

1 brought him this twist board, and I had it sealed in a
2 polyethylene bag, but he wanted to see how it is demonstrated
3 how it was worked.

4 It is a board that is on a pivot, a ball bearing, and
5 it has a tendency to give you certain exercises in twisting
6 your body. So not that I wanted to get in with the hilarity
7 of frolicking, but he asked me to show him, and the other
8 men gathered around.

9 When you get into the movement of a ball bearing disk,
10 your body is free to move. I know you look like you are
11 having a gay time, because naturally if your body is so
12 free of moving, it is going to look that way.

13 I am stating this in that even with my emotional
14 feeling for our beloved President, even to demonstrate the
15 twist board, I did it because someone asked me to.

16 You follow me, gentlemen, as I describe it?

17 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes, I do.

18 MR. RUBY: Then we placed the ad in, and if I
19 recall, I requested from Pat to put a black border around
20 to show that the ad was in mourning, or something, because
21 we were, everything was in mourning.

22 Bill, will you do that for me that you asked a minute
23 ago? You said you wanted to leave the room.

24 SHERIFF DECKER: I will have everyone leave the
25 room, including myself, if you want to talk about it. You

1 name it, and out we will go.

2 MR. RUBY: All right.

3 SHERIFF DECKER: You want all of us outside?

4 MR. RUBY: Yes.

5 SHERIFF DECKER: I will leave Tonahill and Moore.

6 I am not going to have Joe leave.

7 MR. RUBY: If you are not going to have Joe leave --

8 SHERIFF DECKER: Moore, his body is responsible to
9 you. His body is responsible to you.

10 MR. RUBY: Bill, I am not accomplishing anything if
11 they are here, and Joe Tonahill is here. You asked me
12 anybody I wanted out.

13 SHERIFF DECKER: Jack, this is your attorney. That
14 is your lawyer.

15 MR. RUBY: He is not my lawyer.
16 (Sheriff Decker and law enforcement officers left room.
Gentlemen, if you want to hear any further testimony,
17 you will have to get me to Washington soon, because it has
18 something to do with you, Chief Warren.

19 Do I sound sober enough to tell you this?

20 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes, go right ahead.

21 MR. RUBY: I want to tell the truth, and I can't
22 tell it here. I can't tell it here. Does that make sense
23 to you?

24 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, let's don't talk about
25 sense. But I really can't see why you can't tell this

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1 Commission.

2 MR. RUBY: What is your name?

3 MR. BALL: Joe Ball.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Mr. Joe Ball. He is an
5 attorney from Los Angeles who has been working for me.

6 MR. RUBY: Do you know Belli too?

7 MR. BALL: I know of him.

8 MR. RUBY: Ball was working with him. He knows Be
9 You know Melvin Belli?

10 MR. BALL: I am not acquainted with him.

11 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No association of any kind.

12 MR. BALL: We practice in different cities.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Five hundred miles away.
14 Mr. Ball practices in Long Beach, and Mr. Belli practices
15 in San Francisco. There is positively no connection
16 between anybody in this room, as far as I know, with Mr.
17 Belli. I can assure you of that.

18 MR. RUBY: Where do you stand, Moore?

19 MR. MOORE: Well, I am assigned to the Commission,
20 Jack.

21 MR. RUBY: The President assigned you?

22 MR. MOORE: No, my Chief did. And I am not
23 involved in the investigation. I am more of a security
24 officer.

25 MR. RUBY: Boys, I am in a tough spot, I tell you

1 that.

2 MR. MOORE: You recall when I talked to you, there
3 were certain things I asked you not to tell me at the time,
4 for certain reasons, that you were probably going to trial
5 at that time, and I respected your position on that and
6 asked you not to tell me certain things.

7 MR. RUBY: But this isn't the place for me to tell
8 what I want to tell.

9 MR. MOORE: The Commission is looking into the entire
10 matter, and you are part of it, should be.

11 MR. RUBY: Chief Warren, your life is in danger in
12 this City, do you know that?

13 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, I don't know that. If
14 that is the thing that you don't want to talk about, you can
15 tell me, if you wish, when this is all over, just between
16 you and me.

17 MR. RUBY: No, I would like to talk to you in private

18 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: You may do that when you
19 finish your story. You may tell me that phase of it.

20 MR. RUBY: I bet you haven't had a witness like me
21 in your whole investigation, is that correct?

22 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: There are many witnesses
23 whose memory has not been as good as yours. I tell you
24 that honestly.

25 MR. RUBY: My reluctance to talk -- you haven't had

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1 any witness in telling the story, in finding so many problems?

2 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: You have a greater problem
3 than any witness we have had.

4 MR. RUBY: I have a lot of reasons for having those
5 problems.

6 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I know that, and we want to
7 respect your rights, whatever they may be. And I only want
8 to hear what you are willing to tell us, because I realize
9 that you still have a great problem before you, and I am not
10 trying to press you.

11 I came here because I thought you wanted to tell us
12 the story, and I think the story should be told for the
13 public, and it will eventually be made public. If you want
14 to do that, you are entitled to do that, and if you want
15 to have it verified as the thing can be verified by a
16 polygraph test, you may have that too.

17 I will undertake to do that for you, but at all
18 events we must first have the story that we are going to
19 check it against.

20 MR. RUBY: When are you going back to Washington?

21 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I am going back very shortly
22 after we finish this hearing. I am going to have some lun

23 MR. RUBY: Can I make a statement?

24 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes.

25 MR. RUBY: If you request me to go back to Washing

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1 with you right now, that couldn't be done, could it?

2 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, it could not be done.
3 It could not be done. There are a good many things involve
4 in that, Mr. Ruby.

5 MR. RUBY: What are they?

6 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Well, the public attention
7 that it would attract, and the people who would be around.
8 We have no place there for you to be safe when we take you
9 out, and we are not law enforcement officers, and it isn't
10 our responsibility to go into anything of that kind.

11 And certainly it couldn't be done on a moment's
12 notice this way.

13 MR. RUBY: Well, from what I read in the paper,
14 they made certain precautions for you coming here, but you
15 got here.

16 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: There are no precautions
17 taken at all.

18 MR. RUBY: There were some remarks in the paper
19 about some crackpots.

20 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I don't believe everything
21 I read in the paper.

22 MR. MOORE: In that respect, the Chief Justice is
23 in public life. People in public life are well aware they
24 don't please everyone, and they get these threats.

25 Incidentally, if it is the part about George Senator

1 talking about the Earl Warren Society, the Chief Justice is
2 aware of that phase, and I am sure he would like to hear
3 anything that you have to say if it affects the security.

4 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Before you finish the rest
5 of your statement, may I ask you this question, and this is
6 one of the questions we came here to ask you.

7 Did you know Lee Harvey Oswald prior to this shooting?

8 MR. RUBY: That is why I want to take the lie
9 detector test. Just saying no isn't sufficient.

10 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I will afford you that
11 opportunity.

12 MR. RUBY: All right.

13 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I will afford you that
14 opportunity. You can't do both of them at one time.

15 MR. RUBY: Gentlemen, my life is in danger here.
16 Not with my guilty plea of execution.

17 Do I sound sober enough to you as I say this?

18 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: You do. You sound entirely
19 sober.

20 MR. RUBY: From the moment I started my testimony,
21 have I sounded as though, with the exception of becoming
22 emotional, have I sounded as though I made sense, what I
23 was speaking about?

24 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: You have indeed. I under-
25 stood everything you have said. If I haven't, it is my

1 fault.

2 MR. RUBY: Then I follow this up. I may not live
3 tomorrow to give any further testimony. The reason why I
4 add this to this, since you assure me that I have been
5 speaking sense by then, I might be speaking sense by following
6 what I have said, and the only thing I want to get out to
7 the public, and I can't say it here, is with authenticity,
8 with sincerity of the truth of everything and why my act
9 was committed, but it can't be said here.

10 It can be said, it's got to be said amongst people
11 of the highest authority that would give me the benefit of
12 doubt. And following that, immediately give me the lie
13 detector test after I do make the statement.

14 Chairman Warren, if you felt that your life was in
15 danger at the moment, how would you feel? Wouldn't you be
16 reluctant to go on speaking, even though you request me to
17 do so?

18 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I think I might have some
19 reluctance if I was in your position, yes, I think I would.
20 I think I would figure it out very carefully to whether it
21 would endanger me or not.

22 If you think that anything that I am doing or anything
23 that I am asking you is endangering you in any way, shape
24 or form, I want you to feel absolutely free to say that the
25 interview is over.

1 MR. RUBY: What happens then? I didn't accomplish
2 anything.

3 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, nothing has been accomplish

4 MR. RUBY: Well, then you won't follow up with
5 anything further?

6 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: There wouldn't be anything
7 to follow up if you hadn't completed your statement.

8 MR. RUBY: You said you have the power to do what
9 you want to do, is that correct?

10 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Exactly.

11 MR. RUBY: Without any limitations?

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Within the purview of our
13 Executive Order which established the Commission. We have
14 the right to take testimony of anyone we want in this whole
15 situation, and we have the right, if we so choose to do it,
16 to verify that statement in any way that we wish to do it.

17 MR. RUBY: But you don't have a right to take a
18 prisoner back with you when you want to?

19 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No. We have the power to
20 subpoena witnesses to Washington if we want to do it, but
21 we have taken the testimony of two or three hundred people,
22 I would imagine, here in Dallas without going to Washington.

23 MR. RUBY: Yes, but those people aren't Jack Ruby.

24 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No, they weren't.

25 MR. RUBY: They weren't.

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

1 to be examined. So from our standpoint, it is timely.
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, Eilleen 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 --

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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

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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

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

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

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

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

9 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: No.

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

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

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

23 Do you remember that?

24 MR. MOORE: I think I saw it.

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

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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.

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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

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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. ^{Louis} 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