

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/23/64

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On 7/22/64 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 44-895

by SA's LANFORD L. BLANTON and GERALD F. LOWRIGAN:ccy

Date dictated 7/23/64

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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California
July 23, 1964

INTERVIEW OF FRANCOIS PELOU
AS REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT'S
COMMISSION IN LETTER OF JULY 15, 1964

By letter dated July 15, 1964, the President's Commission requested that a French newsman, "Pierre," be interviewed. They noted in this letter that he had been interviewed on television within two or three minutes after Jack Ruby had shot Lee Harvey Oswald. "Pierre" stated he had seen Ruby mingling with newsmen just prior to the time Oswald came from the jail office. The Commission also requested "Pierre" be questioned if he noticed a car leaving the Main Street ramp just before Oswald was brought down the corridor from the jail office door to the ramp which runs from Main Street through the basement to Commerce Street.

On July 22, 1964, Francois Pelou was determined to be staying with an uncle, Dr. Edward Standlee, 13235 Old Oak Lane, West Los Angeles, California, phone GRanite 2-1085. Pelou was met and interviewed at the University of Southern California Campus where he is covering the USSR and USA Track Meet for the French press.

Pelou said he was called "Pierre" by many newsmen in the United States only because he is a Frenchman, as his name is not "Pierre." He is a representative of the French Press News Agency; he is 5'10", 150 pounds, black hair, olive complexion, and 33 years old. Pelou said he went to Dallas immediately after the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963. He was the only Frenchman in the basement of the Dallas Police Department when Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald. There was another French newsman in Dallas, Phillippe Labro, but he was still in his hotel room at the time of this shooting.

Pelou said he was interviewed by some television newsman within a few minutes after Ruby shot Oswald. He recalled telling this newsman that he had seen Ruby just prior to the shooting and might have told this newsman that he heard someone else say Ruby had been present in the basement with

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newsmen for several minutes prior to the shooting. Pelou said he could not say that he had seen Ruby in the basement prior to the time that he moved toward Oswald and then shot him.

Pelou described the events as follows:

Pelou arrived in the basement of the Dallas Police Department about 8:00 AM, November 24, 1963. Pelou stationed himself just to the Commerce Street side of two television cameras that were in the center of the ramp just opposite the corridor down which Oswald would have to walk to reach the main ramp which ran through the basement from Main Street to Commerce Street. Several minutes prior to Oswald's emerging from the jail door, possibly five or ten minutes, one police car left the ramp toward the Main Street entrance; then about one or two minutes before Oswald emerged from the door, or possibly even at the time someone said, "Get ready, here they come," another car left the ramp to Main Street. During this time, and up until the shooting, there was a group of men to Pelou's right which would be just on the Main Street side of the television cameras previously mentioned. Pelou said it was his impression that no one joined or left this group within several minutes before the shooting of Oswald. Pelou said he was not looking in that direction after someone made the statement, "Get ready, here they come," as he kept his eyes fixed on the jail door and on Oswald after Oswald emerged from this door. He kept his eyes on Oswald until Oswald reached the point where he was to turn right and enter an automobile which was facing the Commerce Street exit from the main ramp. Pelou noticed Oswald looking intently to Pelou's right and in Pelou's opinion a look of surprise came over Oswald's face. Pelou looked to the right and saw Ruby shoulder through the front row of people and immediately shoot Oswald. Pelou said he was less than ten feet from the shooting but it all happened so fast no one had any opportunity to stop Ruby.

Pelou said he did not see or recognize Ruby in the Dallas Police Department basement prior to the time Ruby went toward Oswald. Pelou said it was his impression that Ruby had

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been there as he had noticed no movement on the ramp toward Main Street other than the cars leaving for several minutes prior to the shooting. Pelou said he did not notice any movement of people to his right or see anyone coming down the ramp from the Main Street entrance. He said that it would have been possible for someone to have come down this ramp as he was not observing it continuously, but since it was fifty feet or more from where the group was gathered to the Main Street entrance, he felt he would have observed anyone entering from that direction.

Pelou said he did recall noticing at least two policemen at the Main Street entrance prior to the time of the shooting and also recalled that there was a Police Reserve Captain who stayed mostly in the middle of the ramp leading to Main Street. Pelou specifically recalled this Captain as the Captain later denied that he was in the basement at the time of the shooting.

Pelou said that since he had seen no movement and had noticed no one entering the ramp from Main Street, he had assumed that Ruby had been in the Dallas Police Department basement for several minutes prior to the shooting but he, Pelou, had not seen him.

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On July 20, 1964, all possible routes from the Juvenile Bureau, Room 314, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, to the Police Officers' Locker Room were taken to determine the availability of public telephones and the following were observed:

Walking down the stairway from the third floor to the basement and continuing on to the sub-basement to the Police Officers' Locker Room, the only public telephones available are located on the first floor landing, numbered RI 1-0249 and RI 1-0139, and in the basement on the right side of the hallway across from the jail office, which are numbered RI 1-0379 and RI 1-0439.

It is to be noted that, should an individual go to the basement from the Juvenile Bureau located on the third floor, nonstop by way of the elevator, the only available public telephones would be those located on the right side of the hallway across from the jail office, which are numbered RI 1-0379 and RI 1-0439.

The only available telephones located in the Police Officers' Locker Room are those operated through the city switchboard.

on 7/20/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agent JAMES W. EINFORD/eah Date dictated 7/20/64

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Detective CHARLES GOOLSBY, Juvenile Bureau, Room 314, Dallas, Texas, Police Department, advised that on November 24, 1963, his duty hours were 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and that he was assigned as the Desk Officer. He stated that, as near as he is able to recall, Chief M. W. STEVENSON entered the Juvenile Bureau sometime between 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM and instructed him not to let any of the Juvenile Bureau officers leave on their respective assignments until the movement of OSWALD was completed, inasmuch as these officers would possibly be used in this movement.

Detective GOOLSBY related that, after receiving the above instructions from Chief STEVENSON, he recalled that Detectives L. D. MILLER and W. J. HARRISON had already left the Juvenile Bureau Office and had advised they would be at the DeLuxe Diner located at 1937 Commerce Street, prior to obtaining a vehicle at the City Motor Pool and could be reached at that location if necessary. Detective GOOLSBY stated at approximately 8:30 AM he telephonically contacted Detective W. J. HARRISON at the DeLuxe Diner and this telephone conversation consisted of furnishing HARRISON the instructions given him by Chief STEVENSON.

Detective GOOLSBY advised he does not recall Captain O. A. JONES or any other officer having informed members of the Juvenile Bureau on Sunday morning about 11:00 AM that the armored car was on its way to the Dallas Police Department. Detective GOOLSBY advised the only knowledge he had of the arrival of the armored car was his actually observing the armored car in the basement of the Police Department just prior to OSWALD's being shot.

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by Special Agent JAMES W. SWIFFORD/eah Date dictated 7/20/64

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1Date 7/21/64

Mr. THOMAS HARLAN, 3932 Holystone, Dallas, Texas, advised he is employed at the DeLuxe Diner, 1937 Commerce, as a cook and that on November 24, 1963, his working hours at the diner were 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Mr. HARLAN stated there was only one other employee working with him on November 24, 1963, that being Mrs. DIANE BUTLER, a waitress.

Mr. HARLAN related that he vaguely recalls Detective HARRISON, of the Dallas Police Department, who was accompanied by another male individual, whose identity he did not know, enter the DeLuxe Diner on the morning of November 24, 1963, specific time unrecalled. He related that Detective HARRISON and the unidentified individual ordered a couple cups of coffee. He advised that while Detective HARRISON drank his coffee he, HARLAN, asked him when OSWALD was going to be moved to the Dallas County Jail and HARRISON advised that OSWALD would be moved at 10:00 AM on that morning.

Mr. HARLAN stated the above was all he recalls Detective HARRISON or his companion having mentioned regarding OSWALD.

Mr. HARLAN advised that he cannot recall having seen JACK RUBY or GEORGE SENATOR enter the DeLuxe Diner during the weekend of November 24, 1963, or having contacted Officer HARRISON or his companion.

on 7/20/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agent JAMES W. SWINFORD/eah Date dictated 7/20/64

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1Date 7/21/64

Mrs. DIANE BUTLER, 1232 4th Avenue, Dallas, Texas, advised that she is employed at the DeLuxe Diner, 1937 Commerce, as a waitress and that on November 24, 1963, she and Mr. THOMAS HARIAN, the cook, were the only employees on duty from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

She stated she does not recall seeing any police officers in the DeLuxe Diner the morning of November 24, 1963, and could not recall having seen JACK RUBY or GEORGE SENATOR at the DeLuxe Diner during the weekend of November 24, 1963, or having contacted any police officers.

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by Special Agent JAMES W. WINFORD/eah Date dictated 7/20/64

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EVA GRANT, 3929 Rawlins, telephone LA 6-6258, advised BERTHA MILLER, if alive, would be 80 years of age or more. She is the niece of Mrs. GRANT's mother, FANNIE RUBENSTEIN, the daughter of SARAH MOSKEWITZ (phonetic), Mrs. RUBENSTEIN's half-sister.

Mrs. GRANT said it is her understanding her mother had one brother, HARRY RUTLAND, deceased, and perhaps four sisters, SARAH being the oldest and who had a different father. BLANCHE and RACHEL LENA were full sisters of Mrs. RUBENSTEIN and there was another, first name not recalled. The only ones who came to this country, to her knowledge, were her mother, SARAH, and brother, HARRY. She said her mother corresponded with her sisters in Poland prior to World War I, but they were reportedly killed in a pogrom during World War I period.

Mrs. GRANT said she is uncertain as to brothers and sisters of her father, JOSEPH RUBENSTEIN. She said ABRAHAM RUBENSTEIN, father of Dr. HYMAN I. RUBENSTEIN, was a brother. She said there was another ABRAHAM RUBENSTEIN at one time in Chicago who was a nephew or cousin of her father.

She stated her parents were not given to joining organizations or attending meetings and she knew of no organization to which they belonged.

Mrs. GRANT stated BERTHA MILLER's husband is deceased. She was living in Chicago at an unrecalled address in 1958-59, but is understood to have moved to live with a daughter, BELLE (Mrs. HARRY) STERN in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. HARRY STERN was last known to be a distributor of automobile parts. Mrs. GRANT professed to be unable to supply addresses. Mrs. STERN has a daughter married to a doctor, name not known. Mrs. MILLER had a sister, FANNIE FINKLESTEIN, address unknown, and a brother, JACOB, deceased.

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Mrs. GRANT professed to have no information that any of her relatives have been members of the Communist Party or any subversive organization.

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Mrs. BELLE F. STERN, nee MILLER, also known as Mrs. HARRY S. STERN, 8500 West Lawrence Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, advised that she is the daughter of the late MEYER MILLER and BERTHA MILLER, nee MUSKOWITZ. Mrs. STERN stated that her mother, Mrs. BERTHA MILLER, nee MUSKOWITZ, was born in Poland about 1881 or 1882, now being approximately 82 years of age. She said that Mrs. MILLER has been ill with arteriosclerosis of several years' duration, and she consequently is senile. She said that Mrs. MILLER makes her home with her son, MORRIS MILLER (brother of Mrs. STERN) at Apartment Number 2, 2349 West Devon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. She said that MORRIS MILLER (now approximately 50 years of age) suffered some mental upsets throughout his adult life, although he is now ambulatory and employed by his brother, SIDNEY (age approximately 56) in a delivery service business, operated from 5816 North Spaulding Avenue, telephone KE 9-9080, Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. STERN acknowledged acquaintance with EVA GRANT of Dallas, Texas. Upon reflection, she stated it is her understanding that her maternal grandmother, the late Mrs. HYMAN MUSKOWITZ (given name unknown) was a sister of EVA GRANT's grandmother, name unknown. She stated that consequently her common ancestry with EVA GRANT consists of their great grandparents, names unknown. Mrs. STERN advised that she had no recollection of EVA GRANT's parents or siblings including JACK RUBY, nor was she able to identify the relationship of her family with any family named RUBENSTEIN or RUBY.

According to Mrs. STERN, her parents MEYER MILLER, born in Lithuania, and BERTHA MILLER, nee MUSKOWITZ, born in Poland, immigrated to the United States during the late nineteenth century and were married in New York City in the late 1890s. She recalled that BERTHA MILLER, nee MUSKOWITZ, had one brother, JACOB MUSKOWITZ, who died about 30 years ago, and two sisters, Mrs. LENA BATKIN, now deceased, and Mrs. FANNIE FINKLEMAN, age 90 plus, and presently a geriatric patient in an unknown nursing home in the Chicago, Illinois area. She said that seven other siblings of BERTHA MILLER, nee

On 7/21/64 at MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN File # MI 44-173
 by SA CHARLES F. AHEON & SA M. W. MEEKINS/sve Date dictated 7/23/64

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MUSKOWITZ died prior to attaining adulthood.

Mrs. STERN stated that she was born on October 11, 1902 and grew up in Chicago, Illinois. She said that upon her marriage 46 years ago she assumed residence in Wisconsin where she has resided continuously since. She said that consequently she has lived a considerable distance from the residence of her parents and siblings who have remained in the Chicago area. She explained that for this reason she has not maintained close contact with her more remote relatives. It is her recollection, however, that many years ago EVA GRANT, as a young girl, occasionally visited in the Chicago area.

The interview of Mrs. BELLE F. STERN took place in the presence of her husband, HARRY S. STERN whom she consulted from time to time for assistance in refreshing her recollection.

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Mr. HARRY S. STERN, 8500 West Lawrence Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, advised that he is the husband of BELLE F. STERN, nee MILLER, and the son-in-law of BERTHA MILLER, nee MUSKOWITZ of Chicago, Illinois and the late MEYER MILLER.

Mr. STERN stated that he has been acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. MEYER MILLER, parents-in-law by virtue of the marriage relationship for 46 years, and therefore has some acquaintance with the identities of relatives of the MILLER family. He stated that he has been casually acquainted for an indefinite period of years with EVA GRANT of Dallas, Texas, as a distant relative of Mrs. BERTHA MILLER. He said that in family circles, EVA GRANT was commonly referred to by a Hebrew phrase equivalent to "EVA the redhead." Mr. STERN stated that he has no recollection of ever having met the parents or siblings of EVA GRANT and that he was not aware of the existence of JACK L. RUBY until subsequent to the incident at Dallas, Texas on November 24, 1964.

Mr. STERN stated that during the years of his acquaintance with the family of Mr. and Mrs. MEYER MILLER, he had never known of any relationship between the MILLER family and any family named RUBENSTEIN or RUBY.

On 7/23/64 at MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN File # MI 44-173
by SA CHARLES F. AHERN & SA M. W. MEEKINS/sve Date dictated 7/23/64

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JACK L. RUBY was interviewed in a jury room on Floor 7M of the County Jail.

In answer to questions put to him, he furnished the following information:

He stated he was voluntarily submitting to these questions. He stated that he had never known LEE HARVEY OSWALD before November 22, 1963, and that he did not assist OSWALD in the assassination. RUBY said he had been arrested previously. He said he had not taken any medication in the morning before this interview.

He explained that his middle name is LEON and that this name appears on his driver's license, but that he has not used this name for many years.

In connection with his previous arrests, he said they were for such misdemeanors as a violation of curfew in connection with his night club operation, and the selling of intoxicants after hours.

RUBY said he was born in Chicago in 1911. He said he is not now and has never been a member of the Communist Party or of any group that advocates the violent overthrow of the government. He said he had never made any false official statements.

RUBY said he is a resident of Dallas. He said that between the time of the assassination of President KENNEDY and the shooting of OSWALD, he had not told anyone that he was acquainted with OSWALD.

He said that aside from a statement he had made to GEORGE SENATOR on Sunday morning, November 24, 1963, he had told no one else anything concerning his possible intention of shooting OSWALD. In this connection, he said that on Sunday morning, while at the apartment he shared with SENATOR,

on 7/18/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agent BELL P. HERNDON and W. JAMES WOOD/ds Date dictated 7/20/64

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SENATOR was reading a newspaper and RUBY said something to him to the effect that, "If something happens to this person (OSWALD), then Mrs. KENNEDY would not have to come back to the trial." He said he never made any direct statement that he was going to kill OSWALD, and never mentioned his plan to RALPH PAUL, BRECK WALL or anyone else. He said that the statement he made to GEORGE SENATOR was made at about 10:15 A.M.

In answer to specific questions as to whether he had first decided to shoot OSWALD on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday night, or Sunday morning, he replied that he did not make the decision until Sunday morning.

He said he does not now operate the Carousel Club. In answer to a question, he said that he was on the sidewalk at the time Lieutenant PIERCE's car stopped on the ramp exit of the City Hall Garage.

RUBY said he had previously lived in Chicago.

He denied that he entered the jail by walking through an alleyway. He said he walked past a guard at the time Lieutenant PIERCE's car was parked on the ramp exit.

He said he had never made any false insurance claims and that he had not talked with Dallas Police officers on November 24, 1963, prior to shooting OSWALD.

RUBY said that before entering the City Hall Basement Garage, he had not seen an armored car parked there. He stated that he had not entered the garage through a door at the rear on the east side of the jail.

He said that after talking to "LITTLE LYNN," he did not hear any announcement that OSWALD was about to be moved. He said that before he left his apartment Sunday morning, no one had told him that an armored car was on its way to the Police Department to pick up OSWALD.

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RUBY was asked whether he got a "Wall Street Journal" at the Southwest Drug Store during the week before the assassination, and he replied in the negative. He said he had no knowledge of a "Wall Street Journal" addressed to Mr. J. E. BRADSHAW.

He acknowledged that he had previously lived in San Francisco.

He said that to his knowledge, neither he nor any of his friends had telephoned the FBI at Dallas between 2:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. on Sunday morning.

He answered in the negative when asked if he had ever overcharged a customer.

RUBY said he was in the military service and had received no disciplinary action there. He stated he did not shoot OSWALD to silence him.

When asked if prior to this arrest he had ever served time, RUBY stated he would have to answer no. He said a sentence of 30 days he would consider to be so insignificant that he would not consider that as serving time.

When he hesitated in answering no to a question as to whether he had ever been married, he was asked to explain his hesitancy. He replied that he had been engaged to one ALICE NICHOLS, but severed relations with her in 1959.

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He was asked whether he had ever hit anyone with any kind of weapon and he stated that in connection with the operation of his night clubs, he had found it necessary on several occasions to hit customers with his fists and various weapons, including a gun.

RUBY said that after watching television all afternoon on Saturday, he felt so carried away at the great tragedy he felt he could be of some help if he could save Mrs. KENNEDY the ordeal of coming back to the trial of OSWALD in Dallas, and that it was at this point, on Sunday morning, that he decided to shoot OSWALD.

In answer to further questioning, he stated that he had been answering all questions truthfully and would continue to do so throughout the interview.

He said that on Friday, November 22, 1963, he had visited the synagogue in Dallas, but did not go to the Police Station before visiting the synagogue. In answer to a specific question, RUBY said that he does pray.

He said that at one time he was employed by a union. He said that on Friday night when he went to a press conference at the jail, he did not have a gun with him.

He said he has never knowingly attended any meeting of the Communist Party or of any group that advocated the violent overthrow of the government, and that no member of his family and none of his friends had attended such meetings.

He said that his name had legally been changed from RUBENSTEIN to RUBY. He said he had previously been in the Army Air Corps.

RUBY said he had never met OSWALD at the Post Office box that he rented, which was located near a Post Office box

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rented by OSWALD. He said he had never used this Post Office mail box to do any business with Mexico or Cuba, and that he had never done any business with CASTRO Cuba. He said the trip he made to Cuba was solely for pleasure.

He was asked a question as to why he had been carrying \$2,200 cash on him at one time, and he replied that at that time his sister had been ill and away from the Vegas Club, and that he had this large sum of money on his person to pay bills for his club and the Vegas Club. He said that a week earlier he had purchased a safe to be installed in his club, and had conferred with Dallas Police Officer JOE CODY as to where the safe should be placed; however, the safe had not been installed, and he was carrying this money on his person for the purpose of making cash purchases, paying his accumulated excise tax from the beginning of the last quarter, and for meeting his payroll. He said this money belonged solely to the operation of the Vegas Club and the Carousel Club.

In answer to a question as to whether he knew Officer TIPPIT, he said that he had known three Officer TIPPITS on the Dallas Police Department, but had not known the Officer TIPPIT who was shot by OSWALD.

In answer to a specific question, he said he did not shoot OSWALD in connection with any labor union influences.

He said that he did not make any long distance telephone calls before the assassination of President KENNEDY which related in any way to the assassination or with the shooting of OSWALD. He reiterated that he shot OSWALD to save Mrs. KENNEDY the ordeal of returning to Dallas for a trial.

He stated that he had told the truth about relaying a message to RAY BRANTLEY (phonetic) about getting MAC WILLY (phonetic) two guns.

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He said he had gone to the assembly room on Friday night to get the telephone number of Radio Station KLIF.

He said he had never met OSWALD or Officer TIPPIT at his night club.

He said that at the time he shot OSWALD, to the best of his present recollection, he said, "You killed our (or my) President, you rat."

He said he had not been at the Parkland Hospital at any time on Friday.

He said that no members of his family had been physically harmed because of what he had done.

He was asked whether BLACKIE HARRISON spoke to him just before he shot OSWALD, and he answered in the negative.

He said he felt that his family and his attorney, CLAYTON FOWLER, are in danger because of their connection with him, and that he feels they may be physically harmed.

RUBY then made a statement that, in view of his past behavior, it might be difficult for people to understand how he could have been so emotionally disturbed at the assassination of President KENNEDY. He described this past behavior as his failure to pay a poll tax or to even vote in the election in which President KENNEDY was elected.

He also said he wanted it brought out that he was not involved with the underworld, and that there were no foreign influences in connection with his shooting of OSWALD. He said that he had never had any improper relations with the Police Department.

RUBY said that he became closely attached to President KENNEDY when the latter made a speech on Cuba, and he thereafter closely followed his career and travels.

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He said that inwardly he is a very unstable person, but that he is very emotional in his love for this country and that he has always been a one hundred per cent patriotic American.

RUBY said that no one in the underworld had ever contributed any money to his club, nor had he been a front in his club for any criminal element. He said that his brother, EARL, and RALPH PAUL had loaned him money in connection with his business.

He said that on the Friday when President KENNEDY was killed, he got very emotionally disturbed. He immediately placed a newspaper advertisement to show that he would be closed for three days. He said that he knew people had many questions about him because he had not voted for President KENNEDY, had closed his club for three days, had made a trip to Cuba, had relayed a message from Cuba to RAY BRANTLEY, and that all of these things made him look bad.

He said he happened to be at the Police Station at the particular second when OSWALD came out of the elevator, that his Post Office box was located near the Post Office box rented by OSWALD, and that people would find it hard to believe that there was absolutely no connection between them.

In conclusion, RUBY stated that he had answered truthfully all questions and that every statement made by him during this interview had been the truth.