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

6 It was in 1940.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I don't know.

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

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

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

21 That is the only reason I made those calls.

22 Where do we go from there?

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

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

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

5 VOICE : Yes.

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

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

12 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes?

13 MR. RUBY: I refused. I couldn't make it.
14 Finally he sent me tickets to come down, airplane tickets.
15 I made the trip down there via New Orleans, and so
16 I stayed at the Volk's Apartments, and I was with him
17 constantly.

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

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

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

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1 leave, when he left the Casino.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes?

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

17 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: When was that?

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

20 MR. MOORE: No.

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

25 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: I don't know.

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

about this?

MR. TONAHILL: Yes, you did.

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

MR. TONAHILL: Yes.

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

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

Haven't I felt that right along, Joe?

MR. TONAHILL: You sure have, Jack.

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

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

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

1 of '59.

2 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Yes; all right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 He bought them -- did you meet McWillie?

3 MR. MOORE: I didn't.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 MR. RUBY: The John Birch Society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 MR. RANKIN: Did you know Weisman before that?
7

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

10 MR. BOWIE: We never have seen them.

11 MR. RUBY: They were in my person.

12 MR. BOWIE: But no evidence came?

13 MR. RUBY: No, it did not, never. As a matter of
14 fact, I went to the Post Office to check on Box 1792. I

15 even inquired with the man in charge of where you purchase
16 the boxes, and I said to him, "who bought this box?"

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

19 And I checked the various contents of mail there.

20 MR. RANKIN: Did you know Officer Tippit?

21 MR. RUBY: I knew there was three Tippits on the
22 force. The only one I knew used to work for the Special

23 Services, and I am certain this wasn't the Tippit, this
24 wasn't the man.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 it is Tippit.

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

4 MR. RUBY: There was only a few. ^{1.} Bill Rudman from
5 the YMCA, and I haven't seen him in years.

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

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

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

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

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

1 if he wasn't an informer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 MR. RUBY: I see.

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

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

13 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: The prize fights?

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

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

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

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

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the exception when I went to the service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 MR. RANKIN: Who are the Fox brothers?

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

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

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

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

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

23 Do you know their name, Mr. Bowie?

24 MR. BOWIE: Murray, or something.

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

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

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

6 MR. RANKIN: He is still alive though.

7 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: Oh yes.

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

10 CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN: That was a Dave Lane.

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

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

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

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

25 And there was a McClain.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. RANKIN: How soon after the shooting occurred?

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

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

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

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

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1 floor?

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 MR. RUBY: The only thing I ever recall