, provides additional information about McWillie's associates. (515)

As of May, 1960, McWillie was pitboss at the Riviera Casino, Havana, Cuba. Report reflects that it would appear McWillie solidified his syndicate connections through his association in Havana, Cuba, with Santos Trafficante, well-known syndicate member, Tampa, Fla.; Meyer and Jake Lanski; Dino Cellini and others who were members of or associates of "the syndicate." (516)

(683) McWillie was not interviewed by members of the Warren Commission staff, and he did not testify before the Commission.

(684) *Statements to the committee.*—The committee first interviewed McWillie on May 21, 1977. (517) In this interview, McWillie stated "that to his knowledge Ruby was in Cuba only one time as his guest." (518) He gave an explanation for Ruby's visit that he had never mentioned previously—he wanted Ruby to contact Tony Zoppi, a Dallas columnist, in the hope that Zoppi would come to Cuba and write a favorable story about the casino in which McWillie worked. (519) McWillie explained that Zoppi could not come to Cuba that that he gave Ruby a free trip. (520) In a later statement, McWillie said Ruby never told him before his arrival in Cuba that Zoppi was not coming. (521) According to McWillie, Ruby stayed in Cuba 6 days. (522)

(685) McWillie was also asked about an allegation made by John Wilson Hudson, a British journalist. A State Department cablegram from London, dated November 26, 1963, states that Hudson gave information to the American Embassy in London which indicated that Hudson was detained in Cuba in 1959 and that he knew "an American gangster named Santos while in Havana." (523) Hudson also stated that "while in prison individual named Ruby would come to prison with person bringing food." (524) A CIA release dated November 28, 1963, states that Wilson said while he was in prison, "Santos" was visited frequently by an American gangster-type named Ruby. (525)

(686) The "Santos" referred to by Hudson was probably Santos Trafficante, Jr., a powerful organized crime member detained in Cuba during the summer of 1959.

(687) When asked about Trafficante in his first committee interview, McWillie stated Ruby did not know Trafficante. (526) McWillie added that he also did not know Trafficante, acting as if he did not even recognize the name. (527)

(688) The committee deposed McWillie on April 4, 1978. (528) At that time, McWillie reiterated his new explanation for Ruby's trip, stating:

When I was in the Tropicana, they [the Fox brothers, owners of the Tropicana] were hunting for business, trying to get business, and I suggested that I call Jack Ruby and have him get a hold of Tony Zoppi. Tony Zoppi is a well known columnist like Bishop, Earl Wilson, people like that. That's the kind of a man he was in Dallas and all society people read his column. He wrote me back that they'd come over on a certain date. So I sent him two tickets, which the place paid for. Then I explained to him we would pay for their room. We figured he would get a lot of publicity from it and people from Dallas would come to Cuba. Later on, if I remember right, Jack came and said that, what's his name, Tony couldn't make it. That's the cause of all my problems. (529)

(689) McWillie also stated he asked Ruby to get in touch with Zoppi because he did not know Zoppi too well and Ruby did. (530) Zoppi was an entertainment columnist for the Dallas Morning News whom Ruby visited frequently to obtain publicity for the acts at his club. (531)

(690) In an effort to substantiate this version of events, McWillie supplied the committee with a letter, postmarked August 18, 1976, written by Zoppi to Matty Brescia, who had given it to McWillie's brother. When McWillie first received this letter, it refreshed his memory regarding Zoppi. This letter states:

Give my regard to McWillie next time you are in touch. Jack Ruby and I were supposed to visit him in Havana but I got sidetracked. Jack went on ahead and it caused Mack a lot of trouble over the years. The quick buck artists are saying Jack went down there to plan the assassination. He couldn't have planned a gas station holdup in those days. All of a sudden he's a CIA agent, a Mafia don, etcetera, etcetera, sickening. (532)

(691) When McWillie was asked why he did not tell the FBI about Zoppi, he replied:

I had just forgot about it, to tell you the truth. I was all shook up about the darn thing happening and it just slipped my mind. (533)

(692) McWillie said Ruby visited Cuba sometime in 1959, perhaps in August. (534) When McWillie was informed that an article by Zoppi stated that the proposed trip was in December 1958, McWillie stated:

Maybe I did call him before 1959. But I did call him in 1959 again. If I did make a call in 1958, then I did make a call in 1959. (535)

(693) Regarding Ruby's stay in Cuba, McWillie stated Ruby stayed at a "little hotel" which he could see from his apartment window in the "Foxa" building. (536) When asked about Ruby's activities in Cuba, McWillie stated:

He was right out there where I worked. Every morning when I got up he was there. When I left the place, he went with me to eat and went to bed. (537)

McWillie also indicated Ruby might have gone to a show at the Capri once or twice, but added, "I don't remember a darn thing he did but bug me all week." (538)

(694) During his deposition, McWillie was again asked about Santos Trafficante. This time McWillie stated:

* * * he knew who I was and he shook hands with me when he saw me, but that was it. I've been asked that a lot of times, too. But I didn't know Mr. Trafficante intimately, no. (539)

(695) McWillie could not recall if he had ever met Trafficante in the United States. (540) When asked if he visited Trafficante in a Cuban prison, Trescornia, McWillie said:

I didn't visit him. I went out there once or twice to visit a fellow, he was a dealer. He had a young son and a wife and he gambled all his money away. At times we would take up a collection amongst dealers and give him money. I went out there once or twice to see him. (541)

Continuing later:

I saw everybody out there. Trafficante, I think he was in there * * * I saw him but I didn't talk to him * * * I don't know him that intimately. (542)

(696) McWillie stated that he did not believe Ruby was visiting him at the time of his prison visits, but indicated he could have been. (543) When asked if Ruby visited the prison with him, McWillie stated:

I really don't know. It's possible he could have but I don't think, if he did, he went with me and I don't recall it but he could have. I don't know for sure * * *. (544)

(697) In his deposition, McWillie was also questioned about both Meyer Panitz and Elaine Mynier. (545) McWillie believed Panitz was in Cuba when Ruby was there and could not recall telephoning Panitz in Miami to tell him Ruby was also in Miami. (546) McWillie stated he had dated Mynier but denied receiving a message from her that Ruby had sent from Dallas. (547)

(698) McWillie also stated in his deposition that he had traveled to Miami on many occasions to deposit money in a Miami bank for the Fox brothers, the owners of the Tropicana. (548)

(699) On August 16, 1978, McWillie was contacted by the committee. He repeated his statement that Ruby's 1959 trip was to involve Zoppi. (549)

(700) McWillie was next subpoenaed to appear before an open session of the committee. He testified on September 27, 1978, at which time he repeated the Zoppi explanation for Ruby's trip to Cuba. (550) On this occasion, McWillie stated he called Ruby in 1958 and asked him to get Zoppi to come to Cuba, but Ruby "couldn't bring him or something." (551) He then called Ruby again in 1959 and repeated his request. (552) He sent Ruby two tickets, but only Ruby made the trip. (553) Again, McWillie stated Ruby was there a week or 6 days. (554) When asked if Ruby might have stayed longer, McWillie stated, "no, I think I took him to the airport." (555) McWillie also denied that Ruby left Cuba during his visit, returning later: (556)

If he [Ruby] did make a trip I would not know it, sir, and I would think I would know it, and I didn't see Jack Ruby after he left that one time. (557)

(701) When asked about Panitz, McWillie at first denied calling him, (558) but when confronted with Panitz's FBI interview, stated he could not "recall" telephoning Panitz. (559)

(702) McWillie's testimony regarding Ruby's activities while in Cuba was substantially the same as his prior statements. (560)

(703) When asked again about his visits to the prison, Trescornia, in which Trafficante was detained, McWillie stated he had visited there twice to visit Guiseppe de George (a dealer friend). (561) He may have also visited Dino Cellini, who was detained there. (562) He also recalled that Jake Lansky and Trafficante were at Trescornia. (563) McWillie recalled seeing Celline, de George, Trafficante and Lansky (564) on his first visit to the camp. In fact, he spoke with Cellini, de George and Lansky. (565) McWillie stated, however, "I didn't

talk to Trafficante because I didn't know him that well to speak to him." (566)

(704) McWillie indicated the same people were at Trescornia on his second visit. (567) With regard to Trafficante, McWillie stated, "I probably said hello to him the second time I was there." (568) When asked if Ruby could have accompanied him to Trescornia, McWillie stated:

Jack Ruby could have been out there one time with me. I don't think he was. I went out there, I think, by myself * * * I don't know if he was there at that time or not. If he was, I could have taken him out there with me, yes. I'm not positive about it. (569)

Statements by Tony Zoppi

(705) With respect to McWillie's explanation of Ruby's trip to Cuba, the committee interviewed Tony Zoppi on several occasions. The report of the first interview on March 13, 1978, including the following:

* * * one day in December Jack Ruby called me and asked me how I would like to go to Cuba and write about the clubs there. When I agreed that it would suit me fine, Ruby said he had a friend, Lewis McWillie, who managed the Casino in the Tropicana, and he would arrange for McWillie to send us two tickets. About a week later Ruby called Zoppi to inform him that he had received the plane tickets from McWillie and that they would leave in several weeks. Zoppi stated that he never made that trip because 1 week prior to leaving he had received a call from the Sands Hotel informing him that Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop, Dean Martin, and Peter Lawford were to appear there in what was ballyhooed to be one of the greatest acts in show business. It was to be called the summit meeting. Of course, Zoppi had to accept this invitation and informed Ruby that he was unable to accompany him to Cuba but perhaps would join him at a later date after he had completed his assignment at the Sands Hotel. Ruby did proceed with his plans and went to Cuba and he was to join him after the holidays. Needless to say, Zoppi remarked that he never did join him because on December 31st, Fidel Castro's revolution was a success and he came into power. (570)

(706) Zoppi was reinterviewed on March 31, 1978, and on April 5, 1978. (571) The report of the March 31 interview states:

His best recollection was that during September or October of 1958 Ruby offered to write McWillie at the Tropicana to get them airplane tickets so Zoppi could review the acts at the Tropicana to help McWillie's business. The OK for the trip was received approximately December 8 or 9 (or 10-12) and the trip was to last 4-5 days. Zoppi wanted to be back for the holidays. They would pay their own way down and be reimbursed: this was the common practice for journalists reviewing acts. In late November, Jack Entratter and Al

Freeman called inviting Zoppi to review a big anniversary show at the Sands in Las Vegas. Zoppi said (as he had written in his article) the show was a "summit meeting" show featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford. Zoppi figured there wouldn't be anything "like this" in Cuba so he decided to postpone the trip and told Ruby he would meet him down there after the new year on approximately January 4. Ruby told Zoppi he would go down, stay down there and meet Zoppi in Cuba. Zoppi then states he never went down due to Castro's takeover in January. He vaguely remembers Ruby told him he had a good time in Cuba. He doesn't know if Ruby had been there before or not. (572)

(707) On April 5, 1978, Zoppi was questioned further about the dates of the proposed trip to Cuba. He was also shown the letter which McWillie had given the committee, which had reminded McWillie of Zoppi's role in Ruby's Cuba trip. Zoppi authenticated his signature on this letter. (573) It was pointed out to Zoppi that Castro's takeover did not immediately prevent travel to Cuba. (574) Zoppi then called the Sands Hotel to obtain information about the big shows during the 1958-61 period in order to determine which show he had reviewed. (575) He stated it could have been the December 1958 show with Rowan and Martin, the December 1960 show with Marty Allen and Steve Rossi, or the December 1959 show with Dean Martin. (576) He thought it was the big show with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis which he had referred to in his initial interview; it had taken place from January 20 to February 16, 1960. (577) After reviewing all the shows, Zoppi admitted he was very unsure about the date of the scheduled trip to Cuba. (578) Zoppi recalled that the alternative trip on January 4 was probably prevented by Castro's takeover. (579) Castro assumed power in Cuba on January 1, 1959; he severed diplomatic relations with the United States on January 1, 1961. Zoppi agreed that perhaps Ruby had gone to Cuba in August 1959 on vacation and the trip Zoppi and Ruby were to take was an entirely different trip. (580)

(708) The committee again spoke with Zoppi on September 15, 1978. (581) Zoppi repeated that the trip to Cuba was originally scheduled for December 11, 1958, but he postponed the trip so he could attend and review the December anniversary show at the Sands. (582) He also said that when Castro took over on the first of the year, he decided not to visit Cuba. (583) Zoppi stated it was possible the trip was cancelled because of the break in diplomatic relations on January 1, 1961, but believed the trip was cancelled as a result of the Castro takeover on January 1, 1959. (584) Zoppi also stated that Ruby did not give him an airline ticket. (585) He indicated that sometime later, Ruby asked Zoppi why he did not go to Cuba and Zoppi told him it was "because of all that trouble." (586)

(709) Zoppi also supplied the committee with an article he wrote in 1973 called "Ruby in Retrospect." In it, Zoppi stated:

Jack had a good friend named Lewis McWillie who was a casino executive at the Tropicana in Havana. He asked McWillie if he would like me to fly to Cuba and do a story on

the Tropicana's show. Lew agreed and said he would send a pair of plane tickets. The date was set for December 17, 1960. By coincidence, I received a call from Jack Entratter at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas inviting me to "the summit meeting"—an unprecedented show featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford. I called Ruby and told him I would have to postpone the trip to Cuba until early January because I wanted to see the Sands show. He said he would depart as scheduled and see me in Havana "right after the first of the year." (587)

Statements by Santos Trafficante

(710) Trafficante testified before the committee on September 28, 1978. He stated he was detained at Trescornia, (588) but could not remember the exact dates he was there. (589) He recalled Dino Cellini, Jack Lansky, Chuck White (Charles Tourine, Jr.) and Guiseppe de George as being other people held at Trescornia. (590) When asked about visitors and people who might have assisted him in being released from Trescornia, Trafficante stated:

I had a lot of people come and see me trying to help me to get out, and the attorney that I had was a fellow by the name of Mr. Bango, and I think Mr. Gener was interested in getting me out and a lot of other people that were in the casino business, native people, like Mr. Fox and Mr. Petere and Mr. Alfred Gonzalez and Raoul Gonzalez. We had a good relationship and they all tried their best to get me out. (591)

Later, Trafficante testified:

Let me tell you, Mr. Stokes, this was like a camp. There was no—it was a minimum security place. They would let anybody come in. They would let anybody stay with us until 12 o'clock at night. We would coo [sic], we would have food brought in, we would eat, we would drink and there would be, sometimes, the guards would come and sit down with us and eat. Some meal it was like one big happy family. (592)

(711) When asked about McWillie, Trafficante stated he had seen him "around Havana a lot," (593) however, he could not recall him visiting Trescornia, but acknowledged that he might have come. (594) Regarding Ruby, Trafficante stated:

I never remember meeting Jack Ruby * * * There was no reason for this man to visit me. I have never seen this man before. I have never been to Dallas; I never had no contact with him. I don't see why he was going to come and visit me. (595)

Regarding John Wilson Hudson, Trafficante testified:

Let me tell you what used to happen. I vaguely remember some guy there that was kind of a little bit of a screwball. I don't know if it's him or not. Because there used to be all kinds of people they would bring into there; people that they would bring into there; people that would have difficulty with

the traveling papers * * * So it would be possible that he was there, but I was to see him how, I wouldn't remember none of these people.(596)

(712) A confidential source available to the committee previously reported Trafficante as saying:

Another guy which I read in the paper was supposedly a journalist * * * I remember him vaguely. I didn't even know he was a—they used to come and go. It was not a matter that they would stay.(597)

Trafficante is reported to have described this man as "a kook, a funny guy, for me he was a mental case."(598) ; and stated:

When he came in there they made him like a joke, he was supposed to fill out his food for the next day, the night before, like * * * Like breakfast and dinner and supper and he had to order it the day before. And that was all in fun, he never would get—until we finally had to give him some of our food.(599)

Paskin Allegation

(713) In a memorandum, dated January 27, 1964, investigator Albert L. Tarabochia, then working in Miami for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, wrote that on January 24, 1964, he was advised by José A. Gonzalez Lanuza of the Cuban Student Directorate (DRE) that there were "indications of a trip to Cuba made by Jack Ruby in 1963."(600) Tarabochia wrote that further investigation "revealed that Jack Ruby had visited Solomon Pratkan or Paskin in Havana. Paskin owns and operates a curio shop in Havana across from the Hotel Seville."(601) Further,

Mr. Carlos Valdes-Fauli reported to the writer that he had received a letter from a relative in Havana in which the above information was related. Mr. Valdes-Fauli, when contacted on the evening of January 27, stated that he had surrendered the letter to Agent James O'Connor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation after the agent contacted him at his place of employment that same afternoon. Mr. Valdes-Fauli added that the letter was dated December 1963 and the reference to Ruby's trip to Cuba was "last year the assassin of President Kennedy's assassin visited Paskin last year at his home. Paskin is a friend and client of Ruby."

(714) An FBI report(602) states that Gonzalez Lanuza said he had received the information about Jack Ruby from a fellow member of the DRE, Juan Manuel Salvat.(603) When the FBI interviewed Salvat, he stated he had received the information through a contact of Carlos Valdes-Fauli.(604) The FBI interview report of Valdes-Fauli states:

Mr. Valdes related that in approximately the beginning of January 1964, he received a letter from his sister-in-law, Graziella Rubio, age 45, who lives in Marianao, Cuba. Mr.

Valdes made available the section of the letter pertaining to Jack Ruby, and a translation from the Spanish is as follows:

Ruby, the assassin of Oswald, was in Havana a year ago. He is a friend and a client of an individual named Praskin, who owns or manages a souvenir shop located on Prado between Animas and Trocadero Streets in front of the Sevilla Hotel.(605)

This report also says that Valdes-Fauli "stated his sister-in-law very probably learned the information concerning Ruby through hearsay." (606)

(715) The committee contacted Lanuza Gonzalez on August 2, 1978.(607) He said he had no recollection of talking with Albert Tarabochia about a visit to Cuba by Jack Ruby.(608) He also did not recall reporting such a visit to the FBI. He said, however, that "if Al Tarabochia wrote it, it must be true because he was a very honorable man." (609)

(716) Valdes-Fauli was contacted on August 4, 1978.(610) He acknowledged that Graziella Rubio was his sister-in-law. He was asked about the letter sent to him in 1964 by his sister-in-law concerning Jack Ruby. He replied, "I don't recall it." He was asked if he ever spoke with Al Tarabochia. He said, "No, I don't recall it." He was then asked if he was ever questioned by the FBI, and he responded, "Never." (611) Finally, he was asked if he was ever questioned by FBI Agent James O'Connor. He replied:

Never. I don't recall it. I don't recall anything about that. I have never been questioned about the assassination of Mr. Kennedy. I am absolutely sure.(612)

Valdes-Fauli was then read a portion of the Tarabochia memorandum dealing with his reporting his sister-in-law's letter to him. His response was "I am absolutely sure that I have never been in touch with that agent. I have never received that letter. I am absolutely sure." (613)

(717) Valdes-Fauli was interviewed on August 7, 1978. At that time, he stated that from the time of the telephone interview concerning his sister-in-law's letter, he had since recalled that he did receive a letter from her concerning Jack Ruby.(614) He could not recall what the letter said specifically, but thought it said something about "Ruby being in Cuba at the Hotel Hilton and that he personally talked to Castro." (615) Valdes-Fauli also informed the committee that his sister-in-law had since moved to Miami and suggested she be interviewed.(616) He said her name was then Graziella Guerra.(617) (718) Guerra was interviewed on August 9, 1978.(618) She said she recalled sending the letter about Ruby to her brother-in-law, but she did not remember the details. "The way it was then," she said, "was that I sent the information and then as soon as I write it I try to forget it. It was too dangerous to remember information." (619) She stated she had no personal knowledge of Ruby's being in Cuba or meeting with Praskin, but had been given the information by some individual(620) whom she could not recall.

(719) She related that she did not know Praskin (621) and that she had been given the information "maybe 3 or 4 days before" she wrote

the letter.(622) When asked how reliable she considered the information about Ruby, she stated:

Ruby was definitely in Cuba. I know that. Someone else told me that he was there and that he went to visit Fidel at the place where Fidel had his vacation home.(623)

Again Guerra could not recall who told her this.(624)

(720) Guerra also informed the committee that she was affiliated with the anti-Castro group, the Movimiento Recuperación Revolucionario (MRR), headed by Manolo Artime, and she was sometimes given information by Cuban anti-Castro underground operatives to send out of Cuba.(625)

Information provided by the Cuban Government

(721) On March 31, 1978, the committee met in Cuba with representatives of the Cuban Government. At this meeting the committee was given two Cuban tourist cards.(626) They bore the name of Jack Ruby.(627) One indicated Ruby had departed from New Orleans for Cuba on August 8, 1959, and left Cuba on September 11, 1959.(628) The other indicated that Ruby had left Miami for Cuba on September 12, 1959, and left Cuba on September 13, 1959.(629) Ruby's home address was listed as Dallas, Texas on one card and 4727 Homer, Dallas, Tex., on the other.(630) In the space for "Address during stay in Cuba" was written "Capri Hotel."(631)

(722) Captain Filipe Villa from the Cuban Ministry of the Interior informed the committee that:

The only reason we still have these cards is because in 1963 Ruby is converted into an important person when he participates in the assassination of JFK by killing the alleged assassin Oswald.(632)

Captain Villa made the following statement about Jack Ruby:

Concretely on Jack Ruby. The information that we have about him is that an individual who have that name or with that name filled out arrival airport cards whose photographs we gave you this morning. This man was in Cuba on two occasions. The first in August 1959, he remained in Cuba until September 11, 1959. The 12th of September he entered Cuba once again and he leaves the following day. The reason we got this information is because we kept records of who entered our country and on those cards the dates appear.

We will be glad to show you the original documents tomorrow. This is practically all the information of Ruby possessed by the Cuban Government. The cause of this: Ruby came to Cuba in 1959. There was no reason to monitor his visit to Cuba. He traveled as a tourist. We unfortunately do not know what his activities were during the period he was in Cuba. We could not tell you if he interviewed with Santo Trafficante or not. It is true that at that same period of time Trafficante was being detained in Cuba. But we cannot unite both facts.

Trafficante was really not a prisoner. He was a foreigner being detained. That is to say, that he was at a camp in

Havana named Trescornia where foreigners with certain problems were detained for a period of time. But there were no controls as to visitors, and because of this we unfortunately don't know whether the Trafficante-Ruby visit occurred. This link between the two of them which we also consider extremely important we cannot establish.(633)

(723) When McWillie was confronted with the information supplied by the Cuban Government, he denied that Ruby was in Cuba from August 8 to September 11, and he also denied that during that period Ruby left Cuba and returned on a 1-day trip.(634) Referring to the tourist cards, McWillie stated :

That is clear all right but that is not right, because when he came to visit me he stayed 6 days at the most, he stayed 6 days and there is one foul-up with that ticket or something. If he had stayed there a month, I would say a month, I wouldn't be ashamed to say it. Jack Ruby was that kind of fellow that 6 days would be long enough to be around him. I am sure he wasn't there a month.(635)

(724) Regarding Trafficante, Captain Villa stated Trafficante was detained in Cuba on June 6, 1959,(636) as a result of a request from the Bureau of Narcotics of INTERPOL.(637) The Cuban authorities held Trafficante for investigation of a violation of article 19B of the Cuban laws, which covers the expulsion of foreigners who engage in immoral or anti-government activities.(638) Trafficante was put in Trescornia as a preventive measure while an investigation was being conducted.(639) No proof was produced, and he was released on August 18, 1959.(640) Sometime after August 18, 1959, Commandante Manuel Piniero interviewed Trafficante and gave him 24 hours to leave the country.(641) The Cuban Government had no records of when Trafficante actually left Cuba, but estimated it could have been a few days after August 18 or a month later.(642) Captain Villa informed the committee that Trafficante's associates during 1959 were probably Giuseppe de George, Charles Tourine, Jr., Jake Lansky, Lucien Rivard, Dino Cellini, and Henry Saavedra.(643) Captain Villa stated that there was no information that John Wilson Hudson was ever a detainee in Cuba.(644) The committee also interviewed José Verdacia. Verdacia was the Chief Warden of Trescornia in 1959.(645) He provided a detailed description of the camp, along with a sketch of its layout.(646) He explained that all of the individuals connected with gambling casinos were detained in one "pavillion." (647) They were permitted to have visitors at the camp,(648) but there was no visitor's log.(649) Verdacia remembered Trafficante, Dino Cellini, Charles Tourine, Jr. and Jake Lansky as being present at the camp.(650) He was not familiar with the name McWillie or Ruby.(651) Verdacia did not recognize the name John Wilson Hudson ; however, he did say :

I remember an English journalist who stayed there for some days. He had been deported from Argentina. I remember that he used to tell me stories of his staying in Argentina. That he had problems there with Peron because he used to make funny

stories about Rita Peron, Peron's wife, because there was soap by the name of Rita. * * * I remember the stories that he used to tell me. I don't have any idea of him. * * * I don't have any recollection of him being linked to these other people. I don't remember whether his staying there coincided with the stay of these other people. I don't know his name, but I do remember the man. (652)

(725) Wilson Hudson had in fact been a journalist in Argentina years earlier. Verdacia could not remember if "the British journalist" was at Trescornia at the same time as Trafficante and the others. If the journalist was there at the same time, he would have been housed in the same pavilion as the other detainees connected with the gambling industry. (653)

Handwriting Analysis

(726) In order to determine the authenticity of the two Cuban tourist cards and the postcard sent to Alice Nichols, the committee had them examined by two handwriting experts. The experts were given photographs of the tourist cards and the original postcard. (654) For the sake of comparison, one expert was given a check drawn on the Merchants State Bank, Dallas, Tex., dated July 26, 1962, payable to the Dallas Times Herald and signed, "Vegas Club, Jack Ruby." (655) This expert was also provided with a photograph of a sheet of yellow legal memorandum paper bearing nine specimens of Jack Ruby's signature and three one-sentence paragraphs in his handwriting, dated July 18, 1964. (656) The other expert reviewed the original of the yellow legal memorandum at the National Archives and was provided with several photographs of U.S. income tax returns signed by Jack Ruby. (657)

(727) Both experts concluded that the writing and signature, "Jack," on the postcard and the two signatures, "Jack Ruby," on the tourist cards, were written by the same author of the signatures on the legal memorandum paper and the other samples. (658) One expert, Charles C. Scott, qualified his conclusion regarding the tourist cards by stating that because his examination was based on photographs and not originals, his opinion was subject to modification should the originals be submitted and reveal contradictory information not disclosed by the photographs. (659)

Other Information

(728) The FBI interviewed three individuals who recalled meeting a man named Jack Ruby while they were visiting in Cuba. They were two attorneys and an architect, all from Chicago, who had visited Cuba during the Labor Day weekend in 1959—September 4, 5, and 6. (660) They had all visited the Tropicana during their stay and recalled that a man had introduced himself to them. Sherwin Braun believed the man gave his name as Jack Ruby. Jay Bishov stated the man was identical to the man in a picture he had seen in the papers of Jack Ruby. After introducing himself, the man, believed to be Ruby, stated he was originally from Chicago but now owned some sort of nightclub or gambling establishment in Texas, possibly Dallas. He invited the three men to visit his club.

(729) All three individuals were reinterviewed by the FBI on April 16, 1964. (661) Both Jack Marcus and Sherwin Braun estimated that the date of their meeting Ruby was the third or last night of their stay in Cuba. (662)

(730) The FBI also interviewed William Edward Howard, a friend of Ruby who, according to the FBI report, stated that Ruby made a trip around 1959, "just about the time Fidel Castro took over Cuba." He stated that Ruby went to Cuba to visit "McKinney" (probably McWillie), who operated the Tropicana Club in Havana. (663)

(731) A former employee of Ruby's, Robert Larkin, told the FBI that 4 or 5 years prior to the assassination he had managed the Vegas Club for the summer months, "during which period Ruby vacationed in Cuba." (664)

(732) Regarding Ruby's other activities in August and September 1959, an FBI report of a review of the records of the Merchants State Bank states that Ruby visited his safety deposit box in Dallas on August 21, 1959, and on September 4, 1959. (665) Another FBI report by SA Charles Flynn indicates he met with Jack Ruby in Dallas on August 6, 1959, and on August 31, 1959. (666)

(733) The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) provided the committee with records that substantiate the Cuban information that Ruby took a 1-day trip to Cuba on September 12 and 13, 1959. (667) The records consisted of a Xerox copy of the record of departure of Pan American Airways flight 415 of September 12, 1959, from Miami, Fla., destination, Havana, Cuba, and a copy of the record of Ruby's departure as a passenger on that flight. (668) A copy of the general declaration and record of arrival of Delta Airlines flight 750 of September 13, 1959, from Havana, Cuba, to New Orleans, La., was also provided, along with a copy of the record of Ruby's arrival as a passenger on that flight. (669) INS was unable to provide any information about other trips Ruby may have made to Cuba.

(734) A memorandum from the deputy director of plans of the CIA to the FBI provided additional information about John Wilson Hudson. (670) A "usually reliable source" reported on August 8, 1951, that Carl John Wilson Hudson was a Spanish citizen of British descent residing in Chile and a contact of Bert Sucharov, a suspected Soviet agent in Santiago, Chile. (671) Wilson was born in Liverpool, England, on December 29, 1916. (672) After arriving in Chile in 1939, in his capacity of journalist Wilson reportedly began "a one-man crusade against the British Government." (673) Another source described as "usually reliable" and "whose information was evaluated as 'possibly true'" reported in 1952 that Wilson was "very probably an intelligence agent." (674)

(735) It was also reported by a "usually reliable source" that on June 18, 1959, Carl John Wilson, a British journalist, sent a cable to the British Parliament and the British Trade Union Federation claiming he had confirmed that the U.S. military attachés in the Caribbean were providing military advice to dictators. In this cable, Wilson reportedly protested these actions "in the name of humanity." (675) Another report from another "usually reliable source" stated that Wilson was involved in a planned attack from Cuba on

Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, during the weekend of June 27-28, 1959.(676) Associated Press reported on July 1, 1959, that the Cuban home of Capt. Paul Hughes was raided, leading to the seizure of:

A large arms cache and air-sea invasion plans and the detention of two other Americans, a British journalist, several Cubans, and nearly 200 would be members of an expeditionary force against the regime of Nicaraguan President Luis Somoza.(677)

The article stated that "the British subject was identified as Carl John Wilson, a freelance journalist who had been in Havana several weeks."(678)

(736) The committee was unable to locate John Wilson Hudson. In response to the committee's inquiries, the Metropolitan Police in London, England, contacted unspecified government agencies, but these efforts were unsuccessful.(679) It has been alleged that Hudson is dead.(680)

Analysis

(737) There is very strong evidence that Ruby made more than one trip to Cuba, contrary to the statements made by both Ruby and McWillie. The tourist cards show that Ruby entered Cuba on August 8, 1959, and left on September 11, 1959, returned on September 12, 1959, and departed again on September 13, 1959. These supplement records the committee obtained from the INS showing that Ruby left Cuba on September 11, 1959, traveling to Miami, returned to Cuba on September 12, and traveled on to New Orleans on September 13, 1959. The Cuban Government could not state with certainty whether these were the only regular commercial flights Ruby made in and out of Cuba. These records, along with Ruby's safety deposit box records and SA Flynn's reports of his visits with Ruby, indicate Ruby made at least three trips to Cuba in August and September of 1959.

(738) The following is a possible scenario for these trips. Ruby met with Special Agent Flynn on August 6, 1959. According to the Cuban tourist cards, he went to Cuba on August 8, 1959. He returned to the United States sometime before August 21, 1959, the date he visited his bank. It is possible that during this period between August 8, 1959, and August 21, 1959, Ruby took the 1-week trip that both he and McWillie mentioned. Ruby again met with Flynn on August 31, 1959, and visited the bank on September 4, 1959. Sometime between the 4th and the 11th of September 1959, Ruby must have gone to Cuba again, because the three Chicagoans had met him there on Labor Day weekend, September 4, 5, and 6, 1959. According to the Cuban tourist cards and the INS records, Ruby left Cuba on September 11, 1959, then returned from Miami on September 12, 1959, departing for New Orleans on September 13, 1959.

(739) This sequence of events contradicts Ruby's and McWillie's statements that Ruby made only one trip to Cuba. The weight of the evidence supports the possibility that Ruby visited Cuba on at least three occasions.

(740) Regarding McWillie's explanation that he invited both Ruby and Zoppi to Cuba, this was a trip entirely separate from the August

and September 1959 visits. Zoppi stated he canceled the proposed trip to Cuba because he wanted to review a show in Las Vegas. Of the several shows Zoppi mentioned, none occurred in the summer of 1959. In fact, all of them were scheduled for the winter months. Zoppi also stated he canceled the trip altogether because of Castro's takeover, which occurred on January 1, 1959. This supports the assumption that this particular trip was originally scheduled for December 1959, which is Zoppi's best guess. It has not been possible to determine, however, if Ruby went on to Cuba without Zoppi. It is possible that Ruby did do so, as he told Zoppi he would depart as scheduled and meet Zoppi in Havana "right after the first of the year." (681) Zoppi also stated that he "vaguely remembers that Ruby told him he had a good time in Cuba." (682) In addition, McKeown stated that in January 1959, Ruby told him he had been in Cuba once on vacation. (683) William Edward Howard also stated Ruby made a trip in 1958 or 1959 "just about the time Fidel Castro took over Cuba." (684) The allegation that Ruby had visited Cuba in 1962 is probably false. The committee was unable to obtain any corroboration for it. This story was conveyed to the United States after the assassination by an individual with substantial ties to the anti-Castro community. It could well have been an effort by anti-Castro elements to link Ruby to Castro and thus to a Cuban plot to assassinate the President. There was no evidence that this was the case.

(741) Based on the curious nature of the 1-day trip to Cuba via Miami and the existence of a third trip to Cuba, vacationing was probably not Ruby's sole reason for traveling to Cuba. The inference seems reasonable that Ruby was at least serving as a kind of courier on behalf of gambling interests in Cuba when he traveled to Miami from Cuba for 1 day and stayed in Cuba 1 day on his way to New Orleans. This inference was supported by a number of facts, including: McWillie's previous trips to Miami on behalf of the Fox brothers, who owned the Tropicana, to transfer funds to a Miami bank; the call from McWillie to gambling figure Meyer Panitz in Miami to inform him that Ruby was coming from Cuba and the resulting meetings between Panitz and Ruby; and the continuing need of Cuban casino operators to protect their assets from possible seizure by the Cuban Government. In dealing with casino operators, Ruby necessarily would have had contacts with organized crime figures and their associates, including possibly some who had suffered detention at the hands of the Cuban Government.

(742) It has not been possible to corroborate the allegation that Ruby visited Trafficante at Trescornia. John Wilson Hudson was not located, and Trafficante denied any such meeting, although he did recall an individual fitting Hudson's description. José Verdacia also recalled a British journalist who was at Trescornia.

OTHER CUBAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND ALLEGATIONS

McKeown Incident

(743) *Treatment by the Warren Commission.*—The FBI conducted the investigation of Robert McKeown for the Warren Commission. McKeown initially became a target of investigation when Jack Ruby

stated in an interview with the FBI on December 21, 1963, that "at a time when Castro was popular in the United States," he had read of a person in the vicinity of Houston who had run guns to Castro. (685) Ruby mentioned that he had attempted to contact this person by telephone about the possibility of selling some jeeps or similar equipment to persons interested in their sale to Cuba. (686) Ruby claimed nothing developed from these efforts. (687) He told the interviewers, SA Clements and SA Hall:

When Castro got in, I read in paper where a guy at Bashore sold guns to Cuba when Castro was popular here—going to a new and democratic country and I wanted to sell jeeps and get surplus to make a buck. Tauney, or Elargi, or something * * * I can't recall his name. I called a lawyer in Houston and they said I was too little. (888)

(744) In his testimony before the Warren Commission, Ruby provided a further description of the man he had contacted: (689)

I think his name was Longley out of Bay—something—Texas, on the Bayshore. And somehow he was, I read the article about him that he was given a jail term for smuggling guns to Castro. This is the early part of their revolution. (690)

(745) Dallas assistant district attorney William Alexander told the FBI on January 14, 1964, that while he was attempting to ascertain the identity of this person, a source informed him that Ruby had previously contacted a Davis, (691) an ex-convict believed to be living in Beaumont, Tex. Alexander said that the source thought the Houston FBI office handled an investigation of Davis, which resulted in a conviction for gun-running activities. (692)

(746) On January 17, 1964, the Houston FBI office advised that a Davis could not be identified at Houston or Beaumont, Tex. It did conjecture, however, that Ruby was probably referring to Robert Ray McKeown. (693) This was a logical assumption as McKeown had been arrested by Federal agents in 1958 for conspiring to smuggle guns to Castro, for which McKeown received a 2-year suspended sentence and a five-year probation. (694) In addition, Ruby could very well have read about McKeown in the newspaper because when Castro visited Houston in April 1959, McKeown had met with him at the Houston Airport. A photograph in the Houston Chronicle recorded the event on April 28, 1959; an article accompanying the photograph quoted Castro as saying that when McKeown could move to Cuba, he would be given a post in the government or some franchises. (695) There was also an article in the March 12, 1958, issue of the Houston Chronicle regarding the weapons seized from McKeown's home. (696) McKeown also showed the committee a newspaper clipping dated January 3, 1959, headlined "Gunrunner Hails Castro Victory," which McKeown believed may have been the impetus for Ruby's visit. (697)

(747) When the FBI located McKeown and interviewed him on January 24, 1964, McKeown stated that about 1 week after Castro assumed control of Cuba. Anthony "Boots" Ayo, a patrolman for the Harris County Sheriff's Office, informed him that someone from Dallas, Tex., had been calling the Harris County Sheriff's Office in an effort to locate him. (698) According to McKeown, he told Ayo to give

the caller the telephone number of his place of business, the J and M Drive-In.(699) According to the FBI report, McKeown stated that about 1 hour later, a person called him, identified himself as Jack Rubenstein from Dallas, Tex., affirmed McKeown's connections with Castro, and solicited McKeown's assistance in obtaining the release of three people Castro had detained in Cuba. Rubenstein offered McKeown \$5,000 per person, stating that someone in Las Vegas could provide the money. McKeown said he would accept the offer on the condition that he first received some money. Rubenstein replied by saying he would think about it and call again. About 3 weeks after the call, McKeown stated that a man visited the J and M and offered him \$25,000 for a letter of introduction to Castro. The visitor, who did not identify himself, stated that he had access to a large number of jeeps in Shreveport, La., which he wished to sell to Cuba. McKeown said that he would provide the letter upon a \$5,000 cash down payment. McKeown said that the man "never returned nor did he ever see him again." (700)

(748) McKeown told the FBI his visitor strongly resembled Jack Ruby; (701) McKeown stated, however, "he is not certain that the above-described telephone caller from Dallas or the man who personally appeared at the J and M Drive-In was identical with the Jack Ruby who killed Lee Harvey Oswald." (702) McKeown also stated that he knew no one by the name of Davis who was convicted for running guns to Cuba. (703)

(749) The FBI did not conduct any further interviews of McKeown, nor did they ever confront Ruby with the contention that Ruby had visited McKeown personally. The FBI did interview Anthony J. "Boots" Ayo, who corroborated McKeown's statement that Ayo had contacted him regarding someone calling from Dallas. (704) The FBI provided the Warren Commission with a report revealing that McKeown was under FBI investigation in connection with the activities of Carlos Prio Socarras and that McKeown had been charged, together with various other persons, with conspiracy to smuggle guns and related equipment to Cuba. (705)

(750) The Warren Commission neither interviewed McKeown nor took his testimony. Further, the Commission did not question Ruby about McKeown in either an interview or a hearing. On September 23, 1964, very much later in the investigation, a Warren Commission attorney did telephone Eva Grant, Jack Ruby's sister, and question her about a sale of jeeps to Cuba. (706) The memorandum of this interview states:

*** she had heard about this venture in the spring or summer of 1959 or 1960. She said that she had been present during a conversation with her brother, although it was not clear if anyone else was present. According to Mrs. Grant, her brother was contacted by a person who owned eight jeeps and wished to locate a buyer. She said her brother saw this as an opportunity to act as a broker just as one might be a broker for any conventional item of merchandise. She also was not sure where the prospective buyer or seller was located, although when I mentioned Houston to her, she indicated that there was someone in Houston connected with the transac-

tion. She indicated, although her answers were not specific, that the prospective sale was never completed. She also said that she never considered the prospective sale worthwhile since it was her understanding that Cuba was getting all the jeeps it needed from the United States and would not have any use for eight jeeps. She also was unable to give any specific information about the jeeps although she speculated that they were broken-down jeeps left over from World War II.(707)

(751) *Additional Statements by McKeown.*—McKeown was interviewed on August 27, 1976.(708) He stated that shortly after Castro took over, a deputy sheriff came to the J and M Drive-In and informed him that someone from Dallas was attempting to telephone him.(709) McKeown gave the deputy sheriff permission to provide the caller with his phone number.(710) About 30 minutes later, McKeown received a call from a person who said his name was Rubenstein and that he was from Dallas.(711) After commenting that he thought McKeown's name was Davis, the caller stated that he knew five people being detained in Cuba and wanted to know if McKeown could obtain their release.(712)

(752) This is the first time McKeown ever mentioned Ruby saying anything about "Davis." It was also the first mention that five people were to be released; previously it had been only three.

(753) Rubenstein then terminated the call after saying he would visit McKeown to review the details.

(754) McKeown stated that soon after this call, a person personally contacted him and told him he had access to some jeeps in Shreveport, La., and some slot machines in New Mexico.(713) He desired to sell the equipment to Castro and consequently wanted a letter of introduction. McKeown replied by saying this would cost \$5,000 "up front." (714) The visitor mentioned that he knew some members of the Mafia in Cuba and had visited the country once while on vacation.(715) The visitor also mentioned (first name unknown) Goldberg as the individual who possessed the jeeps in Louisiana.(716) McKeown thought this visit occurred in January 1959 and provided a newspaper clipping dated January 3, 1959, headlined, "Gunrunner Hails Castro Victory." This article may have been the impetus for the visit, according to McKeown.(717)

(755) During this interview, McKeown also commented that his visitor came to see him three times, a statement he claimed he had told the Warren Commission.(718) Further, McKeown said he knew it was Ruby because the person identified himself as "Rubenstein from Dallas." (719) McKeown originally stated that he had received one visit from a man who did not identify himself but who strongly resembled Jack Ruby.(720) McKeown stated that he never gave any letter or assistance to Ruby because he didn't receive any money.(721)

(756) McKeown testified before the committee on April 12, 1978.(722) He said a person identifying himself as Jack Rubenstein (723) called him and said he wanted a letter of introduction to assist in acquiring the return of several people in jail in Cuba.(724) Rubenstein said that he would soon visit him to discuss the matter and

also mentioned that he thought McKeown's name was Davis.(725) A few days later a man visited McKeown and said he was the one who had called. He said he wanted a letter of introduction to Castro for which he would pay \$25,000. McKeown agreed to provide the letter if Rubenstein would furnish \$10,000 up front.(726) McKeown mentioned that Ruby said he had access to various jeeps, slot machines and similar items.(727)

(757) McKeown maintained that Rubenstein revisited him three or four times. He did not tell the FBI on January 28, 1964, that the man never came to see him again.(728) McKeown testified he never received any money and, therefore, never provided the letter.(729)

(758) McKeown also testified that he believed he told the FBI about the Ruby visit some time before the assassination and that he visited the FBI the day after the assassination to inform it about Ruby.(730) The committee, however, was unable to locate any records concerning a personal FBI contact with McKeown before the January 1964 interview.

(759) McKeown's testimony indicates that his close association with Castro prompted many people to ask him to assist them in affairs pertaining to Cuba and Castro. For instance, McKeown said that after the United States broke off diplomatic relations, he contacted Castro to obtain the release of three persons being detained in Cuba who were close friends of McKeown's brother.(731) McKeown also maintained that a Jack Porter, who he says was a campaign manager for Eisenhower, contacted him around 1959 in regard to approaching Castro.(732)

(760) *Other statements regarding McKeown.*—A CBS news special in 1975 entitled "The American Assassins" briefly mentioned that Ruby had come to see McKeown in 1959, offering him \$25,000 for a letter of introduction to Fidel Castro.(733) The transcript then noted that Ruby "never came back" to obtain the letter.(734) During the show, McKeown first publicly acknowledged a contact between himself and Lee Harvey Oswald, stating that a few weeks prior to the assassination Oswald had visited him attempting to obtain machine-guns and bazookas.(735)

(761) The British Broadcasting Corporation also interviewed McKeown.(736) McKeown stated on this occasion that a person identifying himself as Jack Rubenstein had called him from Dallas regarding his association with Castro and requested his assistance in releasing some people from Cuba. McKeown told the caller he could not discuss the matter because of his upcoming trial (McKeown was sentenced in October 1958).

(762) McKeown stated that the following day a person who claimed he was from Dallas, and who McKeown said was Ruby, visited him and mentioned that he wanted to visit Cuba on vacation and wanted a letter of introduction to Castro for which he would pay \$25,000. Ruby also mentioned that he had some jeeps and some slot machines which he wished to sell to Castro. Ruby said he had never been to Cuba. Ruby then left for Houston and said he would return for the letter. McKeown told him that he would provide the letter for \$12,500 up front and \$12,500 later, with the entire transaction contingent on his meeting Castro. Ruby returned the next day, and the two talked and visited some Cuban friends of McKeown's, but Ruby never pro-

vided any cash. (This was the only time McKeown mentioned visiting some Cuban friends with Ruby.) After returning again the following day, Ruby still failed to produce any money. McKeown said that in the end he never provided a letter and that Ruby never returned.(737)

(763) When questioned by the FBI, McWillie was asked if he knew Robert Ray McKeown. He responded that he did not.(738) He also denied any contact with anyone concerning the sale of jeeps or guns to Cuba, smuggling refugees out of Cuba, or obtaining the release of any of Castro's prisoners.(739) McWillie did state he wrote or called Ruby from Las Vegas about obtaining a pistol. Subsequently, Ruby sent the gun, but McWillie did not pick it up at the post office.(740) Ruby, however, indicated that McWillie requested Ruby send four guns to him in Cuba.(741) When McWillie was asked if he had asked Ruby to send some guns to him in Cuba, McWillie stated:

No, sir, I have been asked that a dozen times and I didn't do that. In the first place, Jack Ruby couldn't have sent any guns to Cuba and I couldn't have gotten them in Cuba. If I had, I hate to think what would have happened to me.(742)

(764) The committee also interviewed Ayo, who said he knew McKeown very well in 1959 when he was employed as a patrolman working out of the Harris County Sheriff's office.(743) He stated that while on patrol, he was contacted by the sheriff, who asked him to go to McKeown's place of employment, get the phone number and relay the information back to the office. McKeown gave him the number, and Ayo did as requested. Ayo stated he was not informed by the sheriff of the reason for the request.(744)

(765) *Inconsistencies in the McKeown material.*—In addition to the obvious differences between Ruby's and McKeown's recollections of their mutual association, important, substantive inconsistencies permeate McKeown's accounts. Some of the key ones are:

- (1) How and when McKeown determined that the person who had visited him was Jack Ruby;
 - (2) The number of people Ruby wished to get released from Cuba;
 - (3) When the Ruby-McKeown contacts occurred;
 - (4) How many times Ruby visited McKeown in person;
 - (5) The amount of time between the phone call and the personal visit or visits;
 - (6) Whether McKeown ever heard Ruby ask about Davis; and
 - (7) When McKeown first spoke to the FBI about these contacts.
- (766) *Analysis.*—It has not been possible to confirm or refute McKeown's allegations. The most that can be said is that Ruby probably made some kind of contact with someone, possibly McKeown, in Texas regarding something related to Cuba. This statement alone is consistent with the inference that Ruby's trips to Cuba were not merely for vacation. If McKeown's allegations are in fact true, which again the committee was unable to determine, this would lead even more credence to the committee's theory regarding Ruby's trips.
- (767) If Ruby did in fact take at least three trips to Cuba and on at least one of these trips was acting as a courier, there is a strong pos-

sibility that he was interested in pursuing other interests, such as selling jeeps or guns to Cuba or obtaining the release of prisoners. This possibility is supported not only by McKeown's statements, but also by Ruby's. Ruby admitted he had contacted someone regarding the sale of jeeps to Castro.(745) Ruby also reportedly told Wally Weston, "They're going to find out about Cuba, they're going to find out about the guns." (746) Ruby's repeated insistence that he only took one trip to Cuba is an additional indication that he was involved in activities not normally associated with vacation. Selling merchandise to Cuba would also be consistent with Ruby's history of involvement with several money-making schemes, e.g., twist boards, razor blades, log cabins and pizza crusts.(747)

Thomas Eli Davis III, Allegation

(768) After Jack Ruby told the FBI that he had contacted an individual in Houston, Dallas assistant district attorney William Alexander reported on January 14, 1964, that he had learned from some source that Ruby had contact with a Davis, described as an ex-convict believed living in Beaumont, Tex.(748) The Houston FBI office reported on January 14, 1964, that they had failed to locate a Davis either in Houston or Beaumont, Tex.(749) In a March 19, 1964, memorandum, Warren Commission attorneys Hubert and Griffin wrote:

Ruby has acknowledged independently that, prior to the time that Castro fell into disfavor in the United States, he had been interested in selling jeeps to Cuba. Ruby stated that he contacted a man in Beaumont, Tex., whose name he recalled was Davis. The FBI has been unable to identify anyone engaged in the sale of arms to Cuba who might be identical with the person named Davis.(750)

(769) Seth Kantor, in his book "Who Was Jack Ruby?," identifies Davis as Thomas Eli Davis III.(751) According to Kantor, Ruby allegedly told his first lawyer, Tom Howard (deceased), that he had intended to begin a regular gunrunning business with Davis.(752) Kantor also alleged that Davis was in jail in Algiers at the time of the President's assassination(753) and was bailed out by QJ/WIN, a CIA employee.(754) Kantor also stated that Davis was killed in September 1973 while stealing copper wire from an abandoned rock crusher site in Wise County, Tex.(755)

(770) A review of Davis' FBI file indicates that in June 1958, Davis attempted to rob a bank in Detroit for which he received 5 years probation.(756) Davis' probation supervision was transferred on October 7, 1958, to the U.S. Probation Office in Fort Worth, Tex., and again on September 20, 1960, to the Probation Office in Beaumont, Tex.(757) His probation was terminated on February 21, 1962.(758) (771) An FBI memorandum, dated June 25, 1963, reports that Davis:

In May 1963 placed ad in Los Angeles, Calif., newspaper offering military-type employment to former military personnel with specialized backgrounds. Investigation instituted to determine if possible neutrality matter violation existed or if matter of intelligence interest to this Bureau. Persons who answered ad interviewed and it was determined subject [Davis] indicated the military-type employment consisted of going to Haiti with an independent group to overthrow the

Haitian President Duvalier. Subject interviewed and it was determined he is employed as a freelance writer who was attempting to develop material for an article he hoped to publish. The article was to deal with the soldier-of-fortune and the method used in organizing an army and the type of men employed in such an army. He was desirous of learning the attitude of the U.S. Government concerning the type of laws violated and possible punishment for any such violations. To determine this, he placed above mentioned ad in the newspaper. * * *(759)

(772) A May 1963 airtel to the SAC in Los Angeles from the Director of the FBI advised that the "CIA through liaison channels" had informed the Bureau "that the matter designated in retel was not a CIA operation." (760) This airtel was probably referring to Davis' actions discussed in the above FBI memorandum.

(773) The FBI file reflects that the Bureau received several State Department telegrams in December 1963 that concerned Davis. (761) An FBI memorandum, dated December 20, 1963, to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State states:

Reference is made to the incoming telegram received by your Department on December 10, 1963, from Tangier, Morocco, your control number 6690. It was stated therein that Thomas Eli Davis, Jr., was being held by the Moroccan National Security Police because of a letter in his handwriting which referred in passing to Oswald and to Kennedy assassination. (762)

(774) The State Department's passport file indicated Davis applied for a passport on January 31, 1963, in New Orleans. A State Department telegram from Tangier, dated December 10, 1963, states that Davis was arrested on December 8, 1963, for trying to sell pistols. His wife was also with him. The telegram comments:

Moroccan National Security Police [Interpol] claim attempted sale of pistols minor but holding Davis on basis rambling, somewhat cryptic, unsigned letter in Davis' handwriting which refers in passing to "Oswald" and to Kennedy assassination. Letter also suggests intended addressee attorney Thomas G. Proctor donate money to Johnson's campaign. Proctor's address: Hotel Iroquois, 99 West 44th Street, New York. (763)

The committee was unable to locate Proctor.

(775) It was also reported in this telegram that Mrs. Davis told the consulate general that Davis was a "soldier of fortune." She said he worked in Indochina, Indonesia, Algeria, and Cuba, always on the "Western side." (764) She stated they left the United States on November 2, 1963, and arrived in Tangiers via London, Paris, and Madrid on November 28, 1963. (765)

(776) *Analysis.*—Due to limitations of time and resources, the committee did not thoroughly investigate Ruby's possible connection with Davis. It did not interview his wife or other relatives, nor did it determine exactly what Davis said about the assassination. It was not possible, therefore, to confirm Kantor's allegation that the Davis to

whom Ruby referred was Thomas Eli Davis III, or that Ruby was going into the gunrunning business with him. It was also not possible to determine if a CIA employee, QJ/WIN, assisted in the release of Davis from the Moroccan jail. QJ/WIN's CIA file was reviewed but revealed nothing about Davis. The committee made no effort to interview QJ/WIN, whose role in the CIA's assassination planning apparatus, code-named "Executive Action," was detailed in the report, "Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders," of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1975.

Meeting with the Fox brothers

(777) During his Warren Commission testimony, Ruby identified the Fox brothers as the owners of the Tropicana. (766) He indicated the Fox brothers came to Dallas "to collect a debt that some man owed the Cotton Gin Co. here" (767) and that he had dinner with one of the Fox brothers at the Luau Restaurant at Love Field in Dallas. (768) Ruby stated:

There is a very prominent attorney in Dallas, McCord. McCord represents the Fox brothers here. They called me because the Fox brothers wanted to see me, and I came down to the hotel. And Mrs. McWillie—Mr. McWillie was married to her at that time—and if I recall, I didn't show them off at the airport at that time. This is when they were still living in Havana, the Fox brothers. We had dinner at—how do you pronounce that restaurant at Love Field? Luau? That serves this Chinese food. Dave McCord, I was in his presence, and I was invited out to dinner, and there was an attorney by the name of Leon. Is he associated with McCord? And there was McLane. (769)

(778) The committee spoke with David McCord on September 28, 1978. (770) When asked about the dinner with Ruby and one of the Fox brothers, McCord stated that the meeting did occur at Love Field at the Luau Restaurant but involved McCord, Ruby, and the Guadano brothers, Robert and Bernie. (771) McCord stated that the Guadanos were businessmen from Great Neck, and had business dealings with McCord in a company operating in Honduras. (772) McCord claimed the meeting was social in nature. (773) The committee did not locate the Guadanos.

(779) In his book, Kantor disclosed some information about McCord which tended to indicate McCord's credibility may be questionable. He stated that McCord:

Gave up his license to practice law rather than face disbarment proceedings when charged with involvement in a shady securities deal. Then, in July 1976, McCord was arrested on numerous other charges, including conspiracy and mail fraud involved in a bogus silver mine investment scheme. (774)

The committee did not confirm this information.

(780) The other attorney who was allegedly present at this dinner, Alfred E. McLane, was killed in a taxi on March 16, 1963. (775) Both the Fox brothers were also deceased.

(781) There is additional evidence that Ruby did know the Foxes. Ruby stated in an FBI interview that while in Cuba he spent all of his

time in Havana "except to go to a small area on one occasion with one of the Fox brothers who owned the Tropicana." (776) Ruby also stated that he was delayed by Cuban customs agents because of the discovery in his luggage of a photograph of one of the Fox brothers. (777) McWillie also stated that, he introduced Ruby to the Foxes. (778)

Earl Ruby Telegram to Havana.

(782) An Internal Revenue Service report, dated January 9, 1964, contained an analysis of long distance telephone calls originating from Earl Ruby's (Jack Ruby's brother) residence in Springfield, Mich., and from Cobo Cleaners in Detroit, Mich. (779) On January 9, 1964, IRS Agent Anstett questioned Earl Ruby about the long distance calls he made in 1962. These calls included a telegram sent on April 1, 1962, to Havana, Cuba, from Cobo Cleaners. When asked about the telegram, Earl Ruby stated, "That's a telegram isn't it—I don't remember." (780) Agent Anstett later made the statement in his report that:

Comments were offered easily and freely until the item of the Havana telegram. After a brief pause in the conversation Agent Anstett specifically requested a comment on this item. After another pause the above-mentioned comment was made. (781)

(783) Earl Ruby, in his testimony before the Warren Commission, again was unable to recall this telegram. (782)

(784) The committee deposed Earl Ruby on July 20, 1978. At that time, Earl Ruby indicated that perhaps he had sent the telegram to McWillie because "he is the only one I would have known in Cuba." (783) Later, however, Earl Ruby stated, referring to McWillie, "The first time I ever saw him or talked to him was a year or two ago in Vegas." (784) although he knew of McWillie through Jack. (785) Earl Ruby also stated, "I swear on my oath that I don't know anything about it except that it is possible I forgot and I may have sent McWillie a telegram." (786) Earl Ruby admitted that if the telegram were sent it would have been sent by himself and not one of his employees. (787) (785) On August 17, 1978, Earl Ruby wrote the following letter to the committee:

Regarding telegram alleged sent to Cuba in 1962, I checked with post office here and learned that there are six Cubans in the United States and now I'm sure the telegram in question was sent to a Cuba here in the United States and not to Havana, Cuba, or any other place in Cuba. I therefore must go on record as stating that at no time did I ever send a telegram to Havana, Cuba or any place in Cuba. There is a Cuba in each of the following States: Alabama, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio. (788)

The IRS report listing the telegram specifically stated, "Havana, Cuba;" however, the committee was unable to obtain the original telegram.

(786) Earl Ruby testified before the committee on September 26, 1978. At that time, he stated:

Again, I wish to state under oath I never sent the telegram. I have no idea what took place. It wouldn't be the first time

that there was an error in billing our telephone. As counsel brought up something that I didn't even think of, he said if it had been a telegram to Havana, Cuba, that it would have been listed as a cablegram. Also, again I wish to state that I had no idea or any thought of sending a devious type of telegram to Cuba for some reason or another. I would be very foolish to send from my own telephone, I could have gone to a local Western Union and done something like that. So, again I wish to state under oath I never sent a telegram to Havana, Cuba. I don't know how it happened. That is about it.(789)

Jack Ruby's familiarity with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee

(787) Another small indication that Jack Ruby was at least familiar with some Cuban activities occurred during the night of November 22, 1963. At that time, there was a press conference involving Oswald at the Dallas police station. Ruby was present.(790) During the conference, District Attorney Henry Wade was asked about Oswald's being a Communist. According to Wade's testimony before the Warren Commission, this is what occurred:

And I said, well, now, I don't know about that but they found some literature, I understand, some literature dealing with Free Cuba movement. Following this—and so I looked up and Jack Ruby is in the audience and he said, no, it is the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.(791)

Nancy Perrin Rich Allegation

(788) Nancy Perrin Rich was first interviewed by the FBI on November 27, 1963.(792) At this time, she claimed that she worked for Ruby in July and August 1961.(793) Rich claimed that following her discharge from Ruby's employment, she attended four meetings in Dallas of a group arranging to sell Enfield rifles to Cuba. Rich stated Ruby was present at three of these meetings, as was a U.S. Army colonel.(794) Rich also stated she made her husband pull out of the operation and did not know if in fact any guns were sent to Cuba.(795) On December 3, 1963, Rich signed a statement which contained substantially the same version of events as in her FBI interview,(796) although she only mentioned two meetings.

(789) Rich was again interviewed by the FBI on December 5, 1963.(797) She said she worked for Ruby for 5 weeks and that "she did not like Ruby and that he had treated her badly and that she quit the job after a quarrel and fight with Ruby." (798) After leaving Ruby's employ, a "Dick C.," a bartender who would arrange prostitution dates for her, arranged a meeting for her and her husband with an Army colonel "in connection with taking Cuban refugees from Cuba to Miami." (799) They met with the colonel, and "it was proposed that her husband pilot a boat to Cuba and pick up Cuban refugees and return them to Miami." (800) She attended a second meeting at which there were 8 to 12 people, including Jack Ruby.(801) Again they discussed the refugees. They also discussed sending Enfield rifles to Castro.(802) Rich claimed that at this meeting she said she did not want to have any part of these activities because she was loyal to the United States. According to Rich, Ruby then "made a speech, banging on the table, getting red in the face, but she could not recall exactly what he said." (803) Rich claimed there was a third meeting about 2

days later at which Ruby stayed 15 to 20 minutes.(804) Rich said she attended no more meetings.(805)

(790) At this time, Rich was given a polygraph examination.(806) She was extremely nervous and indicated she had taken the drug methadrine on the date of the examination.(807) The polygraph examiner concluded the test results were inconclusive based on Rich's past medical history and use of drugs.(808) The FBI report went on to state:

The examiner observed however that significant emotional responses recorded by the polygraph led the examiner to believe Perrin's story regarding Cuban arms meetings is untrue. The examiner is of the opinion she has a tendency to delusions of grandeur.(809)

(791) The FBI also interviewed Cy Victorson, an attorney who represented Rich when she was arrested in August 1961.(810) Victorson described Rich as "being an habitual liar, who found it difficult to tell the truth."(811) A Dallas policeman also described Rich as a "psychopathic liar, who got great delight out of telling wild tales."(812) The FBI interviewed Dave Cherry, probably the "Dave C." to whom Rich referred.(813) Cherry indicated he knew Rich but claimed to know nothing about running guns to Cuba.(814)

(792) Rich testified before the Warren Commission on June 2, 1964, repeating substantially the same story.(815) She added that her husband was to receive \$10,000 for his services,(816) and that they had counteroffered with \$25,000.(817) Rich also added that when Ruby arrived at the second meeting, the "colonel rushed out into the kitchen or bedroom" and Ruby had a "bulge" in his pocket.(818) According to Rich, when Ruby came out of the room, the "bulge" was gone.(819)

(793) The committee did not investigate this allegation and possessed no additional information to refute or to confirm Rich's story.

D. RUBY'S TELEPHONE RECORDS FROM 1963*

ANALYSIS BY THE WARREN COMMISSION

(794) During the Warren Commission's investigation, counsels Burt W. Griffin and Leon D. Hubert had recommended in a memorandum that steps be taken to obtain and preserve a large number of telephone records involving Jack Ruby and numerous associates.(820) Specifically, they asked that the FBI be instructed to secure the records and that Commission Chairman Earl Warren address a letter to the various telephone companies to assure that the records not be destroyed.(821) While the Warren Commission and the FBI did obtain some of the records, an extensive effort to collect them was not carried out. Griffin stated that Commission general counsel J. Lee Rankin vetoed their full request because the effort would have been too burdensome and was too far-reaching.

(795) The Commission and the FBI failed to analyze systematically and to develop the data in those records which were obtained.(822)

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