

Date 7/27/64

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Mr. JOHN HENRY BRANCH, residence, 3722 Greenleaf, business address, 1710 Hall Street, telephone number TA. 4-9062, was interviewed at his place of business and advised as follows:

He last saw JACK RUBY Saturday, November 23, 1963, at about 9:05 PM. He stated the band began playing that evening at approximately 9:00 PM and he saw JACK RUBY just a few minutes after the band began playing. He said he was sure it was Saturday, November 23, 1963, because it was the Saturday between the Presidential assassination and the shooting of LEE HARVEY OSWALD by RUBY.

BRANCH said this was not a prearranged appointment. RUBY just happened to come by the Empire Room to discuss hiring a new piano player on behalf of his sister, EVA GRANT. RUBY told BRANCH his sister was not satisfied with her pianist. She didn't like this pianist because he did not play what she wanted. BRANCH told RUBY he would get a piano player, but he did not advise RUBY whom he would hire. BRANCH said RUBY and he discussed the hiring of a piano player for approximately thirty minutes and then RUBY left for the Carousel Club.

BRANCH said it is possible he saw HARRY LEE JACKSON that evening, but he could not be certain that he actually saw him.

BRANCH said that when he saw RUBY on November 23, 1963, RUBY had on dark blue or black pants, white shirt, string, western-type tie, grey sport coat, and a black Fedora hat. RUBY did not wear this hat at the bar.

When RUBY left BRANCH accompanied him to the door. The Hall Diner is next door to the Empire Club and he last saw RUBY walk from the diner towards Ross Avenue, where he had parked his car.

on 7/23/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent EDWARD DENNIS KENNEY/eah Date dictated 7/27/64

~~ENCLOSURE~~

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Since RUBY shot CSWALD on the following day, it would have been futile for BRANCH to hire a piano player on RUBY's behalf. BRANCH never contacted a piano player to honor RUBY's request of November 23, 1963. BRANCH stated he never contacted Mrs. GRANT concerning the hiring of this piano player. BRANCH stated that he had, on several previous occasions, discussed the hiring of Negro musicians with Mrs. GRANT, but he did not discuss the hiring of a piano player with her.

BRANCH was unable to recall anyone who might have seen RUBY talking to him at the Empire Club on November 23, 1963. He stated that Patrolman WILLIAM STARKS, Dallas Police Department, may have been present that evening and might be able to verify RUBY's presence at the club on November 23, 1963.