

1 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Now I want you to feel that  
2 we are not here to take any advantage of you, because I know  
3 that you are in a delicate position, and unless you had  
4 indicated not only through your lawyers but also through  
5 your sister, who wrote a letter addressed either to me or  
6 to Mr. Rankin, saying that you wanted to testify before the  
7 Commission, unless she had told us that, I wouldn't have  
8 bothered you.

9 Because I know you do have this case that is not yet  
10 finished, and I wouldn't jeopardize your position by trying  
11 to insist that you testify.

12 So I want you to feel that you are free to refrain  
13 from testifying any time you wish.

14 But I will also be frank with you and say that I  
15 don't think it would be to your advantage to tell us as much  
16 as you have and then to stop and not tell us the rest. I  
17 can't see what advantage that would give you.

18 MR. RUBY: The thing is this, that with your power  
19 that you have, Chief Justice Warren, and all these gentlemen,  
20 too much time has gone by for me to give you any benefit of  
21 what I may say now.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, that isn't a fact,  
23 because until we make our findings on the Commission, and  
24 until we make our report on the case, it is not too late.

25 And there are other witnesses we have who are yet

Helen  
Laidrich

1 to be examined. So from our standpoint, it is time  
2 We are not handicapped at all by the lateness of your  
3 examination.

4 MR. RUBY: Well, it is too tragic to talk about.

5 MR. RANKIN: Isn't it true that we waited very late  
6 in our proceedings to talk to Mrs. Kennedy?

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes. I might say to you  
8 that we didn't take Mrs. Kennedy's statement until day before  
9 yesterday. Mr. Rankin and I took her testimony then.

10 So we are not treating you different from any other  
11 witness.

12 MR. RUBY: I tell you, gentlemen, my whole family  
13 is in jeopardy. My sisters, as to their lives.

14 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes?

15 MR. RUBY: Naturally, I am a foregone conclusion.  
16 My sisters Eva, Eileen and Mary, I lost my sisters.

17 My brothers Sam, Earl, Hyman, and myself naturally --  
18 my in-laws, Harold Cominsky, Marge Ruby, the wife of Earl,  
19 and Phyllis, the wife of Sam Ruby, they are in jeopardy of  
20 loss of their lives. Yet they have, just because they are  
21 blood related to myself -- does that sound serious enough  
22 to you, Chief Justice Warren?

23 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Nothing could be more serious  
24 if that is the fact. But your sister, I don't know whether  
25 it was your sister Eva or your other sister --

1 MR. RUBY: Eileen wrote you a letter.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: -- wrote the letter to me and  
3 told us that you would like to testify, and that is one of  
4 the reasons that we came down here.

5 MR. RUBY: But unfortunately, when did you get the  
6 letter, Chief Justice Warren?

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: It was a long time ago, I  
8 admit. I think it was, let's see, roughly between two and  
9 three months ago.

10 MR. RUBY: Yes.

11 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I think it was, yes.

12 MR. RUBY: At that time when you first got the  
13 letter and I was begging Joe Tonahill and the other lawyers  
14 to know the truth about me, certain things that are happening  
15 now wouldn't be happening at this particular time.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes?

17 MR. RUBY: Because then they would have known the  
18 truth about Jack Ruby and his emotional breakdown.

19 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes?

20 MR. RUBY: Of why that Sunday morning -- that  
21 thought never entered my mind prior to that Sunday morning  
22 when I took it upon myself to try to be a martyr or some  
23 screwball, you might say.

24 But I felt very emotional and very carried away for  
25 Mrs. Kennedy, that with all the strife she had gone through

1 I had been following it pretty well -- that someone owed it  
2 to our beloved President that she shouldn't be expected to  
3 come back to face trial of this heinous crime.

4 And I have never had the chance to tell that, to back  
5 it up, to prove it.

6 Consequently, right at this moment I am being  
7 victimized as a part of a plot in the world's worst tragedy  
8 and crime at this moment.

9 Months back had I been given a chance -- I take that  
10 back. Sometime back a police officer of the Dallas Police  
11 Department wanted to know how I got into the building. And I  
12 don't know whether I requested a lie detector test or not,  
13 but my attorney wasn't available.

14 When you are a defendant in the case, you say "speak  
15 to your attorney", you know. But that was a different time.  
16 It was after the trial, whenever it happened.

17 At this moment, Lee Harvey Oswald isn't guilty of  
18 committing the crime of assassinating President Kennedy.  
19 Jack Ruby is.

20 How can I fight that, Chief Justice Warren?

21 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well now, I want to say,  
22 Mr. Ruby, that as far as this Commission is concerned,  
23 there is no implication of that in what we are doing.

24 MR. RUBY: All right, there is a certain organiza-  
25 tion here --

1 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: That I can assure you.

2 MR. RUBY: There is an organization here, Chief  
3 Justice Warren, if it takes my life at this moment to say it,  
4 and Bill Decker said be a man and say it, there is a John  
5 Birch Society right now in activity, and Edwin Walker is  
6 one of the top men of this organization -- take it for what  
7 it is worth, Chief Justice Warren.

8 Unfortunate for me, for me giving the people the  
9 opportunity to get in power, because of the act I committed,  
10 has put a lot of people in jeopardy with their lives.

11 Don't register with you, does it?

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No. I don't understand  
13 that.

14 MR. RUBY: Would you rather I just delete what I  
15 said and just pretend that nothing is going on?

16 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I would not indeed. I am  
17 only interested in what you want to tell this Commission.  
18 That is all I am interested in.

19 MR. RUBY: Well, I said my life, I won't be living  
20 long now. I know that. My family's lives will be gone.  
21 When I left my apartment that morning --

22 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: What morning?

23 MR. RUBY: Sunday morning.

24 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Sunday morning.

25 MR. RUBY: Let's go back. Saturday I watched

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

Rabbi Seligman. Any of you watch it that Saturday morning?

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, I didn't happen to hear it.

MR. RUBY: He went ahead and eulogized that here is a man that fought in every battle, went to every country, and had to come back to his own country to be shot in the back. (Starts crying)

I must be a great actor, I tell you that.

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No.

MR. RUBY: That created a tremendous emotional feeling for me, the way he said that. Prior to all the other times, I was carried away.

Then that Saturday night, I didn't do anything but visit a little club over here and had a coca-cola, because I was sort of depressed. A fellow that owns the Pago Club, Bob Norton, and he knew something was wrong with me in the certain mood I was in.

And I went home and that weekend, the Sunday morning, and saw a letter to Caroline, two columns about a sixteen-inch area. Someone had written a letter to Caroline. The most heartbreaking letter. I don't remember the contents.

Do you remember that?

MR. MOORE: I think I saw it.

MR. RUBY: Yes. And alongside that letter on the

1 same sheet of paper was a small comment the newspaper  
2 that, I don't know how it was stated, that Mrs. Kennedy  
3 may have to come back for the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald.

4 That caused me to go like I did; that caused me to  
5 go like I did.

6 I don't know, Chief Justice, but I got so carried  
7 away. And I remember prior to that thought, there has never  
8 been another thought in my mind; I was never malicious  
9 toward this person. No one else requested me to do any-  
10 thing.

11 I never spoke to anyone about attempting to do  
12 anything. No subversive organization gave me any idea.  
13 No underworld person made any effort to contact me. It  
14 all happened that Sunday morning.

15 The last thing I read was that Mrs. Kennedy may have  
16 to come back to Dallas for trial for Lee Harvey Oswald, and  
17 I don't know what bug got a hold of me. I don't know what  
18 it is, but I am going to tell the truth word for word.

19 I am taking a pill called Preludin. It is a harm-  
20 less pill, and it is very easy to get in the drug store.  
21 It isn't a highly prescribed pill. I use it for dieting.

22 I don't partake of that much food. I think that  
23 was a stimulus to give me an emotional feeling that  
24 suddenly I felt, which was so stupid, that I wanted to show  
25 my love for our faith, being of the Jewish faith, and I

1 never used the term and I don't want to go into that --  
2 suddenly the feeling, the emotional feeling came within me  
3 that someone owed this debt to our beloved President to save  
4 her the ordeal of coming back.

5 I don't know why that came through my mind.

6 And I drove past the Main Street, past the County  
7 Building, and there was a crowd already gathered there. And  
8 I guess I thought I knew he was going to be moved at 10:00  
9 o'clock, I don't know. I listened to the radio; and I  
10 passed a crowd and it looked -- I am repeating myself --  
11 and I took it for granted he had already been moved.

12 And I parked my car in the lot across from the Western  
13 Union. Prior to that, I got a call from a little girl --  
14 she wanted some money -- that worked for me, and I said,  
15 "Can't you wait till payday?" And she said, "Jack, you  
16 are going to be closed."

17 So my purpose was to go to the Western Union -- my  
18 double purpose -- but the thought of doing, committing the  
19 act wasn't until I left my apartment.

20 Sending the wire was when I had the phone call --  
21 or the money order.

22 I drove down Main Street -- there was a little  
23 incident I left out, that I started to go down a driveway,  
24 but I wanted to go by the Reed's, and I saw him and started  
25 to cry again.

1 Then I drove, parked the car across from the Western  
2 Union, went into the Western Union, sent the money order,  
3 whatever it was, walked the distance from the Western Union  
4 to the ramp -- I didn't sneak in. I didn't linger in there.

5 I didn't crouch or hide behind anyone, unless the  
6 television camera can make it seem that way.

7 There was an officer talking -- I don't know what  
8 rank he had -- talking to a Sam Pease in a car parked up  
9 on the curb.

10 I walked down those few steps, and there was the  
11 person that -- I wouldn't say I saw red -- it was a feeling  
12 I had for our beloved President and Mrs. Kennedy, that he  
13 was insignificant to what my purpose was.

14 And when I walked down the ramp -- I would say there  
15 was an eight-foot clearance -- not that I wanted to be a  
16 hero, or I didn't realize that even if the officer would  
17 have observed me, the klieg lights, but I can't take that.

18 I did not mingle with the crowd. There was no one  
19 near me when I walked down that ramp, because if you will  
20 time the time I sent the money order, I think it was 10:17  
21 A.M. Sunday morning.

22 I think the actual act was committed -- I take that  
23 back -- was it 11:00 o'clock? You should know this.

24 MR. MOORE: 11:21.

25 MR. RUBY: No, when Oswald was shot.

MR. MOORE: I understood it to be 11:22.

MR. RUBY: The clock stopped and said 11:21. I was watching on that thing, yes. Then it must have been 11:17, closer to :18. That is the timing when I left the Western Union to the time of the bottom of the ramp.

You wouldn't have time enough to have any conspiracy, to be self-saving, to mingle with the crowd, as it was told about me.

I realize it is a terrible thing I have done, and it was a stupid thing, but I just was carried away emotionally

Do you follow that?

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes, I do indeed, every word.

MR. RUBY: I had the gun in my right hip pocket, and impulsively, if that is the correct word here, I saw him, and that is all I can say.

And I didn't care what happened to me.

I think I used the words, "You killed my President, you rat." The next thing, I was down on the floor.

I said, "I am Jack Ruby. You all know me."

I never used anything malicious, nothing like s.o.b. I never said that I wanted to get three more off; as they stated.

The only words, and I was highly emotional, to Ray Hall -- he interrogated more than any other person down there -- all I believe I said to him was, "I didn't want

ich

1 Mrs. Kennedy to come back to trial."

2 And I forget what else. And I used a little  
3 expression like being of the Jewish faith, I wanted to show  
4 that we love our President, even though we are not of the  
5 same faith.

6 And I have a friend of mine -- do you mind if it is  
7 a slipshod story?

8 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, you tell us in your own  
9 way.

10 MR. RUBY: A fellow whom I sort of idolized is of  
11 the Catholic faith, and a gambler. Naturally in my business  
12 you meet people of various backgrounds.

13 And the thought came, we were very close, and I  
14 always thought a lot of him, and I knew that Kennedy, being  
15 Catholic, I knew how heartbroken he was, and even his  
16 picture of this Mr. <sup>LOUIS</sup> McWillie flashed across me, because I  
17 have a great fondness for him.

18 All that blended into the thing that, like a  
19 screwball, the way it turned out, that I thought that I  
20 would sacrifice myself for the few moments of saving Mrs.  
21 Kennedy the discomfiture of coming back to trial.

22 Now all these things of my background, I should have  
23 been the last person in the world to want to be a martyr.  
24 It happens, doesn't it, Chief Warren?

25 I mean, for instance, I have been in the night club

ch 1 business, a burlesque house. It was a means of a livelihood.  
2 I knew persons of notorious backgrounds years ago in Chicago.  
3 I was with the Union back in Chicago, and I left the Union  
4 when I found out the notorious organization had moved in  
5 there.

6 It was in 1940.

7 Then recently, I had to make so many numerous calls  
8 that I am sure you know of. Am I right? Because of  
9 trying to survive in my business.

10 My unfair competition had been running certain shows  
11 that we were restricted to run by regulation of the Union,  
12 but they violated all the rules of the Union, and I didn't  
13 violate it, and consequently I was becoming insolvent  
14 because of it.

15 All those calls were made with only, in relation to  
16 seeing if they can help out, with the American Guild of  
17 Variety Artists.

18 Does that confirm a lot of things you have heard?

19 Every person I have called, and sometimes you may  
20 not even know a person intimately, you sort of tell them,  
21 well, you are stranded down here and you want some help --  
22 if they know of any official of the American Guild of  
23 Variety Artists to help me. Because my competitors were  
24 putting me out of business.

25 I even flew to New York to see Joe Glazer, and he

1 called Bobby Faye. We was the National President. That  
2 didn't help. He called Barney Ross and Joey Adams. All  
3 these phone calls were related not in any way involved with  
4 the underworld, because I have been away from Chicago  
5 seventeen years down in Dallas.

6 As a matter of fact, I even called a Mr. -- hold it  
7 before I say it -- headed the American Federation of Labor --  
8 I can't think -- in the State of Texas -- Miller.

9 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I don't know.

10 MR. RUBY: Is there a Deutsch I. Maylor?

11 I called a Mr. Maylor here in Texas to see if he  
12 could help me out.

13 I want to set you gentlemen straight on all the  
14 telephone calls I had. This was a long time prior to what  
15 has happened. And the only association I had with those  
16 calls, the only questions that I inquired about, was if they  
17 could help me with the American Guild of Variety Artists,  
18 to see that they abolished it, because it was unfair to  
19 professional talent, abolish them from putting on their  
20 shows in Dallas.

21 That is the only reason I made those calls.

22 Where do we go from there?

23 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I will go back to the  
24 original question that I asked you. Did you ever know  
25 Oswald?

1 MR. RUBY: No. Let me add -- you are refreshing  
2 my mind about a few things.

3 Can I ask you one thing? Did you all talk to Mr.  
4 McWillie? I am sure you have.

5 VOICE : Yes.

6 MR. RUBY: He always wanted me to come down to  
7 Havana, Cuba; invited me down there, and I didn't want to  
8 leave my business because I had to watch over it.

9 He was a key man over the Tropicana down there. That  
10 was during our good times. Was in harmony with our enemy  
11 of our present time.

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes?

13 MR. RUBY: I refused. I couldn't make it.  
14 Finally he sent me tickets to come down, airplane tickets.

15 I made the trip down there via New Orleans, and so  
16 I stayed at the Volk's Apartments, and I was with him  
17 constantly.

18 And I was bored with the gambling, because I don't  
19 gamble, and there is nothing exciting unless you can speak  
20 their language, which is Spanish, I believe.

21 And that was the only environment. That was in  
22 August of '59.

23 Any thought of ever being close to Havana, Cuba,  
24 I called him frequently because he was down there, and he  
25 was the last person to leave, if I recall, when they had to

1 leave, when he left the Casino.

2 As a matter of fact, on the plane, if I recall, I  
3 had an article he sent me, and I wanted to get it published  
4 because I idolized McWillie. He is a pretty nice boy, and  
5 I happened to be idolizing him.

6 When the plane left Havana and landed in the United  
7 States, some school teacher remarked that the United States  
8 is not treating Castro right. When they landed in the  
9 United States, this Mr. Louis McWillie slugged this guy for  
10 making that comment.

11 So I want you to know, as far as him having any  
12 subversive thoughts, and I wanted Tony to put it in the  
13 paper here. That is how much I thought of Mr. McWillie.  
14 And that is my only association.

15 The only other association with him was, there was a  
16 gentleman here that sells guns. He has a hardware store  
17 on Singleton Avenue.

18 Have I told this to you gentlemen? It is Ray's  
19 Hardware. His name is Ray Brantley.

20 This was -- I don't recall when he called me, but he  
21 was a little worried of the new regime coming in, and  
22 evidently he wanted some protection.

23 He called me or sent me a letter that I should call  
24 Ray Brantley. He wanted some four little Cobra guns --  
25 big shipment.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MR. RUBY: I kept -- did I tell you this, Joe,

about this?

MR. TONAHILL: Yes, you did.

MR. RUBY: That I wanted someone to go to Ray Brantley

MR. TONAHILL: Yes.

MR. RUBY: When Phil Burleson came back with a letter, signed an Affidavit that Ray Brantley said he never did receive a call from me, and the only gun he sent to McWillie was to the Vegas, but it came back that they didn't pick it up because it was a C.O.D. order.

This definitely would do me more harm, because if I tell my story that I called Ray Brantley, and he denies that he ever got a call from me, definitely that makes it look like I am hiding something.

Haven't I felt that right along, Joe?

MR. TONAHILL: You sure have, Jack.

MR. RUBY: Now, the reason I am telling you these things, I never knew Lee Harvey Oswald. The first time I ever have seen him was the time in the Assembly Room when they brought him out, when he had some sort of a shiner on his eye.

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: When was that little incident about the Cobras? About what year? That is all I am interested in.

MR. RUBY: Could have been prior to the early part

1           So me, I should say myself rather, feeling no harm,  
2 I didn't realize, because he wasn't sending them to me, and  
3 I thought there was no crime, the man wanted protection, he  
4 is earning a livelihood.

5           I called Ray Brantley and I said, "Ray, McWillie  
6 called me." I don't remember if he sent me a letter or  
7 he called. He said he wants four little Cobras, or some-  
8 thing like that.

9           He said, "I know Mac. I have been doing business  
10 with him for a long time." Meaning with reference to when  
11 he was living in Texas. He did a lot of hunting and things  
12 like that.

13           CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN:     Yes?

14           MR. RUBY:     That was the only relationship I had  
15 of any mention, outside of phone calls, to Mr. McWillie, or  
16 any person from Havana, Cuba.

17           CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN:     When was that?

18           MR. RUBY:     Now the guns -- am I correct?     Did you  
19 ever go to check on it?     On Ray Brantley?

20           MR. MOORE:     No.

21           MR. RUBY:     He denies I ever called.     Evidently  
22 he feels, maybe he feels it would be illegal to send guns  
23 out of the country. I don't know if you gentlemen know the  
24 law. I don't know the law.

25           CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN:     I don't know.

of '59.

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes; all right.

MR. RUBY: That is the only call I made. And as a matter of fact, I didn't even follow up to inquire of this Mr. Brantley, whether he received it or what the recourse was. That is why I tell you, Chief Justice Warren, -- who is this new gentleman, may I ask?

MR. RANKIN: This is Mr. Storey from your community, a lawyer who is working with the Attorney General, and Mr. Jaworski, in connection with watching the work of the Commission so that they will be satisfied as to the quality of the work done insofar as the State of Texas is concerned.

(Pause for reporter to change paper, and Ruby asked about one of the gentlemen, to which Chief Justice Warren replied as follows):

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: (Referring to Mr. Specter) He has been working with us on the Commission since very close to the beginning now.

MR. RANKIN: How long did you spend in Cuba on this trip?

MR. RUBY: Eight days. A lot of your tourists were there. As a matter of fact, a lot of group tourists were going down, students of schools.

I mean, he had a way of purchasing tickets from Havana that I think he purchased them at a lesser price.

ich  
1 He bought them from the travel agent in the Capri Hotel.

2 He bought them -- did you meet McWillie?

3 MR. MOORE: I didn't.

4 MR. RANKIN: He was checked by the Commission in  
5 connection with this work.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: There was some story in one  
7 of the papers that you had been interested in shipping jeeps  
8 down to Cuba. Was there anything to that at all?

9 MR. RUBY: No. But this was the earlier part,  
10 when the first time Castro had ever invaded Cuba. There  
11 was even a government article that they would need jeeps.  
12 I don't recall what it was, but I never had the facilities  
13 or the capabilities of knowing where to get jeeps.

14 But probably in conversation with other persons --  
15 you see, it is a new land, and they have to have a lot of  
16 things. As a matter of fact, the United States Government  
17 was wanting persons to help them at that particular time  
18 when they threw out the dictator, Batista.

19 And one particular time there was a gentleman that  
20 smuggled guns to Castro. I think I told you that, Mr.  
21 Moore; I don't remember.

22 MR. MOORE: I don't recall that.

23 MR. RUBY: I think his name was Longley out of  
24 Bay -- something -- Texas, on the Bayshore. And somehow  
25 he was, I read the article about him, that he was given a

1 jail term for smuggling guns to Castro. This is the early  
2 part of their revolution.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Before the Batista government  
4 fell?

5 MR. RUBY: Yes. I think he had a boat, and he  
6 lived somewhere in Bay something, Bayshore, in the center  
7 part of Texas. Do you know him, Mr. Storey? Do you  
8 know this man?

9 MR. STOREY: No, I don't know him.

10 MR. RUBY: How can I prove my authenticity of what  
11 I have stated here today?

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, you have testified  
13 under oath, and I don't even know that there is anything to  
14 disprove what you have said.

15 MR. RUBY: No, because I will say this. You don't  
16 know if there is anything to disprove, but at this moment,  
17 there is a certain organization in this area that has been  
18 indoctrinated, that I am the one that was in the plot to  
19 assassinate our President.

20 MR. RANKIN: Would you tell us what that is?

21 MR. RUBY: The John Birch Society.

22 MR. RANKIN: Can you tell us what basis you have  
23 for that, Mr. Ruby?

24 MR. RUBY: Just a feeling of it. Mr. Warren, you  
25 don't recall when I -- Friday night after leaving the Times

1 Herald, I went to my apartment and very impatiently awakened  
2 George Senator. As a matter of fact, used the words, as I  
3 state, "You will have to get up, George. I want you to go  
4 with me."

5 And he had been in bed for a couple of hours, which  
6 was about, I imagine, about 4:30 or a quarter to 5:00 in the  
7 morning.

8 And I called the Club and I asked this kid Larry if  
9 he knew how to pack a Polaroid, and he said "Yes".

10 And I said, "Get up." And we went down and picked  
11 up Larry. And in the meantime, I don't recall if I stopped  
12 at the Post Office to find out his box number of this  
13 Bernard Weisman. I think the box number was 1792, or  
14 something to that; and then there was, it came to my mind  
15 when I left the Times Herald -- I am skipping back -- why  
16 I had awakened George.

17 I recall seeing a sign on a certain billboard  
18 "Impeach Earl Warren". You have heard something about that?

19 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I read something in the  
20 paper, yes, that is all.

21 MR. RUBY: And it came from New Bedford, or  
22 Massachusetts; I don't recall what the town was.

23 And there was a similar number to that, but I thought  
24 at the time it would be the same number of 1792, but it  
25 was 1757.

elen  
aidrich

1 .That is the reason I went down there to take the  
2 Polaroid picture of it, because of that remaining in the Ci  
3 at the time.

4 What happened to the picture, I don't know. I asked  
5 Jim Bowie or Alexander to tell you.

6 MR. RANKIN: Did you know Weisman before that?

7 MR. RUBY: Never knew him. When I said Jim Bowie,  
8 no one says a word.

9 MR. BOWIE: We never have seen them.

10 MR. RUBY: They were in my person.

11 MR. BOWIE: But no evidence came?

12 MR. RUBY: No, it did not, never. As a matter of  
13 fact, I went to the Post Office to check on Box 1792. I  
14 even inquired with the man in charge of where you purchase  
15 the boxes, and I said to him, "Who bought this box?"

16 And he said, "I can't give you the information. All  
17 I know is, it is a legitimate business box purchase."

18 And I checked the various contents of mail there.

19 MR. RANKIN: Did you know Officer Tippit?

20 MR. RUBY: I knew there was three Tippits on the  
21 force. The only one I knew used to work for the Special  
22 Services, and I am certain this wasn't the Tippit, this  
23 wasn't the man.

24 MR. RANKIN: The man that was murdered. There was  
25 a story that you were seen sitting in your

1 Mr. Weisman, Officer Tippit, and another who has been called  
2 a rich oil man, at one time shortly before the assassination.  
3 Can you tell us anything about that?

4 MR. RUBY: Who was the rich oil man?

5 MR. RANKIN: Can you remember? We haven't been  
6 told. We are just trying to find out anything that you  
7 know about him.

8 MR. RUBY: I am the one that made such a big issue  
9 of Bernard Weisman's ad. Maybe you do things to cover up,  
10 if you are capable of doing it.

11 As a matter of fact, Saturday afternoon we went over  
12 to the tour of his lounge, and it was a whole hullabaloo,  
13 and I showed the pictures "Impeach Earl Warren" to Belocchio  
14 and he saw the pictures and got very emotional.

15 And Belocchio said, "Why did the newspaper take this  
16 ad of Weisman?"

17 And Belocchio said, "I have got to leave Dallas."

18 And suddenly after making that statement, I realized  
19 it is his incapability, and suddenly you do things impulsiv  
20 and suddenly you realize if you love the City, you stay her  
21 and you make the best of it. And there were witnesses.

22 I said, "The City was good enough for you all before  
23 this. Now you feel that way about it." And that was  
24 Belocchio.

25 As far as Tippit, it is not Tippitts, it is not Tipp

1 it is Tippit.

2 MR. RANKIN: This Weisman and the rich oil man, did  
3 you ever have a conversation with them?

4 MR. RUBY: There was only a few. <sup>1</sup> Bill Rudman from  
5 the YMCA, and I haven't seen him in years.

6 And there is a ~~Bill~~ Howard, but he is not a rich oil  
7 man. He owns the Stork Club now. He used to dabble in oil.

8 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: This story was given by a  
9 lawyer by the name of Mark ~~Lane~~ Lane, who is representing Mrs.  
10 Marguerite Oswald, the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, and it  
11 was in the paper, so we subpoenaed him, and he testified  
12 that someone had given him information to the effect that  
13 a week or two before President Kennedy was assassinated,  
14 that in your Carousel Club you and Weisman and Tippit,  
15 Officer Tippit, the one who was killed, and a rich oil man  
16 had had an interview or conversation for an hour or two.

17 And we asked him who it was that told him, and he  
18 said that it was confidential and he couldn't tell at the  
19 moment, but that he would find out for us if whether he  
20 could be released or not from his confidential relationship.

21 He has never done it, and we have written him several  
22 letters asking him to disclose the name of that person,  
23 and he has never complied.

24 MR. RUBY: Isn't that foolish? If a man is  
25 patriotic enough in the first place, who am I to be concerned

1 if he wasn't an informer.

2 I am incarcerated, nothing to be worried about anyone  
3 hurting me.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Ruby, I am not question-  
5 ing your story at all. I wanted you to know the background  
6 of this thing, and to know that it was with us only hearsay.  
7 But I did feel that our record should show that we would  
8 ask you the question and that you would answer it, and you,  
9 have answered it.

10 MR. RUBY: How many days prior to the assassination  
11 was that?

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: My recollection is that it  
13 was a week or two. Is that correct?

14 MR. RUBY: Did anyone have any knowledge that their  
15 beloved President was going to visit here prior to that time,  
16 or what is the definite time that they knew he was coming  
17 to Dallas?

18 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I don't know just what  
19 those dates are.

20 MR. RUBY: I see.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I just don't know. Well,  
22 we wanted to ask you that question, because this man had so  
23 testified, and we have been trying ever since to get him to  
24 give the source of his information, but he will not do it,  
25 so we will leave that matter as it is.

1 MR. RUBY: No. I am as innocent regarding any  
2 conspiracy as any of you gentlemen in the room, and I don't  
3 want anything to be run over lightly. I want you to dig  
4 into it with any biting, any question that might embarrass  
5 me, or anything that might bring up my background, which  
6 isn't so terribly spotted -- I have never been a criminal --  
7 I have never been in jail -- I know when you live in the City  
8 of Chicago and you are in the livelihood of selling tickets  
9 to sporting events, your lucrative patrons are some of these  
10 people, but you don't mean anything to those people. You  
11 may know them as you get acquainted with them at the sporting  
12 events or the ball park.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: The prize fights?

14 MR. RUBY: The prize fights. If that was your  
15 means of livelihood, yet you don't have no other affiliation  
16 with them, so when I say I know them, or what I have read  
17 from stories of personalities that are notorious, that is  
18 the extent of my involvement in any criminal activity.

19 I have never been a bookmaker. I have never stolen  
20 for a living. I am not a gangster. I have never used a  
21 goon squad for Union activities.

22 All I was was a representative to sound out applica-  
23 tions for the American Federation of Labor, and if the  
24 employees would sign it, we would accept them as members.

25 I never knew what a goon looked like in Chicago, with

1 the exception when I went to the service.

2 I never belonged to any subversive organization. I  
3 don't know any subversive people that are against my beloved  
4 country.

5 MR. RANKIN: You have never been connected with the  
6 Communist Party?

7 MR. RUBY: Never have. All I have ever done in my  
8 life -- I had a very rough start in life, but anything I have  
9 done, I at least try to do it in good taste, whatever I have  
10 been active in.

11 MR. RANKIN: There was a story that you had a gun  
12 with you during the showup that you described in the large  
13 room there.

14 MR. RUBY: I will be honest with you. I lied about  
15 it. It isn't so. I didn't have a gun. But in order to  
16 make my defense more accurate, to save your life, that is  
17 the reason that statement was made.

18 MR. RANKIN: It would be quite helpful to the  
19 Commission if you could -- in the first place, I want to  
20 get the trip to Cuba. Was that in 1959?

21 MR. RUBY: Yes. Because I had to buy a \$2 ticket  
22 a pass to get through Florida.

23 MR. RANKIN: Did you have any other trip to Cuba?

24 MR. RUBY: Never. That is the only one that I made  
25 I stayed at the Volk's Apartments with Mr. McWillie,

1 lived in his apartment. Ate directly in a place called  
2 Wolf's, downstairs. Wouldn't know how to speak their  
3 language. I wouldn't know how to communicate with them.

4 I probably had two dates from meeting some young  
5 ladies I got to dancing with, because my dinners were  
6 served in the Tropicana.

7 One thing I forgot to tell you -- you are bringing  
8 my mind back to a few things -- the owners, the greatest  
9 that have been expelled from Cuba, are the Fox brothers.  
10 They own the Tropicana.

11 MR. RANKIN: Who are the Fox brothers?

12 MR. RUBY: ~~Martin~~ Fox, and I can't think of the  
13 other name.

14 MR. RANKIN: Do you know where they are located now?

15 MR. RUBY: They are in Miami, Florida. They know  
16 everything about McWillie, I heard; and know the officials.

17 I met McWillie because he came to the Club, and he  
18 came to the Club to look over the show. And you get to  
19 talk to people and meet a lot of different types of people.

20 The Fox brothers came to Dallas -- I don't know which  
21 one it was -- to collect a debt that some man owed the  
22 Cotton Gin Company here.

23 Do you know their name, Mr. Bowie?

24 MR. BOWIE: Murray, or something.

25 MR. RUBY: He gave some bad checks on a gambling

1 debt, and they came to visit me. The lawyer, I think, is  
2 Mark Lane. That is the attorney that was killed in New York.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: That is the fellow who  
4 represents, or did represent Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. I  
5 think I read in the paper where he no longer represents her.

6 MR. RANKIN: He is still alive though.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Oh yes.

8 MR. RUBY: There was one Lane that was killed in a  
9 taxicab. I thought he was an attorney in Dallas.

10 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: That was a Dave Lane.

11 MR. RUBY: There is a very prominent attorney in  
12 Dallas, McCord. McCord represents the Fox brothers here.  
13 They called me because the Fox brothers wanted to see me,  
14 and I came down to the hotel.

15 And Mrs. McWillie -- Mr. McWillie was married to her  
16 at that time -- and if I recall, I didn't show them off to  
17 the airport at that time.

18 This is when they were still living in Havana, the  
19 Fox brothers. We had dinner at -- how do you pronounce  
20 that restaurant at Love Field? Luau? That serves this  
21 Chinese food.

22 Dave McCord, I was in his presence, and I was invited  
23 out to dinner, and there was an attorney by the name of  
24 Leon. Is he associated with McCord?

25 And there was a McClain.

1 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Alfred was killed in a taxi  
2 in New York.

3 MR. RUBY: He was at this dinner meeting I had with  
4 McCord. I don't know if Mrs. McWillie was along. And one  
5 of the Fox brothers, because they had just been awarded the  
6 case that this person owns, this Gin Company, that was  
7 compelled to pay off.

8 MR. RANKIN: I think, Mr. Ruby, it would be quite  
9 helpful to the Commission if you could tell, as you recall it,  
10 just what you said to Mr. Sorrells and the others after the  
11 shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Can you recall that?

12 MR. RUBY: The only one I recall Mr. Sorrells in,  
13 there were some incorrect statements made at this time.

14 MR. RANKIN: Can you tell us what you said?

15 CONGRESSMAN FORD: First, tell us when this took  
16 place.

17 MR. RANKIN: How soon after the shooting occurred?

18 MR. RUBY: Well, Ray Hall was the first one that  
19 interrogated me. Wanted to know my whole background.

20 MR. RANKIN: Can you tell us how soon was it?  
21 Within a few minutes after the shooting?

22 MR. RUBY: No. I waited in a little room there  
23 somewhere upstairs in -- I don't know what floor it was.  
24 I don't recall.

25 MR. RANKIN: Where did this occur, on the third

helen  
laidrich

1 floor?

2 MR. RUBY: One of those floors. I don't know  
3 whether it was the third or second. If you are up on an  
4 elevator --

5 MR. RANKIN: Can you give us any idea of the time  
6 after the shooting?

7 MR. RUBY: I spent an hour with Mr. Hall, Ray Hall.  
8 And I was very much, I was very much broken up emotionally,  
9 and I constantly repeated that I didn't want Mrs. Kennedy  
10 to come back to trial, and those were my words constantly  
11 repeated to Mr. Hall.

12 And I heard there was a statement made -- now I am  
13 skipping -- and then I gave Mr. Hall my complete background  
14 about things he wanted to know, my earlier background going  
15 back from the years, and I guess there was nothing else to  
16 say to Hall because as long as I stated why I did it -- it  
17 is not like planning a crime and you are confessing something  
18 I already confessed, and all it took is one sentence why I  
19 did it.

20 Now what else could I have said that you think I  
21 could have said? Refresh my memory a little bit.

22 MR. RANKIN: There was a conversation with Mr.  
23 Sorrells in which you told him about the matter. Do you  
24 remember that?

25 MR. RUBY: The only thing I ever recall --

1 Mr. Ray Hall and Sorrells was, I said, "Being of Jewish faith.  
2 I wanted to show my love for my President and his lovely wife

3 After I said whatever I said, then a statement came  
4 out that someone introduced Mr. Sorrells to me and I said,  
5 "What are you, a newsman?" Or something to that effect.  
6 Which is really -- what I am trying to say is, the way it  
7 sounded is like I was looking for publicity and inquiring  
8 if you are a newsman, I wanted to see you.

9 But I am certain -- I don't recall definitely, but  
10 I know in my right mind, because I know my motive for doing  
11 it, and certainly to gain publicity to take a chance of  
12 being mortally wounded, as I said before, and who else  
13 could have timed it so perfectly by seconds.

14 If it were timed that way, then someone in the Police  
15 Department is guilty of giving the information as to when  
16 Lee Harvey Oswald was coming down.

17 I never made a statement. I never inquired from the  
18 television man what time is Lee Harvey Oswald coming down.  
19 Because really, a man in his right mind would never ask that  
20 question. I never made the statement "I wanted to get  
21 three more off. Someone had to do it. You wouldn't do it"  
22 I never made those statements.

23 I never called the man by any obscene name, because  
24 as I stated earlier, there was no malice in me. He was  
25 insignificant, to my feelings for my love for Mrs. Kennedy

1 and our beloved President. He was nothing comparable to  
2 them, so I can't explain it.

3 I never used any words -- as a matter of fact, there  
4 were questions at the hearing with Roy Pryor and a few others  
5 -- I may have used one word "a little weasel" or something,  
6 but I didn't use it, I don't remember, because Roy said it.  
7 If he said I did, I may have said it.

8 I never made the statement to anyone that I intended  
9 to get him. I never used the obscene words that were  
10 stated.

11 Anything I said was with emotional feeling of I didn't  
12 want Mrs. Kennedy to come back to trial.

13 CONGRESSMAN FORD: It has been alleged that you  
14 went out to Parkland Hospital.

15 MR. RUBY: No, I didn't go there. They tried to  
16 ask me. My sisters asked me. Some people told my sister  
17 "that you were there".

18 I am of sound mind. I never went there.  
19 Everything that transpired during the tragedy, I was  
20 at the Morning News Building.

21 CONGRESSMAN FORD: You didn't go out there subse-  
22 quent to the assassination?

23 MR. RUBY: No. In other words, like somebody is  
24 trying to make me something of a martyr in that case. No,  
25 I never did.

1 Does this conflict with my story and yours in great  
2 length?

3 MR. MOORE: Substantially the same, Jack, as well as  
4 I remember.

5 MR. RANKIN: Did you say anything about people of  
6 your religion have guts, or something like that?

7 MR. RUBY: I said it. I never said it up there.  
8 I said, I could have said, "Weren't you afraid of getting  
9 your head blown off?" I said, "well, to be truthful, I  
10 have a little nerve." I could have said that.

11 Now I could have said to the doctor that was sent to  
12 me, Bromberg, because there is a certain familiarity you  
13 have, because it is like you have an attorney representing  
14 you, it is there. I mean, it is there.

15 But I did say this. McWillie made a statement  
16 about me, something to the effect that "he is considered a  
17 pretty rough guy," this McWillie. He said, "One thing  
18 about Jack Ruby, he runs this Club and no one runs over him."

19 And you have a different type of entertainment here  
20 than any other part of the country, our type of entertainment.

21 But I don't recall that. I could have said the  
22 sentimental feeling that I may have used.

23 CONGRESSMAN FORD: When you flew to Cuba, where did  
24 you go from Dallas en route? What was the step by step  
25 process by which you arrived at Havana?

1 MR. RUBY: I think I told Mr. Moore I stopped in  
2 New Orleans. Sometime I stopped in New Orleans, and I don't  
3 remember if I stopped in Florida or New Orleans, but I know  
4 I did stop in New Orleans, because I bought some Carioca Rum  
5 coming back.

6 I know I was to Miami on a stopover. It could have  
7 been on the way back. I only went to Cuba once, so  
8 naturally, when I bought the Carioca Rum, there was a couple  
9 of fellows that sell tickets for Delta Airlines, and they  
10 know me like I know you, and I am sure you gentlemen have  
11 spoken to them, and they were to tell me where to go in  
12 Havana, and have a ball, and I told them why I was going  
13 there, and who I was going to look up, and everything else.

14 CONGRESSMAN FORD: They were Delta Airlines employees  
15 in New Orleans or Dallas?

16 MR. RUBY: No, in New Orleans. Evidently I went  
17 out to the Delta Airlines at Love Field and caught the plane.  
18 I may have taken the flight -- here is what could have  
19 happened. . I could have made a double stop from Havana  
20 on the way back in taking in Miami, and then taking another  
21 plane to New Orleans, I am not certain.

22 But I only made one trip to Havana. Yet I know I  
23 was in Miami, Florida and I was in New Orleans.

24 And the next time I went to New Orleans, when I tried  
25 to look up some show girl by the name of Jada, I stopped in

1 to see the same fellows at Delta Airlines.

2 MR. RANKIN: Do you recall going up the elevator  
3 after the shooting of Oswald?

4 MR. RUBY: That is so small to remember, I guess it  
5 is automatic, you know.

6 MR. RANKIN: Did you have this gun a long while  
7 that you did the shooting with?

8 MR. RUBY: Yes.

9 MR. RANKIN: You didn't carry it all the time?

10 MR. RUBY: I did. I had it in a little bag with  
11 money constantly. I carry my money.

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Congressman, do you have  
13 anything further?

14 MR. RUBY: You can get more out of me. Let's not  
15 break up too soon.

16 CONGRESSMAN FORD: When you got to Havana, who met  
17 you in Havana?

18 MR. RUBY: McWillie. Now here is what happened.  
19 One of the Fox brothers came to visit me in Dallas with his  
20 wife. They came to the Vegas Club with Mrs. McWillie, and  
21 we had taken some pictures, 8 X 10's.

22 Evidently the Fox's were in exile at that time, because  
23 when I went to visit McWillie, when he sent me the plane  
24 tickets, they looked through my luggage and they saw a  
25 photograph of Mr. Fox and his wife. They didn't interrogate

1 but they went through everything and held me up for hours.

2 CONGRESSMAN FORD: Castro employees?

3 MR. RUBY: Yes. Because evidently, in my ignorance,  
4 I didn't realize I was bringing a picture that they knew was  
5 a bitter enemy. At that time they knew that the Fox brothers  
6 weren't going to jell, or something was going to happen.

7 Whether it was they were in exile at that time, I  
8 don't know.

9 But they came to my Club, the Vegas Club, and we taken  
10 pictures.

11 Mr. McWillie was waiting for me, and he saw me go  
12 through the Customs line for a couple of hours, and he said,  
13 "Jack, they never did this to anyone before." Evidently  
14 they had me pretty well lined up as to where I come in the  
15 picture of Mr. Rivera Fox. I can't think of his name.

16 CONGRESSMAN FORD: You spent eight days there in  
17 Havana?

18 MR. RUBY: Yes, approximately.

19 CONGRESSMAN FORD: And you stayed at the apartment  
20 of Mr. --

21 MR. RUBY: Volk's Apartments. I never used the  
22 phone. I wouldn't know how to use the phone. Probably  
23 to call back to Dallas. And the only time, Mr. McWillie  
24 had to be at the Club early, so I remained a little later  
25 in town -- not often -- because I saved money when I rode

Helen  
Aidrich

1 with him, because they charge you quite a bit. But I  
2 didn't want to get there too early, because to get there at  
3 7:00 o'clock wasn't very lively.

4 Because I would always be with him for the complete  
5 evening.

6 We leave the place and stop somewhere to get coffee,  
7 a little dugout -- I saw Ava Gardner down there at the time  
8 when I was there. She was visiting there.

9 CONGRESSMAN FORD: What prompted you to leave at  
10 the end of eight days?

11 MR. RUBY: I was bored because gambling isn't my  
12 profession, and when you have a business to run, and there  
13 weren't many tourists I could get acquainted with there.

14 I went to the Capri rooftop to go swimming, and went  
15 to the Nacional to go swimming once.

16 CONGRESSMAN FORD: Did you ever go to Mexico? Have  
17 you ever been to Mexico?

18 MR. RUBY: The only time, thirty or forty years ago,  
19 1934.

20 CONGRESSMAN FORD: This trip to Cuba was the only  
21 time you left the country other than military service?

22 MR. RUBY: Actually I didn't leave in the military.  
23 I was stationed three and a half years here in the States.  
24 Let's see, never out of the United States except at one time  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Now you said there were other things. Would you mind telling us anything you ha on your mind?

MR. RUBY: No, because as I said earlier, you seem to have gotten the juicy part of the story up to now in the various spasmodic way of my telling it.

How valuable am I to you to give you all this informa- tion?

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, how valuable is rather an indefinite term, but I think it is very helpful to our Commission report. I think the report would have been deficient if it had not been for this interview we have had with you.

So we are interested in anything that you would like to tell us, in your own language.

MR. RUBY: The only thing is this. If I cannot get these tests you give, it is pretty haphazard to tell you the things I should tell you.

Mr. Moore, you seem to have known more about my interrogation than anybody else, right?

MR. MOORE: I think you have told us about every- thing you told me.

MR. RANKIN: It isn't entirely clear how you feel that your family and you yourself are threatened by your telling what you have to the Commission.

1                   How do you come to the conclusion that they might be  
2 killed? Will you tell us a little bit more about that, if  
3 you can?

4           MR. RUBY: Well, assuming that, as I stated before,  
5 some persons are accusing me falsely of being part of the  
6 plot -- naturally, in all the time from over six months ago,  
7 my family has been so interested in helping me.

8           MR. RANKIN: By that, you mean a party to the plot  
9 of Oswald?

10          MR. RUBY: That I was party to a plot to silence  
11 Oswald.

12           All right now, when your family believes you and  
13 knows your mannerisms and your thoughts, and knows your  
14 sincerity, they have lived with you all your life and know  
15 your emotional feelings and your patriotism -- on the surface  
16 they see me only as the guilty assailant of Oswald, and by  
17 helping me like they have, going all out.

18           My brother who has a successful business, I know he  
19 is going to be killed. And I haven't seen him in years.  
20 And suddenly he feels that he wants to help me, because he  
21 believes that I couldn't be any further involved than the  
22 actual.

23           When I told him I did it because of Mrs. Kennedy,  
24 that is all he had to hear, because I would never involve  
25 my family or involve him in a conspiracy.

1           Everyone haven't let me down.       Because they read  
2 the newspapers away from Dallas that stated certain facts  
3 about me, but they are untrue, because they wouldn't come  
4 out and put those things in the newspapers that they should  
5 be putting in; and people outside of Dallas read the Dallas  
6 newspapers and are all in sympathy with me, as far as the  
7 country itself.

8           That they felt, well, Jack did it.   They probably  
9 felt they would do the same thing.

10           That sympathy isn't going to help me, because the  
11 people that have the power here, they have a different  
12 verdict.   They already have me as the accused assassin of  
13 our beloved President.

14           Now if I sound screwy telling you this, then I must  
15 be screwy.

16           CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN:   Mr. Ruby, I think you are  
17 entitled to a statement to this effect, because you have  
18 been frank with us and have told us your story.

19           I think I can say to you that there has been no  
20 witness before this Commission out of the hundreds we have  
21 questioned who has claimed to have any personal knowledge  
22 that you were a party to any conspiracy to kill our President.

23           MR. RUBY:   Yes.   But you don't know this area  
24 here.

25           CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN:   No, I don't vouch for anything.

1 except that I think I am correct in that, am I not?

2 MR. RANKIN: That is correct.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I just wanted to tell you  
4 before our own Commission, and I might say to you also that  
5 we have explored the situation.

6 MR. RUBY: I know, but I want to say this to you.  
7 If certain people have the means and want to gain something  
8 by propagandizing something to their own use, they will make  
9 ways to present certain things that I do look guilty.

10 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I will make this  
11 additional statement to you, that if any witness should  
12 testify before the Commission that you were, to their  
13 knowledge, a party to any conspiracy to assassinate the  
14 President, I assure you that we will give you the opportunity  
15 to deny it and to take any tests that you may desire to  
16 so disprove it.

17 I don't anticipate that there will be any such  
18 testimony, but should there be, we will give you that  
19 opportunity.

20 Does that seem fair?

21 MR. RUBY: No. That isn't going to save my family.

22 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, we can't do everything  
23 at once.

24 MR. RUBY: I am in a tough spot, and I don't know  
25 what the solution can do to save me.

helen  
laidrich

1           And I know our wonderful President, Lyndon Johnson,  
2 as soon as he was the President of his country, he appointed  
3 you as head of this group. But through certain falsehoods  
4 that have been said about me to other people, the John Birch  
5 Society, I am as good as guilty as the accused assassin of  
6 President Kennedy.

7           How can you remedy that, Mr. Warren? Do any of you  
8 men have any ways of remedying that?

9           Mr. Bill Decker said be a man and speak up. I am  
10 making a statement now that I may not live the next hour  
11 when I walk out of this room.

12           Now it is the most fantastic story you have ever  
13 heard in a lifetime. I did something out of the goodness  
14 of my heart. Unfortunately, Chief Earl Warren, had you  
15 been around five or six months ago, and I know your hands  
16 were tied, you couldn't do it, and immediately the President  
17 would have gotten a hold of my true story, or whatever  
18 would have been said about me, a certain organization  
19 wouldn't have so completely formed now, so powerfully,  
20 to use me because I am of the Jewish extraction, Jewish  
21 faith, to commit the most dastardly crime that has ever  
22 been committed.

23           Can you understand now in visualizing what happened,  
24 what powers, what momentum has been carried on to create  
25 this feeling of mass feeling against my people, against

1 certain people that were against them prior to their power?

2 That goes over your head, doesn't it?

3 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I don't quite get the  
4 full significance of it, Mr. Ruby. I know what you feel  
5 about the John Birch Society.

6 MR. RUBY: Very powerful.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I think it is powerful, yes  
8 I do. Of course I don't have all the information that you  
9 feel you have on that subject.

10 MR. RUBY: Unfortunately, you don't have, because  
11 it is too late. And I wish that our beloved President,  
12 Lyndon Johnson, would have delved deeper into the situation,  
13 hear me, not to accept just circumstantial facts about my  
14 guilt or innocence, and would have questioned to find out  
15 the truth about me before he relinquished certain powers to  
16 these certain people.

17 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I am afraid I don't  
18 know what powers you believe he relinquished to them. I  
19 think that is difficult about what you have to say.

20 MR. RUBY: I want to say this to you. The Jewish  
21 people are being exterminated at this moment. Consequently,  
22 a whole new form of government is going to take over our  
23 country, and I know I won't live to see you another time.

24 Do I sound sort of screwy in telling you these things?

25 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, I think that is what you

1 believe, or you wouldn't tell it under your oath.

2 MR. RUBY: But it is a very serious situation. I  
3 guess it is too late to stop it, isn't it?

4 All right, I want to ask you this. All you men have  
5 been chosen by the President for this Committee, is that  
6 correct?

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Congressman Ford and I are  
8 the only members of the Commission that are here.

9 Mr. Rankin of the Commission is employed as our Chief  
10 Counsel.

11 Mr. Rankin employed Mr. Specter and Mr. Ball as  
12 members of the Staff.

13 You know who the other gentlemen here are.

14 You know that Mr. Moore is a member of the Secret  
15 Service, and he has been a liaison officer with our staff  
16 since the Commission was formed.

17 CONGRESSMAN FORD: Are there any questions that  
18 ought to be asked to help clarify the situation that you  
19 described?

20 MR. RUBY: There is only one thing. If you don't  
21 take me back to Washington tonight to give me a chance to  
22 prove to the President that I am not guilty, then you will  
23 see the most tragic thing that will ever happen.

24 And if you don't have the power to take me back, I  
25 won't be around to be able to prove my innocence or guilt.

1 Now up to this moment, I have been talking with you  
2 for how long?

3 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I would say for the better  
4 part of three hours.

5 MR. RUBY: All right, wouldn't it be ridiculous for "  
6 me to speak sensibly all this time and give you this climacti  
7 talk that I have?

8 Maybe something can be saved, something can be done.  
9 What have you got to answer to that, Chief Justice  
10 Warren?

11 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I don't know what can  
12 be done, Mr. Ruby, because I don't know what you anticipate  
13 we will encounter.

14 CONGRESSMAN FORD: Is there anything more you can  
15 tell us if you went back to Washington?

16 MR. RUBY: Yes. Are you sincere in wanting to  
17 take me back?

18 CONGRESSMAN FORD: We are most interested in all the  
19 information you have.

20 MR. RUBY: All I know is maybe something can be  
21 saved. Because right now, I want to tell you this, I am  
22 used as a scapegoat, and there is no greater weapon that  
23 you can use to create some falsehood about some of the  
24 Jewish faith, especially at the terrible heinous crime such  
25 as the killing of President Kennedy.

1 Now maybe something can be saved. It may not be too  
2 late, whatever happens, if our President, Lyndon Johnson,  
3 knew the truth from me.

4 But if I am eliminated, there won't be any way of  
5 knowing.

6 Right now, when I leave your presence now, I am the  
7 only one that can bring out the truth to our President,  
8 who believes in righteousness and justice.

9 But he has been told, I am certain, that I was part  
10 of a plot to assassinate the President.

11 I know your hands are tied; you are helpless.

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Ruby, I think I can say  
13 this to you, that if he has been told any such thing, there  
14 is no indication of any kind that he believes it.

15 MR. RUBY: I am sorry, Chief Justice Warren, I  
16 thought I would be very effective in telling you what I  
17 have said here. But in all fairness to everyone, maybe  
18 all I want to do is beg that if they found out I was telling  
19 the truth, maybe they can succeed in what their motives are,  
20 but maybe my people won't be tortured and mutilated.

21 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, you may be sure that  
22 the President and his whole Commission will do anything that  
23 is necessary to see that your people are not tortured.

24 MR. RUBY: No.

25 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: You may be sure of that.

1 MR. RUBY: No. The only way you can do it is if  
2 he knowsthe truth, that I am telling the truth, and why I  
3 was down in that basement Sunday morning, and maybe some  
4 sense of decency will come out and they can still fulfill  
5 their plan, as I stated before, without my people going  
6 through torture and mutilation.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: The President will know  
8 everything that you have said, everything that you have said.

9 MR. RUBY: But I won't be around, Chief Justice.  
10 I won't be around to verify these things you are going to  
11 tell the President.

12 MR. TONAHILL: Who do you think is going to eliminate  
13 you, Jack?

14 MR. RUBY: I have been used for a purpose, and  
15 there will be a certain tragic occurrence happening if you  
16 don't take my testimony and somehow vindicate me so my  
17 people don't suffer because of what I have done.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: But we have taken your  
19 testimony. We have it here. It will be in permanent  
20 form for the President of the United States and for the  
21 Congress of the United States, and for the Courts of the  
22 United States, and for the people of the entire world.

23 It is there. It will be recorded for all to see.  
24 That is the purpose of our coming here today. We feel that  
25 you are entitled to have your story told.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MR. RUBY: You have lost me though. You have lost me, Chief Justice Warren.

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Lost you in what sense?

MR. RUBY: I won't be around for you to come and question me again.

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, it is very hard for me to believe that. I am sure that everybody would want to protect you to the very limit.

MR. RUBY: All I want is a lie detector test, and you refuse to give it to me.

Because as it stands now -- and the truth serum, and any other -- Pentothal -- how do you pronounce it, whatever it is. And they will not give it to me, because I want to tell the truth.

And then I want to leave this world. But I don't want my people to be blamed for something that is untrue, that they claim has happened.

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Ruby, I promise you that you will be able to take such a test.

MR. RUBY: When?

CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: You will have to let me see when we can figure that out. But I assure you, it won't be delayed, because our desire is to terminate the work of the Commission and make our report to the public just as soon as possible, so there won't be any misunderstanding

1 caused by all of these rumors or stories that have been put  
2 out that are not consistent with the evidence in the case.

3 But it will not be unnecessarily delayed, and we will  
4 do it on behalf of the Commission, I promise you.

5 MR. RUBY: All I want, and I beg you -- when are  
6 you going to see the President?

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, I have no date with the  
8 President. I don't know just when. But as soon as I do  
9 see him, I will be glad to tell him what you have said.

10 MR. RUBY: All I want is to take a polygraph to  
11 tell the truth. That is all I want to do.

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes. That, I promise you  
13 you can do.

14 MR. RUBY: Because my people are going to suffer  
15 about things that will be said about me.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes, well, I promise.

17 MR. RUBY: Hold on another minute.

18 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: All right.

19 MR. RUBY: How do you know if the facts I stated  
20 about everything I said, statements with reference to, are  
21 the truth or not?

22 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, if you want a test made  
23 to test those principal questions, we will work them out so  
24 they can be tested.

25 As I understand it, you can't use the polygraph to