

1 because my business is very---it's very important that I'm
2 there on the weekend, in the first place. My business is
3 conducted on a cash basis, and you can't place your ads
4 unless you are there to pay for them.

5 MR. SPECTER: You testified to that before?

6 MR. RUBY: Yes, I did.

7 MR. SPECTER: Did you make any comment about
8 the newspaper advertisement which contained derogatory
9 references to President Kennedy?

10 MR. RUBY: We spoke about it up at the Morning
11 News there, and I didn't want to make anything there about
12 it because I knew they accepted it. They accepted the ad.
13 It would be rather embarrassing to say something to them
14 because they were responsible. The phones were ringing
15 off the desks with people cancelling various ads and so on,
16 but I did make---I went to the Turf Club---that's where I
17 got all hepped up about it---over at the Turf Lounge, and
18 I went to the Post Office to find out who was it that placed
19 that ad, you know, and how it came about.

20 MR. SPECTER: Are you satisfied then, Mr. Ruby,
21 that if we asked you one more question on the polygraph,
22 specifically, "Has all the information which you have testi-
23 fied to today been the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
24 but the truth?"

25 MR. RUBY: Plus the fact that I do want to get in

1 my feeling for Americanism and how I felt, because---
2 remember---there may be unseen persons that may not believe
3 in my sincerity, so I want that specifically asked---how
4 I feel about my country I live in and so on, unless it's
5 repeating something. Is it?

6 MR. SPECTER: Well, we will ask it of you again
7 so that there's no question about. We will formulate
8 the question, "Do you consider yourself to be a 100%
9 American patriot?"

10 MR. RUBY: Yes.

11 MR. SPECTER: And then we'll ask the general
12 question about whether every bit of information you've
13 given us today has been the whole truth?

14 MR. RUBY: Yes.

15 MR. SPECTER: All right, will you proceed,
16 Mr. Herndon and ask those two questions.

17 MR. RUBY: One more thing---shouldn't you ask me,
18 or isn't it necessary, why I suddenly was so carried away
19 to get involved in this serious crime?

20 MR. ALEXANDER: Jack, that won't work on the
21 machine.

22 MR. SPECTER: We have to ask you a "Yes" or "No"
23 question, and we've already covered that by asking you the
24 question about Mrs. Kennedy---whether you didn't shoot
25 Oswald to avoid having her come to trial.

1 MR. RUBY: Yes, that covers that.

2 MR. SPECTER: That covers that subject.

3 MR. RUBY: In other words, I can't answer that
4 truthfully and have another reason for doing it, is that
5 correct?

6 MR. SPECTER: Correct.

7 MR. RUBY: That would answer that?

8 MR. SPECTER: Yes. We've asked you all the
9 reasons---

10 MR. RUBY: But you don't ask me why I did it,
11 though? Why I was carried away so much---you don't ask
12 me that.

13 MR. SPECTER: We did ask you---we asked you
14 "Why did you shoot Oswald?"

15 MR. RUBY: But you don't ask me why I got carried
16 away so?

17 MR. SPECTER: Well, it's the same question.

18 MR. RUBY: Oh, it's the same question.

19 MR. SPECTER: This is the same question---in
20 the form of---"Did you do it in order to save Mrs. Kennedy
21 the travail of a trip to Dallas?" That subject matter
22 has been covered as comprehensively as we can through the
23 polygraph.

24 Now, will you proceed, Mr. Herndon, and ask those
25 final questions?

1 MR. HERNDON: I would like to proceed with
2 "Are you Jack Ruby?"
3 MR. SPECTER: That's fine--that's your line.
4 MR. HERNDON: Then, I'll ask you, "Do you consider
5 yourself to be a 100% American patriot?"
6 Then, what was the last question you wanted asked,
7 Mr. Specter?
8 MR. SPECTER: "Is all of the testimony given by
9 you today the complete truth?"
10 MR. HERNDON: I think I can ask those questions
11 now.
12 Mr. Ruby, does this noise disturb you right now,
13 are you conscious of it or aware of it (referring to audible
14 conversations between other jail occupants)?
15 MR. RUBY: I hear it.
16 MR. HERNDON: Are you all right?
17 MR. RUBY: Yes.
18 MR. HERNDON: Are you tired?
19 MR. RUBY: No, I'm all right.
20 MR. HERNDON: Are you getting a little tired?
21 MR. RUBY: I'm all right.
22 MR. HERNDON: I'll ask you just these last few
23 questions. Would you once again kindly put your feet flat
24 on the floor, and let's put these back so you will be
25 comfortable.

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THE COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: 8:55 p.m.

MR. HERNDON: I will have to wait for the instrument to warm up just a second.

This will be Series Number (11).

(Mr. Herndon snapped his fingers one time.)

Are you ready to proceed?

MR. RUBY: Yes.

MR. HERNDON: I'll just ask these three questions, and once again, these are more or less summation questions here, and I want you just to relax and answer them simply, "Yes" or "No".

The series will now begin.

"ARE YOU JACK RUBY?"

MR. RUBY: "YES".

MR. HERNDON: "DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A 100% AMERICAN PATRIOT?"

MR. RUBY: "YES".

MR. HERNDON: "HAS ALL THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY YOU TODAY BEEN THE COMPLETE TRUTH?"

MR. RUBY: "YES".

MR. HERNDON: The series is over.

THE COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: 8:59 p.m.

MR. HERNDON: I have no questions, Mr. Specter.

MR. SPECTER: Thank you. That concludes the polygraph examination.

1 MR. HERNDON: Now, I will take all this para-
2 phernalia off of you, Mr. Ruby.

3 MR. SPECTER: I would like to have you sign
4 your name about ten times, for us, Mr. Ruby, and would you
5 put the date on this for us too? The date is July 18, 1964.

6 MR. RUBY: Let me have my glasses, Joe.

7 MR. TONAHILL: (Handed glasses to Mr. Ruby)

8 MR. SPECTER: And now would you write the sentence
9 at the bottom, "Now is the time for all good men to come to
10 the aid of their country".

11 MR. RUBY: (Complied with request of Mr. Specter)

12 MR. SPECTER: Now, would you skip down and write
13 that again. I would like for you to write that three
14 times in all, and you might sit down and take a chair and
15 do so.

16 MR. RUBY: (Complied with request of Mr. Specter)

17 MR. SPECTER: Very good.

18 MR. RUBY: What time is it?

19 MR. HERNDON: It's 9 o'clock.

20 MR. SPECTER: I have five after nine---Dallas,
21 Texas time.

22 MR. RUBY: Joe, are you going to do what I asked
23 you to?

24 MR. TONAHILL: I'm going to do my best. You know
25 me well enough to know that I'm going to do my best.

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MR. RUBY: I know you well enough.

MR. HERNDON: You were very cooperative, Mr. Ruby.

MR. TONAHILL: Goodbye, Jack. Good to see you.

MR. RUBY: You're going to do what I ask you to do?

MR. TONAHILL: I'm going to do my best. I told you I would. Everything I do is for your best interest and I have worked awful hard.

MR. RUBY: I know. You are a big man and I know how big you can be.

MR. TONAHILL: I'm going to do my best, like I said, and not let anything under the sun happen.

MR. RUBY: You know what I'm talking about?

MR. TONAHILL: I know exactly what you're talking about.

(Before leaving the room Mr. Ruby conferred briefly with Messrs. Tonahill and Alexander out of the hearing of others in the room, and departed with Chief Jailer Holman at 9:07 p.m.)

SIGNATURE OF JACK RUBY.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Dallas, Texas
Room 7-M, Dallas County
Jail
Saturday, July 18, 1964
9:10 p.m.

The President's Commission met, pursuant to recess, at 9:10 p.m. in Room 7-M, Dallas County Jail at Dallas, Texas, Staff Counsel Arlen Specter presiding.

PRESENT:

- Arlen Specter, Staff Counsel
- Bell P. Herndon, Special Agent, FBI, Washington
- W. James Wood, Special Agent, FBI, Dallas
- Bill Alexander, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas
- Clayton Fowler, Attorney for Jack Ruby, Chief Counsel -- Dallas
- Joe Tonahill, Attorney for Jack Ruby, Jasper

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Dr. William Robert Beavers

E. L. Holman, Chief Jailer

Odell Oliver, Reporter

PROCEEDINGS

MR. SPECTER: May the record show that it is ten minutes after 9 p.m. and that Mr. Ruby has departed in the custody of Chief Jailer E. L. Holman and that we are reconvening for the purpose of taking testimony from Dr. Norman Beavers---

DR. BEAVERS: William Robert.

MR. SPECTER: ---Dr. William Robert Beavers at the request of Mr. Fowler and Mr. Tonahill.

Dr. Beavers, would you stand and raise your right hand, please?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you shall give in this proceeding before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, SO HELP YOU GOD?

DR. BEAVERS: I do.

MR. SPECTER: Will you be seated please, and state your full name for the record.

DR. BEAVERS: William Robert Beavers.

MR. SPECTER: What is your occupation or profession, please?

1 DR. BEAVERS: I am a psychiatrist and physician.

2 MR. SPECTER: Would you set forth your home and
3 office addresses, please?

4 DR. BEAVERS: Yes. My home address is 4071
5 Northlawn Drive, Dallas. My office is at 3911 Maple,
6 Dallas, which is Woodlawn Psychiatric Hospital.

7 MR. SPECTER: Would you describe briefly your
8 educational background, please?

9 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, I finished medical school here
10 at Southwestern in Dallas in 1953, interned in Wayne County
11 General Hospital in Eloise, Michigan. I had a Fellowship
12 in Pharmacology in '54-'55, spent two years in the Air
13 Force in the Arctic in research and returned; I was an
14 Assistant Professor of Pharmacology for three years and
15 during that time I took a year of Internal Medicine at
16 St. Paul's Hospital here in Dallas. Following this in
17 1960 I entered a residency in Psychiatry at Southwestern
18 here in Dallas and completed the residency in 1963. Follow-
19 ing this, I went back on the faculty of the Medical School
20 as Assistant Professor of Psychiatry.

21 MR. SPECTER: And, do you hold the latter
22 position at the present time?

23 DR. BEAVERS: That's correct.

24 MR. SPECTER: Are you a member of any accredited
25 psychiatric societies?

1 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, I'm a member of the Dallas
2 Neuro-psychiatric Group, the Texas Neuro-psychiatric
3 Society and the American Psychiatric Association.

4 MR. SPECTER: Have you now set forth the major
5 items of your background with respect to qualifications
6 in the field of Psychiatry?

7 DR. BEAVERS: Perhaps it should be mentioned that
8 I am on the attending staff at Parkland as a Psychiatrist
9 and that I consult at the Terrell State Hospital as a
10 Psychiatrist.

11 MR. SPECTER: Have you had occasion to examine
12 Mr. Jack Ruby prior to today?

13 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, on numerous occasions prior to
14 about four weeks ago, did I see him.

15 MR. SPECTER: On approximately how many occasions
16 have you examined Mr. Ruby?

17 DR. BEAVERS: Without my records here, it would
18 not be completely accurate, but it would be in the area of
19 about nine or ten times, I believe.

20 MR. SPECTER: And what did you observe with
21 respect to Mr. Ruby's mental condition during the course
22 of those examinations?

23 DR. BEAVERS: I saw him first---can I get somebody
24 to help me with a date?

25 MR. TONAHILL: April the 27th, the 28th, or 29th

1 of this year.

2 DR. BEAVERS: The day that Dr. West first came
3 down was on a Sunday.

4 MR. TOMAHILL: Yes, that was the 26th of April.

5 DR. BEAVERS: He testified Monday morning and
6 then I saw Mr. Ruby first on that Tuesday.

7 MR. TOMAHILL: The 28th.

8 DR. BEAVERS: Right, and at that time he had
9 briefly what I call a psychotic depression, that is, he had
10 evidences of auditory hallucinations and a poorly defined
11 but definite delusional system which waxed and waned during
12 the time of the interview, and he had evidence of a severe
13 degree of depression.

14 Because of the combined symptoms of the hallucina-
15 tory activity, the delusions in which, and I should spell
16 them out, that he felt that both members of his family,
17 his close family, were being harmed, mutilated and/or
18 destroyed because of his crime, and further, that there was
19 a program concerning Jews generally because of his crime.

20 These symptoms plus the depression which was evi-
21 dent, caused me to diagnose a psychotic depressive reaction.

22 MR. SPECTER: Have you now stated your conclusion
23 regarding his mental state?

24 DR. BEAVERS: At that time.

25 MR. SPECTER: And have you set forth the essences

1 of the underlying factors relating to that conclusion?

2 DR. BEAVERS: In very brief nature---yes.

3 MR. SPECTER: Do you have any different conclusion
4 as to his mental state today?

5 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, I do. I think that as I have
6 seen him, the depressive element has diminished, and that
7 the delusional system has become much less open and obvious,
8 and that it has become more fixed, and it seems to---and
9 this I'm not sure of---whether it waxes and wanes depending
10 on the time in the weeks or whether it waxes and wanes
11 depending on the closeness of the people that he sees.

12 MR. SPECTER: Doctor, when you say that the state
13 is much less open, do you mean by that, that it is now more
14 obvious?

15 DR. BEAVERS: Less obvious.

16 MR. SPECTER: Less obvious?

17 DR. BEAVERS: Less obvious.

18 MR. SPECTER: But is it present, notwithstanding
19 the degree of how much it is apparent?

20 DR. BEAVERS: In my opinion it is. Yes. The
21 thing that I'm trying to make clear here is that you take
22 a person that has a mental illness which shows itself in
23 delusions, that is, ideas that things that we say aren't
24 real---they can be very uncertain and changing and very
25 obvious, and which the person will share them with just about

1 anybody, (hey can be much more co (---hidden---and
2 shared only seldom, and much more fixed, not shifting
3 around, but fixed.

4 - - MR. SPECTER: How would you characterize his
5 condition in your opinion as he sat here today during the
6 polygraph examination?

7 DR. BEAVERS: Based on--let's see if I can give
8 the specific things that make me come up with this opinion--
9 the relationship that he has with the prosecuting attorney,
10 the relationship he has with his attorneys, there are cer-
11 tain kinds of actions and behaviour in these two relation-
12 ships which fit better in my opinion with the continuation
13 of a covert delusional system concerning threat to his
14 race, his family, based on his presumed activity in a con-
15 spiracy. Then, it would fit with rational realistic
16 appreciation of the factors in his environment.

17 MR. SPECTER: Were you present today, Dr. Beavers,
18 during the entire course of the polygraph examination?

19 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, I was.

20 MR. SPECTER: In your opinion, was Mr. Ruby in
21 contact with reality during the course of the polygraph
22 examination?

23 DR. BEAVERS: In the greater proportion of the
24 time that he answered the questions, I felt that he was
25 aware of the questions and that he understood them, and that

1 he was given answers based on an approximation of reality.

2 MR. SPECTER: Was there any element of a delusional
3 state present in the answers which he gave during the course
4 of this polygraphic examination?

5 DR. BEAVERS: I felt the only time that there
6 were questions which tapped any of the underlying delusional
7 systems were the questions relating to his opinion about the
8 safety of his defense counsel and the safety of his family,
9 either past or present.

10 It seemed to me, because he was fairly certain in
11 his answers during the trial run, and then following this
12 during the actual run of the polygraph, there was so much
13 hesitation and uncertainty which resulted in no answers,
14 that we were seeing a good deal of internal struggle as to
15 just what was reality.

16 His explanation following this, following the run
17 of the polygraph, I don't think enlightened us very much
18 in terms of what it was he was actually feeling or thinking.

19 MR. SPECTER: But would you have concluded that
20 he was delusional had he stated that his family and his
21 attorneys were in danger?

22 DR. BEAVERS: I've got to think about that. You
23 can't answer it "Yes"---if it had been as strong a question
24 as it might have been possible to frame, but I feel that to
25 get a perfectly accurate idea of what he meant by it would

1 require more than a "Yes" or "No" answer, but this would
2 have been one of things that had he answered it directly,
3 that would have led me to think that he had an area here
4 - where reality in the testimony was poor.

5 MR. SPECTER: Well, does his refusal to answer
6 that question during the course of the polygraph examina-
7 tion, subject to the analysis that the polygraphic examina-
8 tions can bring to bear, indicate that he is not in a
9 delusional state?

10 DR. BEAVERS: I'm not sure I follow you here.

11 MR. SPECTER: Well, perhaps I can rephrase that.

12 During the course of the polygraphic examinations,
13 he is subject to certain checks on truthfulness, at least
14 to some extent.

15 DR. BEAVERS: I see what you're getting at now.

16 That would be an assumption, I think, on both our
17 parts that I wouldn't make as to why he didn't answer. It
18 possibly could have been his trying to protect in some way
19 an answer from the polygraph.

20 I felt it equally likely that it was the fact that
21 it was the second time through on the same question which
22 he had answered first and then there had been a lot of
23 thinking going on, was a great deal more opportunity for
24 uncertainty.

25 MR. SPECTER: So, you think his first answer that

1 his family and counsel were in danger, indicated to some
2 extent at least, a delusional state, and then after he had
3 had an opportunity to consider it, that he became uncertain
4 because of the greater opportunity to focus on what in
5 your opinion was a delusion to start with?

6 DR. BEAVERS: Yes. This thing to me is compli-
7 cated, maybe because---for example, if I can digress for
8 a moment.

9 MR. SPECTER: Yes, feel free to do that.

10 DR. BEAVERS: Chief Holman has told me a number
11 of times and I have seen it in a sense, he feels that this
12 man has tried to seem delusional. On the other hand, at
13 times it is quite obvious that he is trying to seem sane
14 and becomes quite truculent and angry at people who imply
15 that he was in fact of unsound mind.

16 One of the things I think that is extremely
17 obvious in any of this man's discourse over a period of
18 time is the marked ambivalence, that is, the mixed feelings
19 which are strong but on both sides of almost any position
20 that he has taken. This may be true at the time or it may
21 be true sequentially, so that on the one hand we see him
22 trying to appear quite sane and according to some testimony,
23 at times he has not done this but in fact, not according to
24 my own testimony, but the statements that I have heard from
25 others, he has tried to appear a little bit more delusional

1 than the pa() I thought that he was. (

2 Now, I felt that this answer that we saw the second
3 time around was consistent with the same attitude that he
4 had when he came, when he was stating very definitely that
5 he was not of unsound mind. In other words, it may have
6 given him a little more time to cover.

7 MR. SPECTER: Aside from the questions to which
8 you have referred on the danger to counsel and family, did
9 the delusional state which you have characterized as his
10 condition of today, have any effect in your opinion on the
11 polygraphic examination?

12 DR. BEAVERS: I can't answer the question like
13 it's put, but I can answer it this way, if I may, because
14 I'm just not an expert on that box over there. I don't
15 know that much about polygraph.

16 MR. SPECTER: You are referring to the polygraph
17 machine. Well, consider the question rephrased in a manner
18 that you find it convenient to respond to?

19 DR. BEAVERS: All right. I felt that so far as
20 my ability to evaluate this man in responding to questions,
21 that any delusional state did not interfere with awareness
22 of the past, with the presence of seemingly adequate memory,
23 with the presence of an apparently reasonable appreciation
24 of reality in reference to his whereabouts and his behaviour
25 in the critical time that was under discussion.

1 I sort, he seemed to behave like a man with a
2 well-fixed delusional system in which whole areas of his
3 thinking and his behaviour is not strongly interfered by
4 the delusion.

5 MR. SPECTER: So that the major portion of the
6 polygraphic examination then, except for those parts which
7 you have already referred to, would not be affected in your
8 opinion by what you have characterized as his delusional
9 state?

10 DR. BEAVERS: In my opinion, the major portion of
11 his appreciation of questions and of his answers would be
12 unaffected by the delusional state.

13 I just can't, you see, in all honesty, answer
14 something about what the machine taps, because I think I
15 would sort of be making a fool of myself because I don't
16 know that much about polygraph.

17 MR. SPECTER: Dr. Beavers, do you have an opinion
18 as to whether the polygraphic examination which was con-
19 ducted here today hurt Mr. Ruby mentally or physically in
20 any way?

21 DR. BEAVERS: Well, after the period of time, I
22 think we were all fatigued. I think he was and I think
23 everybody in the room was. I felt that he was fatigued
24 as the rest of us were, during the course of a pretty long
25 number of hours of interrogation.

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Who or this would come under heading of any physical harm, I don't know. I would not consider it so ordinary.

MR. SPECKER: Would that fatigue diminish or evaporate with some rest tonight?

DR. BEAVERS: I think so. I think so.

I know what you're trying to get at and I'll try to answer it the best I can.

The question of whether his mental state, and secondarily, a physical problem would be seriously affected by having this interrogation, by having this man take a polygraph examination.

The one thing that this man has not been ambivalent on since my acquaintanceship with him, and I mean that so far as I can think of literally, the one area, the one subject that he has not been having these mixed feelings about is the fact that he did want to make this testimony, either with truth serum or with a polygraph or some way of getting the truth out.

Now, as a physician, and this was my role in these evaluations, not at the time and so far until right now, not as somebody testifying, I was concerned with his mental state, and rather early I felt there would possibly be something useful so far as the man's mental state, if he could have a chance to tell his story.

1 C mixture of what I consiC his delusional
2 state surrounding the possible conspiracy that people
3 thought that he had, and therefore this tremendous number of
4 destructive actions, that were presumably going on, fitted
5 to an extent with some published reports of people's opinions
6 here and abroad.

7 In short, there has been a mixture of the delusion-
8 al and of the factual, a mixture of his confusion and a
9 mixture of all other people's confusion, and he is aware of
10 it and has been, because apparently he gets newspapers.
11 Apparently he has access to what both reasoned and unreasoned
12 statements that are made. Consequently, I felt that it
13 would be useful, if anything, that he be allowed a chance
14 for this. I haven't stated this to anybody, I don't think,
15 because there were a lot of other things that I could not
16 evaluate. I'm not in a position to evaluate the legal or
17 other reasons that might not be useful.

18 MR. SPECHER: But with respect to his mental
19 status, would it have been your expectation prior to the
20 time that the polygraph examination started that it would
21 have been beneficial rather than harmful to have conducted?

22 DR. BEAVERS: If anything, the odds are good that
23 it actually wouldn't do much one way or the other in my
24 opinion, but the feeling of getting out the catharsis or the
25 getting his story before the people that he has felt, for

1 example, including the State, that were involved in some
2 kind of action against people he cared for, because they
3 assumed erroneously there was some conspiracy, then this
4 might have some beneficial effect.

5 MR. SPECTER: And what is your conclusion after
6 being present during the course of the polygraphic examina-
7 tion as to whether it had beneficial effect or not?

8 DR. BEAVERS: It's hard to say. I think he held
9 up rather remarkably well. At least, this is my opinion.
10 I haven't been present with polygraph interrogations, but
11 he certainly did not show undue stress, either physical
12 or emotional, and handled the questions better than I
13 thought he would.

14 It did seem like he was getting in a sense his
15 day in court, which was by reasons of his, as I understand
16 it, trial procedure and presumed defense tactics not
17 allowed him in the first trial. This to me is what he
18 kept coming back to during the course of the examination,
19 that he wanted to get his story out, and during the times
20 I have seen him.

21 MR. SPECTER: Is it your interpretation that the
22 consequence during the course of this polygraph examination
23 may have the ultimate consequence of benefiting him?

24 DR. BEAVERS: I think it could. I would suspect,
25 if I tried to look and see what would happen tomorrow, that

1 he might be somewhat depressed. This really is what
2 happens with somebody who has been looking forward to some-
3 thing for a long, long time that's going to be solving all
4 of his problems and it actually happens and nothing much is
5 different, but I think he will be depressed.

6 MR. SPECTER: If he is depressed tomorrow, is that
7 what you would think would be a temporary state?

8 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, I think it.

9 MR. SPECTER: So that that would not necessarily
10 characterize the long run effects of this examination?

11 DR. BEAVERS: That's correct.

12 MR. SPECTER: When you characterized a few moments
13 ago his situation as being fatigued, as we all were, do you
14 think that he understood all the questions which were being
15 put to him and then answered them responsively, or do you
16 think that at some point his fatigue reached such a point
17 that he was not responding understandably to the questions?

18 DR. BEAVERS: I was impressed with the skill of
19 the man giving the test.

20 I felt the breaks were fairly well spaced. He
21 didn't show an excessive amount of fatigue, in my view,
22 except before the first break. He seemed to show more
23 fatigue then than he did later on.

24 MR. SPECTER: Of course, you observed his interest
25 in pursuing a great many topics and the difficulty really

1 in bringin^C the examination to a clos^C

2 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, which sort of fits with my
3 feeling about the depression a little bit in that he was
4 aware that, well, "the show is about over", that his day
5 in court was coming to a close, and I suspect that the long
6 expected kinds of feelings probably were not as great as he
7 hoped for.

8 MR. SPECTER: Do you have anything else to add
9 which you think would be helpful to the President's Com-
10 mission in any way?

11 DR. BEAVERS: I would only say that I think I'll
12 make it my business to read up a little bit on some of
13 the inter-relationships between mental illness and poly-
14 graph. When I state that I'm not an expert in this area,
15 it's true. If by a combination of my readings, which I
16 plan to do, and my presence here and my previous and
17 present views of Mr. Ruby, I might be of help in forming
18 an opinion, I will be available.

19 MR. SPECTER: If you find through that course of
20 study that you have anything to add, I'm certain the
21 Commission would be interested in having any supplemental
22 observations or conclusions on your part.

23 Mr. Fowler, do you have anything you would care
24 to ask Dr. Beavers?

25 MR. FOWLER: I am requesting Mr. Tonahill to

1 ask a few questions, if you have no objection, which is not
2 in the way of cross examination but just by way of a further
3 development.

4 MR. SPECTER: All right, Mr. Tonahill.

5 MR. TONAHILL: Dr. Beavers, during the trial of
6 Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Bill
7 Alexander, the Assistant District Attorney, sought and ob-
8 tained a death sentence for Jack Ruby for the murder of
9 Oswald, and I along with other counsel sought for less---
10 an acquittal or at least a number of years. You have
11 noted, have you not, here that Mr. Ruby resents my presence.
12 He says I'm not his attorney and then asked me to do him
13 favors and this, that, and the other, and you have noticed
14 he has tremendous faith and confidence in Mr. Alexander,
15 who obviously is here to, in the event of another trial---
16 and in the event of Mr. Fowler's efforts and mine to obtain
17 another trial for him is successful---he is here to obtain
18 information for the benefit and use of whatever information
19 he can get to get another death penalty.

20 Have you an opinion as to what goes on with refer-
21 ence to Ruby's mental illness that causes him to put faith
22 in Mr. Alexander and no faith in me, with reference to the
23 question---is his mental state such that he can't aid and
24 assist his lawyers in their efforts to appeal his sentence
25 and try to get him a new trial, and in his defense, and in

1 the management of his personal affairs 's he of such mental
2 incompetency that those things indicate to you that there
3 is something in his mind, something mentally ill about him
4 that prevents him from realizing what is best for him in his
5 dealings with the Prosecutor and his defense attorneys, and
6 in connection with managing his affairs and in helping his
7 defense attorneys in his ability, his capacity, his capa-
8 bilities of handling his personal affairs---what is your
9 feeling about that from what you've seen here today and
10 what you've known from other observations of Mr. Ruby?

11 DR. BEAVERS: Maybe I can get it in pieces and
12 parts of that---I don't know. I think the question of
13 mental competency in the hearing that's going to be coming
14 up in the future, at least from what I read in the newspapers,
15 and I think possibly rather than an off-the-cuff answer, you
16 may have to sort of settle for a statement that I made con-
17 cerning his mental illness, because I don't do a whole lot
18 of legal work, and I would be quite cautious in making a
19 statement concerning the specific legal questions about
20 competency for affairs until I got more acquainted with
21 this particular statute.

22 In other words, if you're asking me a question about
23 his mental status and the mental illness, Maybe I can make
24 some comments.

25 MR. TOMAHILL: Well, I was trying to do it, but I

1 wanted to C e you a little range ar C ou could pinpoint
2 yourself down to such as the episodes here today between
3 the relationship of his own lawyers and his apparent
4 partiality to Mr. Alexander here.

5 DR. BEAVERS: This is what I referred to earlier,
6 and I will be glad to amplify it a bit.

7 MR. TONAHILL: And go to jail.

8 DR. BEAVERS: On the face of it, it seems to me
9 that as far as an awareness and appreciation of reality,
10 there was this jeopardy--that some of the behaviour that
11 he had toward Mr. Alexander as far as wanting him very
12 definitely to be in the room when he made certain damaging
13 statements concerning the amount of premeditation---this
14 would not be the actions of a wise and prudent man in my
15 opinion.

16 I think it does fit more clearly with his pre-
17 viously stated delusional material to me, that in fact there
18 is a considerable body of people, the District Attorney's
19 office and District Attorneys included, who do feel that
20 he is a part of a conspiracy, and that in fact either past,
21 present and/or future actions toward loved ones and toward
22 members of his race are going to be taken against these
23 people because of this presumed conspiracy.

24 If this were the case, then it would make ex-
25 tremely good sense that he would want Mr. Alexander here,

1 and he wouldn't want him here very definitely because he,
2 instead of being wise and prudent in the defense of his
3 presumed safety and welfare at a future trial, he is much
4 more concerned with getting the truth out so that a whole
5 host of terrible things won't happen.

6 Now, in reference to his activities toward you
7 (referring to Mr. Tonahill), the ambivalence we talked
8 about was beautifully illustrated. He begins by reading
9 you out, by firing you in a sense, and then later on in
10 the middle of the activities he begins to have a markedly
11 warm attitude toward you and begins to refer to you as,
12 I think, "Joe", once again. A reverse I may have noticed
13 of this, of two or three changes back and forth, but they
14 were both distinctly and clearly expressed, which has been
15 my experience and also my opinion based on working with
16 people who have this kind of a delusional system, that they
17 show consistently, that is, with somebody who is related
18 to them very closely---you're going to catch hell and
19 then you're going to be responded to in an effort of
20 bringing you back.

21 In other words, I think there is a probability
22 that the reasons for relating warmly to the District
23 Attorney's representative and ambivalently toward you are
24 as I have stated, and very slightly different from one
25 another.

1 MR. DONAHILL: In his present mental state, do
2 you feel he is capable of conferring with Mr. Fowler and
3 me and Mr. Burlison and aiding and assisting us in an
4 appellate effort in his behalf in reference to his mental
5 capacity?

6 DR. BEAVERS: This entails two questions--one
7 his mental state, and two, how much in fact is involved in
8 aiding you in this appeals.

9 Now, to the first one, I hope and am reasonably
10 confident of the opinion I have given of this present mental
11 illness at this time.

12 As to the latter, I have sort of opinions off the
13 cuff from everything that he needs to be pretty savvy and
14 help you out, to the fact that it doesn't make any difference
15 at all as to whether he can talk or not in terms of an
16 appeal, so I don't know, because I don't know number two.

17 MR. DONAHILL: You and Dr. Holbrook, Dr. John
18 Holbrook, who has examined him, and Dr. Stubblefield who has
19 examined him, and Dr. West who has examined him, all four
20 psychiatrists and outstanding men---

21 DR. BEAVERS: And Dr. Tanay.

22 MR. DONAHILL: And Dr. Tanay---five. Is it
23 uniform agreement among you five gentlemen that Jack Ruby is
24 mentally ill and suffers with psychotic delusions?

25 DR. BEAVERS: The last time I talked to the other

1 four gentlemen you have just mentioned, the opinion was the
2 same as my own. I couldn't state if anybody changed their
3 mind.

4 Dr. Tanay, following his visit here, and I had
5 lunch together and discussed the case. At the time that
6 we talked to the Judge, Dr. Stubblefield and I, and then
7 some two weeks later, shared our views, and they were in
8 reasonably consistent agreement. There was no disparity
9 to speak of. Dr. West, I talked to by telephone about
10 two weeks ago, I believe.

11 Do you remember when that was, Mr. Fowler?

12 MR. FOWLER: I think perhaps that would be a
13 month ago, Dr. Beavers, or somewhere thereabouts.

14 DR. BEAVERS: Well, it was after I came back
15 from vacation. At any rate, between two weeks and a month
16 ago, I believe, and his view was that this man was mentally
17 ill, and further than that, that he was pretty much as I
18 have described him here.

19 MR. FOWLER: And there have been instances
20 where he rammed his head into the wall and then tried to
21 get his finger up in the light socket, and then tried to
22 rip the seam out of his trousers to kill himself, you felt
23 he was suicidal and should be protected from that effort,
24 and all of you agreed on that, I believe?

25 DR. BEAVERS: Yes. It really wasn't based on

1 those actions as much as, I think, the depression that I
2 saw initially, which has cleared up somewhat as he has
3 gotten more delusionary.

4 MR. TONAHILL: You all felt that he should be
5 out of jail and in a mental hospital where he could get
6 adequate mental care and mental treatment, from psychiatric
7 care and therapy medications?

8 DR. BEAVERS: Yes. I thought this and this was
9 the recommendation of the other doctors that saw him.

10 MR. TONAHILL: That would be Dr. Stubblefield,
11 Dr. Holbrook, Dr. West and Dr. Tanay?

12 DR. BEAVERS: I'm not sure about Dr. Tanay. I
13 don't know that I heard him state that specific thing.
14 I do know that the recommendation of Dr. Holbrook and
15 Dr. Stubblefield and myself, and further that Dr. West,
16 made the same recommendation.

17 I do feel that we had two problems. One was
18 security as well as medical care. I feel like maybe I
19 was perhaps a little bit more concerned about this than
20 maybe some of the other specialists, I don't know. This
21 just happened to be my own view, that I was not only con-
22 cerned about this man, hopefully finding a place for
23 hospitalization. It would have to be a place where
24 he had adequate security from without as well as any idea
25 of suicide.

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MR. TONAHILL: Is there anything unusual about a person who is mentally ill and of unsound mind, still possessing keen memory faculties and being able to recall things accurately and clearly as well as being able to give responsive answers and to be in touch with reality?

DR. BEAVERS: Oh, I would say that many people of unsound mind are deteriorated enough that they do not have adequate memory. Early in the course of many mental illnesses a lot of the faculties, including memory, are preserved, so that this in itself I don't think would---- because he has an apparently good memory would not mean that he is of sound mind.

MR. TONAHILL: That's what I mean--that there's nothing unusual about the fact that he could still be of unsound mind and still have good recall and good response to the questions asked by the polygraph operator?

DR. BEAVERS: I'm a little hung up on the term "unusual", because to me, this is a statistical matter when you put it in that phrase, and then you would be talking about what percentage of people do and what percentage of people don't.

MR. TONAHILL: I don't mean to do that.

I meant to ask you specifically, can Jack Ruby be of unsound mind, not know right from wrong, appreciate the nature and quality of his actions, and still have a keen

1 memory. a memory, and give clear response to questions
2 that appear to place him in touch with reality?

3 DR. BEAVERS: In my opinion this is possible for
4 a person.

5 MR. TONAHILL: Is it reasonably probable from the
6 standpoint of medical certainty in your profession?

7 DR. BEAVERS: I think so. You have included a
8 question that I find it very difficult to answer---this
9 business of right and wrong.

10 MR. TONAHILL: Yes.

11 DR. BEAVERS: I stated my opinion to the Dallas
12 Criminal Bar Association concerning this particular phrase-
13 ology, and you asked it inclusive, in terms of several
14 things?

15 MR. TONAHILL: Well, with Mr. Alexander's help,
16 we're going to eliminate that from the criminal test for
17 insanity in criminal law in Texas.

18 I believe that's all, unless Mr. Fowler has
19 something.

20 DR. FOWLER: Let me ask one thing, Dr. Beavers.

21 I believe that you do have a written report that
22 you have submitted to the Court, is that correct?

23 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, sir. Now, I submitted a
24 written report about the first evaluation, not to the Court
25 but to Mr. Burleson, who requested my services on behalf of

1 family.

2 I then sent a shorter report, which included the
3 major points and the recommendations, to the attorneys, to
4 the Judge, to Sheriff Decker, and I believe that's all.

5 Now, I assume, and I think it's the case that
6 probably the defense attorneys passed the report on to the
7 Judge, but I did not send it myself.

8 MR. FOWLER: In any of these reports, you have
9 no objection to making them available to this Commission?

10 DR. BEAVERS: Oh, no.

11 MR. FOWLER: If they are requested.

12 DR. BEAVERS: If the rights of the patient and
13 the defense attorneys are in agreement---if the rights of
14 the patient are maintained---no, I have no objection.

15 MR. TOMAHILL: I think it would be nice, if you
16 would, let him have copies of all the reports you have
17 written with respect to his illness, and they would not
18 involve any jeopardy of Mr. Ruby's rights at all, if you
19 would mail them to Mr. Specter.

20 DR. BEAVERS: Would you like to have them?

21 MR. SPECTER: The Commission would be glad to
22 receive any reports you have or any other supplemental
23 information that you may wish to provide.

24 DR. BEAVERS: I'll be happy to.

25 MR. SPECTER: Mr. Alexander, do you have a question?

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ALEXANDER: Just one or two questions.

Do you recognize that late counsel for the defense, Mr. Fowler, did not participate in the Jack Ruby trial and is not as aware of the facts brought out in the investigation as perhaps I, who was in on it at the first, or Mr. Tonahill, who was in on the trial. You appreciate that, do you not?

DR. BEAVERS: You are saying that---

MR. ALEXANDER: That Mr. Fowler got in so late on this thing that he probably doesn't know---that he is not as aware of the facts of the case as I am?

DR. BEAVERS: I don't know how I would know that. I know when he came in, but how aware of the facts he is, I don't know that. How would I know that?

MR. ALEXANDER: Did it appear to you that Ruby was looking to me for aid in framing some of these questions because of my peculiar knowledge of the case, in that I was in on it from the moment of the assassination of the President?

DR. BEAVERS: I noticed that he did look to you in terms of getting some sort of support or information or possibly framing questions.

MR. ALEXANDER: And you see nothing unusual in that, considering the fact that I am probably the one person that has possession of the most facts?

1 DR. BEAVERS: I think I have already covered what
2 I felt was probable, as far as what was going on with Mr. Ruby
3 as to how he behaved here.

4 MR. ALEXANDER: Did you feel that he wanted me
5 particularly to know the truth about certain areas or at
6 least the truth as he represented it?

7 DR. BEAVERS: Yes, sir.

8 MR. ALEXANDER: You did not feel that I took
9 advantage of him in any way here today, do you?

10 DR. BEAVERS: No, I thought you were extremely
11 gentlemanly and pleasantly helpful.

12 MR. TONAHILL: I am not making that comment.

13 MR. FOWLER: You have been the most cordial
14 since we have been in this, Bill.

15 Let me make one other statement---this is relevant?

16 Are you through, Bill?

17 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes, sir.

18 MR. FOWLER: I wish to make this statement for the
19 record that at some time during the course of this interro-
20 gation and hearing, that I was called by Mr. Bill Decker,
21 stating that a telephone call, long distance, had been made
22 to him. I answered the phone and Mr. Earl Ruby and Mr. Sol
23 Dann were on the phone speaking from Detroit. They wanted
24 to know what was going on and who had authorized this hear-
25 ing, and why I came down and why Mr. Tonahill was here, and

1 why we did C ; stop the hearing. C

2 I tried to the best of my ability to explain to
3 him that I had talked with Jack and had also explained to
4 the Committee that we were of the opinion that Mr. Ruby
5 had certain rights that might be violated here, but that
6 this was entirely the wishes and demands of Jack Ruby him-
7 self, and these matters had been set up prior to my entrance
8 into the case and prior to the entrance of Mr. Dann, and
9 that I could not control them.

10 I was informed by Mr. Dann at that time that it
11 was his intention to immediately contact the Warren Com-
12 mission in Washington and file a criminal case, a case of
13 assault and battery, against all parties conducting this
14 hearing, including myself and Mr. Tonahill. At this point
15 I was summarily fired, together with Mr. Tonahill, and I
16 feel that this matter of course is something that Mr. Dann
17 is not aware of, that all of this that has taken place
18 here today---I think that we have tried to protect the
19 rights of Jack Ruby, and I put this in to merely show that
20 the call was made, and if any of you gentlemen have fear
21 of reprisal or for whatever purpose it might be, and that
22 I am sure that something further will be made of it.

23 Again, I wish to state this that in my opinion,
24 whether we are still employed in the case, and I have not
25 been fired by Jack Ruby, that we feel absolutely that his

1 rights haC been protected. C

2 MR. ALEXANDER: His brother Earl has not fired
3 you either.

4 MR. SPECTER: That concludes the proceedings.
5 Thank you all very much.

6 MR. ALEXANDER: Just one more thing.

7 I myself will make no statement to anybody outside
8 this room about anything, and let me make the suggestion
9 that whatever statement is made, is made by Mr. Specter,
10 if you want to agree on that.

11 MR. TOMAHILL: In fact, I think that if
12 Mr. Specter is going to give this statement, that if he
13 tells them that a polygraph has been taken, I don't think
14 any of the questions and answers should be given out.

15 MR. FOWLER: No, I very definitely and specifically
16 request that these matters that have been gone into here
17 today be for the Commission and the Commission only. It is
18 our wish.

19 MR. SPECTER: That will be done. The Commission
20 heretofore has made no public statement of content to any
21 extent. It has been the practice of the Commission to
22 announce only what witnesses have been heard, and a very
23 general statement of the witness' positions. In fact,
24 in the motorcade at the time of the assassination, Mr. Ruby
25 was insistent that there be a statement made in terms of his

1 request and cooperation, and that been discussed
2 before as being the appropriate limit of such a statement,
3 and it's my view that that should be followed up on, but
4 no details of any sort stated as to his responses or any-
5 thing else that transpired in this proceeding today.

6 MR. TOMMILL: Yes, that he cooperated to the
7 best of his ability.

8 DR. BEAVERS: Any questions that are asked me,
9 I will refer to Mr. Arlen Spector.

10 MR. SPECTER: Very fine, Dr. Beavers.

11 Thank you very much. This will conclude these
12 proceedings.

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14 _____
15 SIGNATURE OF DR. W. R. BEAVERS
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CERTIFICATION

1
2 THE STATE OF TEXAS)
3 COUNTRY OF DALLAS)

4 I, ODELL OLIVER, U. S. District Court Reporter and
5 a Notary Public in and for Dallas County, Texas, do hereby
6 certify that the facts as stated by me in the caption hereto
7 are true, that the foregoing answers in response to the
8 questions propounded by Staff Counsel Arlen Specter and
9 Mr. Bill P. Herndon, as indicated, were made before me by
10 Mr. Jack Ruby and Dr. William Robert Beavers, the witnesses
11 hereinbefore named, after said witnesses had been first
12 duly cautioned and sworn to testify the truth, the whole
13 truth and nothing but the truth, and were thereafter reduced
14 to writing by me; and that the above and foregoing questions
15 and answers as set forth in typewriting is a full, true,
16 correct and complete transcript of the same, had at the time
17 of taking same; i.e., on Saturday, July 18, 1964, in Room 7-M,
18 Dallas County Jail, Dallas County, Texas.

19 Given under my hand and seal of office on this the
20 24th day of July, 1964.

21 *Odell Oliver*

22 ODELL OLIVER, U. S. DISTRICT COURT
23 REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND
24 FOR DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS.

25
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