

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This concerns allegations that Jack Ruby was involved in a union killing in Chicago in 1939. FBI investigation into this was conducted in 1963 shortly after Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald. A "Chicago Tribune" newspaper article was located which reported that Leon R. Cook died on 1/5/40, after being shot by John Martin on 12/8/39. Another article reported that Martin was freed of the charge of murder. Cooke (spelling used in Warren Commission Report), Martin and Ruby (who was known as Rubenstein at the time), were associated with the same union. The FBI report did not include any information regarding Ruby being questioned in the case. In 1963, Chicago FBI caused an extensive search to be made of Chicago Police Department (CGPD) records. No information was found regarding the murder and no references were found regarding Martin, Ruby or Rubenstein. When Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams appeared before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights on 10/21/75, Chairman Don Edwards suggested that Chicago Police Officer Report 55513, dated 12/9/39, and Detective Report dated 12/8/39, be checked to determine if they pertained to the killing. He also suggested that it be checked to determine if there is a tickler attached to the report asking that the FBI be notified if any inquiries are made regarding the file. No indication of such a report ever coming to the attention of the FBI was found in FBIHQ files. Chicago Office was telephonically instructed on 10/21/75, to check into this. No indication of such a report was found in Chicago FBI files.

Attached from Chicago advises CGPD files contain a packet of material (which was assembled in response to a letter from Dallas Police Department dated 11/25/63) identifiable with Ruby. The packet consists of three pages of report on Cooke shooting and two 3x5 complaint cards indicating Jack Rubenstein as subject of minor arrest or complaint. No stop or notation observed in packet indicating FBI should be notified in event of inquiries in this matter. The entire Cooke file to be reviewed 10/23/75. CGPD stated it is probable no record of Ruby found by FBI when checked 11/27/63, because witnesses are not indexed and reference to Rubenstein was obtained through specific request of Cooke file.

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Wannall
- 1 - Mr. Bassett
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Jenkins
- 1 - Mr. Mintz

WEN:pdh/brb

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