

never met Weissman, the man responsible for the anti-Kennedy ad?

LANE: Yes, I do. And it's the same story here: Witness after witness told either the FBI or the Commission that Weissman was a frequent visitor to the Carousel Club in November of 1963. On August 21, 1964, the FBI showed Curtis Crafard several photographs of Weissman, and Crafard said that Weissman had been in the Carousel "on a number of occasions." The FBI report on the interview states that Crafard revealed he "has heard Ruby refer to Weissman by the name of 'Weissman' and on several occasions has served Weissman drinks at the Carousel Club." It goes on and on like that, but despite all this evidence, the Commission claimed that Ruby knew neither Tippit nor Weissman.

PLAYBOY: In any case, the Commission concluded that Ruby was too "moody and unstable to have encouraged the confidence of the persons involved in a sensitive conspiracy." Do you think they have a point there?

LANE: Well, that's an interesting bit of speculation. I personally don't know who a conspiracy would pick as its assassin. Perhaps the conspirators, if they exist, would have preferred a college professor or a Rhodes scholar. But I do know that Ruby killed Oswald quite effectively, although the odds were very much against it, with just one well-placed shot in the stomach. Unlike the Warren Commission, I can't psychoanalyze a hypothetical group of conspirators and determine their recruiting practices. All I can say is that if Ruby was ordered to kill Oswald, his employers would have no reason to be dissatisfied with the way he did his job.

PLAYBOY: How did Ruby explain his motivation for killing Oswald when he testified before the Commission?

LANE: Ruby's appearance before the Commission is one of the most fantastic aspects of the whole investigation. In the first place, the Government was far from eager to have him testify at all. The Commission was formed during November of 1963, but Ruby wasn't interrogated until June of 1964, even though he repeatedly asked the Commission for permission to testify. And when he was finally called, only two members of the seven-man Commission were present—Earl Warren and Gerald Ford. The locale for his interview was, of all places, the Dallas County jail, and in attendance at the outset were Dallas Sheriff J. E. Decker, Assistant District Attorney Jim Bowie and Robert G. Storey, special counsel to the attorney general of Texas. Perhaps the Commission assumed Ruby would be more comfortable in familiar surroundings. If so, they were wrong, because Ruby begged over and over to be taken to Washington, where he could speak freely, but Earl Warren repeatedly