

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/2/631

Identification Officer JAMES C. ROBINSON, Biloxi Police Department, advised there was no reference in the Identification Files of his department to LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka.: James Hidell, A. T. Hidell, O. H. Lee or JACK L. RUBY, aka.: Jack Rubenstein, Jack Leon Ruby, "Sparky."

On 12/2/63 at Biloxi, Mississippi File # DL 44-1639
241 NO 44-2064
by SA H. WARREN TOOL, JR. :sab Date dictated 12/2/63

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S: 44-1200
DL 44-1639/eah

The Savannah Division advised as follows on
November 27, 1963:

ISRAEL MONTEZ, Identification Division, Savannah
Police Department, advised SA J. HENRY SHANK, on November 27,
1963, that he could locate no record identifiable with JACK
LEON PUEY aka Jack Rubenstein, or LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

On November 27, 1963, Captain DONALD F. KREUL,
Commanding Officer, United States Army Repository for
Criminal Investigative Reports, Fort Gordon, Georgia, advised
SA EDWARD D. COLLINS that he could locate no record in the
name of JACK LEON PUEY, aka Jack Rubenstein, or LEE HARVEY
OSWALD.

ALLEGATIONS OF ASSOCIATION BETWEEN
RUBY AND OSWALD

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GES & DSB/csh
DL 44-1639
OC 44-430

The following investigation was conducted by SAs
GLENN E. SILVEY and DAVID S. EYERLY:

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

On November 25, 1963, the morning edition of The Daily Oklahoman, November 25, 1963, contained the following article captioned "County Man Tells of OSWALD, RUBY."

"LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY were both in a downtown Dallas bar last Sunday, but did not meet a Midwest city man who spoke to both, said Sunday.

"Vera ~~Davis~~ ^{IEYAS} B: 5/27/1917, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. who went to Dallas to join a Showman's Club, said OSWALD entered JACK's bar in the 800 block Exposition. I was buying, so I called him over, DAVIS said.

"DAVIS quoted OSWALD as saying, 'LYNDON JOHNSON was a nothing senator who got to be a big amt.'

"He was real bug on JOHNSON, DAVIS said. The Midwest city man said he spoke to OSWALD for about five minutes. Soon after, RUBY, an old friend of DAVIS, entered the bar.

"DAVIS said OSWALD spoke of the upcoming trip of JOHNSON and KENNEDY and specifically mentioned the trip to the Trade Mart where the President was to talk.

"DAVIS said he met RUBY ten years ago when he was a night clerk in a Dallas hotel and RUBY was running some gambling upstairs. DAVIS described RUBY as a very calm man. DAVIS said he was attempting to get admission to the Lone Star Showman's Club, a club of carnival people, and RUBY introduced him to a COTTON WHEELER, an old Texas showman, who sponsored him to the club.

"OSWALD was in the club at the time, DAVIS said, and everyone thought he was kind of a pest and could have done without him.

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"DAVIS said OSWALD, who was out of place in his sloppy dress, kept saying, JOHNSON is a nothing. He was very animated in his conversation which nobody was particularly impressed by.

"The general impression was that he, OSWALD, did not belong there and was not welcome, DAVIS said.

"DAVIS pictured RUBY, whom he originally met ten years ago in a Dallas synagogue, as soft spoken business man, moderate and business-like."

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Date Dec. 1, 1963

VERN A. DAVIS was located at 6120 S.E. Sixth Street, and DAVIS advised that he was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on May 27, 1917, and was employed as income tax accountant and salesman, his last occupation being with the Midwest Publishing Company, Midwest City, Oklahoma, in advertisement sales. DAVIS stated that he phoned the managing editor of The Daily Oklahoman concerning the information reported in an article in The Daily Oklahoman on November 25, 1963. He said that he went to Dallas, Texas, on November 17, 1963, his purpose being to join the Lone Star Showman's Club which he described as a club consisting of carnival and concessionaire people. He said while in Dallas at about 7:00 or 7:30 p.m. at what used to be Jack's Bar, not JACK RUBY, now believed to be Ed's Bar at 813 Exposition Street, he was discussing various topics of conversation with some "carnival people". He said while there, an individual joined the group and began making derogatory statements about then Vice-President LYNDON JOHNSON and his forthcoming trip to the Trade Mart. He said at no time was President KENNEDY's name mentioned by this individual. He said he believed this individual to be LEE HARVEY OSWALD whose picture he saw both in the newspaper and television. He said he then left the bar for a short time and when he came back he noticed an individual he thought to be OSWALD had left and JACK RUBY was standing at the bar.

He said he had met JACK RUBY about ten years ago in Dallas, Texas, and he said JACK RUBY was a gambler who followed fairs and carnivals throughout the country "hustling" poker games. He said he asked JACK RUBY if he knew anyone at the Lone Star Showman's Club and RUBY told him he knew an individual named COTTON WHEELER. He said COTTON WHEELER later sponsored his application for the Lone Star Showman's Club. He said further he did not know RUBY as a night club operator but only as a gambler going from carnival to carnival. DAVIS said specifically that in further reflection about the identity of OSWALD, he was not really as sure that OSWALD was in the club as he had been the day before.

on 11/25/63 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # DL 44-1639
GLENN E. SILVEY &
 by Special Agent DAVID S. BYERLY/esh 246 OC 44-430
 Date dictated 11/25/63

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He said he saw JACK RUBY at the Topeka Fair about two years previous, but he did not know anything about his background other than he was a gambler. RUBY's picture was exhibited to DAVIS and he said he believed this was the same JACK RUBY that he had seen in Jack's Bar.

DAVIS said he had served time for burglary in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester, the burglary having been committed at Chickasha, Oklahoma, in 1945. He said he also served time at Folsom Penitentiary and at the penitentiary in Tracy, California, for burglary in Sacramento, California. DAVIS claimed he had only three or four beers the night he saw JACK RUBY in the bar.

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GSW/wvm

Warden L. P. GOLLAHER, Federal Correctional Institution, Seagoville, Texas, telephonically advised on November 26, 1963, that inmate OTHO D. HOWARD had requested an interview with an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as he was positive he observed OSWALD and RUBY at the Vegas Club two months ago, and that photographs of OSWALD and RUBY were taken at that time.

GOLLAHER was subsequently interviewed on November 28, 1963, at the Federal Correctional Institution, Seagoville, by SA's GARY S. WILSON and RICHARD T. RABIDEAU, at which time he made available for review the prison record on inmate OTHO D. HOWARD.

Records reflect OTHO D. HOWARD, 3103 Poinsetta, Dallas, Texas, date of birth, November 1, 1925, was admitted to the Federal Correctional Institution at Seagoville on October 30, 1963, for conviction of perjury and conspiracy, Title 18, Section 1621, total sentence 18 months. He had no prior record and pleaded guilty to the charge before Judge T. WHITFIELD DAVIDSON, Northern District of Texas. HOWARD had alleged injury by a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company truck and filed suit for damages, naming as witnesses WALTER D. DONALDSON and ROBERT L. THOMPSON. These men originally upheld HOWARD's claim of injury but later stated they had done so as part of a conspiracy and knew nothing of such an injury. Noted in HOWARD's records were four previous claims of conspiracy for physical injury against various companies during a period from 1954 to 1961.

HOWARD's medical history includes a report by DR. JOSEPH KNAPP, 1353 North Westmoreland, Dallas, dated November 13, 1963, and covering a period from July 10, 1962, to July 10, 1963, in which DR. KNAPP diagnosed HOWARD as paranoid schizophrenia, schizo-affective. Records also reflect HOWARD's FBI Number to be 514 462 E.

Also shown in this record is an attempted visit November 28, 1963, by LINDA SUMRALL, Tyler, Texas, and SHERRY GRAY, no address given. The visit was denied since HOWARD was still in admission section.

Date 12/4/63

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OTHO D. HOWARD, inmate, Federal Correctional Institution (FCI), Seagoville, furnished the following information:

He states he believes, but is not positive, he saw JACK RUBY and LEE OSWALD together at the Vegas Club 3508 Oak Lawn, Dallas, Texas, sometime during the first two weeks in September, 1963. HOWARD states on this occasion he was at the Vegas Club at 8:00 or 9:00 in the evening, date unknown, with DAVID CORN (Phonetic), street address unknown, Dallas, Texas, and one other male companion whose name he did not recall. They were seated at a booth near the entrance with himself and DAVID facing the door. RUBY and the man he believes was OSWALD, came in together and walked in his direction. RUBY was greeted by an unknown party and then sat down with OSWALD and a woman and two other men, one of whom was a well-dressed Mexican who talked rather loudly in either Spanish or French. HOWARD stated he was of the impression the man was speaking in Spanish but that one of his companions stated the Mexican was speaking French. The woman with them appeared to be a friend of RUBY's.

HOWARD heard none of the conversation that he can recall but remembers that the man he thinks was OSWALD appeared to say little during the course of the evening and ^{the} group as a whole seemed to be enjoying themselves in that they were laughing and talking.

Sometime during this period, a woman was taking pictures with a Polaroid camera with a flash. HOWARD had never seen her before and did not think she was a club photographer. He believes she gave the pictures to RUBY but is not sure. He can definitely remember only that someone was taking flash pictures nearby.

About an hour after the entrance of RUBY and OSWALD, HOWARD left his booth for a few minutes. When he came back, there was a fight in progress in the area of his booth and he, HOWARD, was hit in the nose with a bottle by an unknown party, causing a slight cut. He

on 11/28/63 at Seagoville, Texas File # DL 89-43
 by Special Agent S GARY S. WILSON and RICHARD T. RABIDEAU 249 /wvm Date dictated BL 44-1639
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was then asked to leave by a heavy-set woman who was taking tickets at the door.

HOWARD then left the Vegas Club and went to a grocery store nearby and got a box of Band-Aids. He stated the cut on his nose was slight and he does not think the clerk at the store would remember him. He does not remember the name of the store but thinks it was a 7-11 or Cabells. He then went to the rest room at a nearby service station and bandaged his nose. He saw no attendant at the service station. He then went to the Idle Hour Bar in the same area and had "a beer or two". From there he went to a Mexican cafe, again in the same area, and while eating, he observed RUBY and the man he thinks was OSWALD a second time. He believes the time of the second observation was sometime between 11:00 and 12:00 midnight. RUBY and OSWALD came into the cafe with the woman who had ordered him from the Vegas Club and the Mexican previously mentioned, and sat down at a nearby table.

HOWARD left after finishing his meal and did not see them together again. HOWARD states that he does not know positively that the man he saw with RUBY was OSWALD, but that after seeing pictures of both individuals on television, he was positive of RUBY's identity and quite certain the second man was OSWALD. He restated this opinion when shown separate pictures of JACK L. RUBY and LEE HARVEY OSWALD. He also stated that he had drunk a moderate amount of liquor on the night in reference. He was not sure of any definite time other than as previously stated.

When questioned as to the amount of liquor consumed, he replied that his best estimate would be "several beers". He does not feel that he was intoxicated. HOWARD states that at no time during the entire evening did he overhear any conversation that he can recall.

He also states that he had never seen either JACK RUBY or LEE HARVEY OSWALD prior to this evening but that he did see the man he believes was OSWALD about one week later at the Branch Office Lounge on South Industrial in Dallas. On this occasion, HOWARD saw the man come in the front door and walk toward the lounge in the rear of the building. HOWARD states he paid no particular attention to the man and heard him say nothing.

Date December 2, 19631

Mr. DAVID FRANKLIN CONN, 3009 Wheelock, Dallas, Texas, stated that he and OTHA D. HOWARD had, on a few occasions, gone to various night clubs together in the Dallas area.

Mr. CONN stated he has never been in the Vegas Club and definitely does not recall ever seeing JACK RUBY or LEE HARVEY OSWALD together as described by OTHA D. HOWARD.

Mr. CONN stated he has seen JACK RUBY around the Dallas area but has never seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD prior to recent publicity.

Mr. CONN indicated his brother, WILLIAM CONN, was a good friend of HOWARD and possibly might have been in the Vegas Club with HOWARD.

on 11/29/63 at Dallas, Texas. File # Dallas 44-1639
by Special Agents GARY S. WILSON & RICHARD T. RABIDEAU:BL 251 Date dictated 12/2/63

Date December 2, 19631

Mr. WILLIAM BUFORD CONN, JR., 3009 Wheelock, Dallas, Texas, stated that he and OTHA D. HOWARD had been close friends for about 9 years prior to HOWARD's incarceration at the Federal Correctional Institution at Seagoville, Texas.

Mr. CONN stated he and HOWARD frequented numerous night clubs in the Dallas area in the past; however, he has only been to the Vegas Club on one occasion and such was with a female companion and not HOWARD. Mr. CONN stated he has no knowledge of the incidents described by HOWARD and definitely did not see JACK RUBY and LEE HARVEY OSWALD together in the Vegas Club. Mr. CONN indicated he was not acquainted with either RUBY or OSWALD and to the best of his knowledge has never seen them.

Mr. CONN stated HOWARD was currently serving time for perjury and was a great one for fabricating stories. CONN indicated HOWARD was probably making the story up in order to make things easier on him while confined to prison.

on 11/29/63 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-1639
by Special Agents GARY S. WILSON and RICHARD T. BABIDEAU:BL 252 Date dictated 12/2/63

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 27, 19631

JOHN W. MASHEK, Washington Correspondent for the Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Texas), 620 Albee Building, 1426 G Street NW, Washington, D. C., stated that he had been interested in trying to find out if there was any possible connection between LEE HARVEY OSWALD and/or JACK RUBEY and gambling and racketeering activities. MASHEK stated that any information he had in this regard was hearsay, based on either information in the various news media or rumor.

MASHEK stated the person who would be best able to furnish information concerning JACK RUBEY would be TONY ZOPPI, Amusement Editor, Dallas Morning News.

MASHEK said he had heard on the news, what he considers at present to be a rumor, of OSWALD having been in Mexico in the latter part of September, 1963, about the time President KENNEDY made a trip there. MASHEK stated he was trying to locate the file references in his office to ascertain the dates of the visit.

MASHEK said he had heard or read something about JACK RUBEY or RUBY's brother having made trips to Chicago, but this was rumor as far as MASHEK is concerned, and he could not furnish any factual information in this regard.

MASHEK said in conversations with newsmen he had heard what he considered at the moment to be a "wild rumor," mentioned by a Chicago Daily News man who was working in Dallas at the office of the Dallas Morning News, to the effect that a payoff was made to OSWALD or RUBY in Chicago, two weeks before the assassination of President KENNEDY on November 22, 1963. MASHEK said the rumor or information supposedly stemmed from an informant in Chicago, who reportedly told the Federal and Police Reporter for the Chicago Daily News about it.

MASHEK said he could not recall the name of the Chicago Daily News reporter in Dallas who had mentioned this alleged "payoff," but he had the name written down at home. He said he would find out the name and advise interviewing Agents of same.

on 11/25/63 at Washington, D. C. 253 File # WFO 44-520
DL 44-1639
DL 89-43
 by Special Agents ELMER L. TODD & ROBERT F. MILNE, II Date dictated 11/27/63
 RFM:nln:eah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

November 27, 1963

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Date

JOHN W. MASHEK, Washington Correspondent for the Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Texas), 620 Albee Building, 1426 G Street NW, Washington, D. C., advised he had not yet located the name of the Chicago Daily News reporter who had been in Dallas, to whom MASHEK had previously referred in an interview on November 25, 1963. MASHEK said the name was in his voluminous notes at his home, and he would try to locate it and advise.

MASHEK stated that he wished to be entirely cooperative and to furnish all information he could in this case. He stated he would not want to cause any recriminations against newsmen whose names he mentioned or to whom he referred, who were only doing their job in running down news leads. Accordingly, he requested that no specific reference be made to such individuals in any investigation which might be conducted based on information which he furnished.

MASHEK advised that MIKE QUINN, who works on the City Desk of the Dallas Morning News, was in Dallas, Texas, on Friday. QUINN came to Washington, D. C., Saturday night and on Sunday mentioned to MASHEK something which QUINN had heard in Dallas. This was something to the effect that there had been a payoff on the assassination of President KENNEDY.

MASHEK stated that he called the Department of Justice on Sunday afternoon, November 24, 1963, and talked to Assistant Attorney General HERBERT MILLER in charge of the Criminal Division, and to JACK ROSENTHAL, and told them about the rumor he had heard.

MASHEK stated that he telephonically contacted the City Editor of the Dallas Morning News in Dallas, Texas, who told him they were running down a rumor which had been heard from a Chicago Daily News man working in Dallas, Texas, according to which there had been a payoff in Chicago in connection with the assassination of President KENNEDY.

MASHEK stated that he had no information as to the amount of this rumored payoff, who supposedly made it or who received it.

MASHEK said he had assumed the supposed payoff would have been made to LEE HARVEY OSWALD or JACK RUBY, but upon reflection, he thinks the rumor would have referred to OSWALD at the time because RUBY was not publicly connected with the assassination until midday Sunday.

MASHEK stated he had no factual information whatsoever in connection with this rumor. He stated he would advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation if any factual information in this regard should come to his attention.

on 11/27/63 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 44-520
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 by Special Agent ROBERT F. MILNE, II 254 Date dictated 11/27/63
 RFM:DLN:cah

Date December 2, 1963

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JACK WILLNER, reporter, "Chicago Daily News", was contacted by Assistant Special Agent in Charge WILLIAM B. WELTE. WILLNER admitted that he was source of rumor which got around wherein a payoff was allegedly made to OSWALD and/or RUBY in Chicago in connection with assassination of President KENNEDY. WILLNER advised that no one person was source of this information. After the assassination of President KENNEDY, a number of people, including patrolmen on Chicago Police Department, contacted him with tidbits of information and ideas. He stated he received information that there had been a Cuban committee that had been active in Chicago and one individual, whose identity he cannot recall, suggested to him that perhaps the Cuban committee had been behind the assassination.

According to WILLNER, as a result of all the information he had gleaned concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY, he concluded there was a good possibility there had been money paid to OSWALD or RUBY to provide for the assassination. He did not have any facts to back this up and he passed this analysis of his own to HANSEN, "Chicago Daily News" reporter covering the Dallas story, to see if he could secure any corroboration of the theory that there had been a payoff in Chicago.

WILLNER stated he was unable to get any corroboration of his theory and therefore did not print this story. He stated he still feels, although he does not have facts to back it up, that there could very likely have been such as he does not believe that either OSWALD or RUBY acted spontaneously on their own. He stated he had secured anything to corroborate this theory of his he would have published it in the paper. He could not give the identity of any person who suggested this theory to him and feels that this conclusion was arrived at by him as a result of all of the information reaching him.

on 11/30/63 at Chicago, Illinois

DL 89-43
DL 44-1639
CH 44-645

by ~~SPENCER XJESK~~ ASAC WILLIAM B. WELTE/jr ²⁵⁵ Date dictated 12/2/63