

MEMORANDUM

TO: Henry Wade

RE: Warren Commission Hearing Held in the County Jail on June 7, 1964, with Jack Ruby testifying.

The meeting began shortly before 12 o'clock noon and lasted until approximately 3:30 p. m. Mr. Chief Justice Earl Warren, Lee Rankin, Congressman Ford, Secret Service Agent Moore, Sheriff Decker, Chief Jailer Holeman, Assistant Jailer Mr. Joe Ball, a Mr. Spectar and Dean Storey were present.

When Ruby sat down his first comments were that he wanted a lie detector test or truth serum or any test which would show that he was telling the truth. Earl Warren agreed to see that he got such a test. After this, Ruby stated that he would talk to the Commission and started his statement by saying that Belli didn't go into the case thoroughly and he shouldn't have used insanity and he should have spent more time with him rather than trying to exonerate him. Ruby said he wanted to take the witness stand but Belli told him that "if you get on the stand, you'll show premeditation and they will cut you to pieces on cross examination". Then Ruby started to talk about the Thursday night prior to the assassination. At this point, he was sworn in by Warren and then proceeded on by stating that on this Thursday night he was in the Egyptian Lounge on Mockingbird Lane with a Yellow by the name of Ralph Paul. A man came over to where they were and wanted him to go to another place but he didn't want to go because the band had been taken away from him by a person down there some time before and the band had been with

him seven years. He then left and went to the Carousel Club. He discussed a few matters with the MC and about Tony Zoppi. He wanted Zoppi to write a story about the MC, Bill Demar, and Tony Zoppi. He let them down on Bill Demar. Said he wanted to go back to the News and get the brochure that they had made of Bill Demar; to get the brochure on Friday morning as he was always in the News on Friday. He has ways of selling the produce, in making up the ads; however, Zoppi was in New Orleans. He went to get the brochure in the sales room where we placed our ads. He started to copy the ad and the same man that he had seen in the Egyptian Lounge came over and Ruby wanted to explain to him why he didn't go down to the other place. He explained he didn't want to meet the man there. This same man that he talked to was with him in the News about twenty minutes. After the conversation, the man left. Then the man who helps with the ads came up. Ruby said he had to pay cash for the ads. They (referring to others) wanted to know why he didn't go to the parade. He said he didn't like large crowds. The ad man came in about 12:05 and said something like someone had been shot. I got carried away. Someone said a secret service man was shot. Then someone said (didn't really recall) Governor Connally was shot. He was with John Newman. Some little boy said something "I was there and saw it". Then the phone started ringing off the desk. Complaints were coming in about why they accepted the ad. There was turmoil in the news room. The Bernard Weisman ad criticizing our beloved President. John Newman and I went to another part of the room. Newman said he told them not to take that ad. From the time I was told the President was shot, about 35 minutes later, they said he had passed away. I got very emotional. I called my

sister and let Newman listen to my sister cry hysterically. I said "John, I have to leave Dallas, I am not opening up tonight." Then I left the room and the building and got my car. I said "Stop crying. People looked at me when I stopped at a red light." Went to the Club. Maybe made a couple of calls. Maybe talked to a colored boy. Billy Wood called. Kathy Kay called. I called Ralph Paul at the Bull Pen. Ralph said do what everyone else does. (Referring to closing up). I said I couldn't do it. I called Alice Nichols, the girl I had gone with. She was not there. I got her later. Didn't want to tie up the business phone. She called me. I don't know what was said. I called California to Al Gruber. He was a bad kid in Chicago. We were there together. He is OK now. He had been in Dallas four or five days before. He wanted to see about Sammy (Ruby's brother, Sam) about a car washateria business. He didn't see Sam about the car washateria. I promised Al a dachshund dog. I called him in California. He was watching TV. I cried and had to hang up. I called my sister in Chicago and I called some other people. I kept calling Eve. Eve has a conflicting personality. I can't always be with her but wanted to be with her at this time. I told the boy to crate the dog. I wanted to eat. I felt hungry and wanted to get intoxicated on food. Funny, but it's true. I went to my sister's apartment. She knew more of my calls than I did. I am sure I made some calls. Someone will have to piece them together. Oh, yes, Andy said Don Staffin of the Times Herald called. I called him and he asked are you going to close. I said yes, I don't care about who else does. I called Eve and asked her what to do. She said there wouldn't be any business anyway. So

close for three days. I called Staffin. I told him we were closing for three days. Then I called the News. I wanted to make sure that the ad was changed. I talked to some assistant there. Then I took a nap and woke about 7 or 7:30. I called Jacobson about services at the \_\_\_\_\_ Temple. He said he didn't know. Then I called Seth Isareal and talked to a girl. She said something about 7 or 8 o'clock. I asked if there wouldn't be something sooner. I left the Club and went to the apartment. I think I drove down Thornton Freeway and saw two clubs open.

I went to the synagogue and talked to Rabbi Silverman. I thanked him about Eve. He had seen Eve some short time before. Then I went to a place and had a little punch. Said hello to the owner. Then I went by the Bali Hai and saw it open. The Gay 90's was closed. Then I went down Preston Road. I got to thinking. The police were walking around. This is the craziest thing that ever happened. I liked the police. I abide by law. I went into a delicatessen and got ten or twelve sandwiches. While they were fixing them, I got on the phone and called Sims. Sims said, "We don't need them." Gordon McLendon has been very good to me. Free plugs, etc. Then I heard about a disc jockey on KLIF giving a description of Oswald. I seldom use that name, Oswald. I don't know why. I wanted to take the sandwiches to KLIF. Russ Knight wasn't there. The man's name was Moore. I told him I wanted to get in. He said I can't get in after six without the hot number. I called McLendon's home and got a little girl. I asked for KLIF's number. I asked if anyone else was at home, that I wanted to get the number of the station.

that I wanted to take some sandwiches down there. She gave me a number but there wasn't any such number. She said her mother had already taken some sandwiches to KLIF. Then I got the sandwiches and told the clerk that these were for KLIF. I went down McKinney Avenue to see if there were open clubs. Some were open. I couldn't understand this. Then I went to Thomas and Howard. I had my dog with me. I left the sandwiches and the dog in the car. Then I went to the police station and took the elevator to the second floor. This is the first time I entered the building. It was about 11:15 p. m., I asked the officer "Where's Joe Long?" I'm a little domineering. Someone shouted for him and I said hello to Cal Jones and another officer. I was being carried away with the events, with history. Someone brought the prisoner out. Some newsmen were there. I don't remember Henry Wade (at this time Tonahill had written a note and handed it to Lee Rankin. Ruby asked Tonahill "Is that for me, Joe?" Tonahill said, "No" or words to that effect.)

Someone then said to Fritz "Isn't there a larger room?" They said let's go to the assembly room. I didn't find Joe Long and went to the assembly room. No one questioned me and I got on a table out of everyone's view. They brought the prisoner out, asking questions. Some cheap judge or county justice or some judge was there. Henry Wade was there and Curry. When Henry Wade was being questioned, he mentioned "Free Cuba" and I had heard over the radio that it was "Fair Play for Cuba" so I corrected Wade. Wade said "Oh, yes, Fair Play for Cuba." Lots of questions were fired back and forth. Wade let the reporters know that the prisoner was the one. I wasn't interested in it

he were the one. I went up to Henry Wade and said "I'm the one who corrected you." I guess it was a silly thing to do. I had met Wade sometime back. When I left Wade, two men passed by and I asked "Are you Joe Long?" One man was Sam Pace and the other Jerry Gunkel. I got the number of KLIF from them. John Rutledge's testimony said I saw him. I called KLIF and said I had some sandwiches. I see Wade and I asked him if they wanted him. They replied Yes. I yelled at Wade and got him on the phone. Everyone was beckoning Wade. Wade talked to the station and the man was very elated that I had gotten Wade on the phone. I asked him, "Will you let me in?" He said they only left the door open five minutes. I saw Russ Knight. He wanted to know where's everything happening? So I took him down to Wade. Wade says, "Oh, yes, the Weird Beard." This conversation caused a delay. I got there later. I can't get fair representation with my counsel. I can't get a lie detector test and I want to go to Washington.

WARREN SPEAKS: The Commission got a letter from Joe Tonahill. There has been no delay on his part.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: Said he was from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

RUBY: I stayed at KLIF and talked with Knight. We talked about and brought out what we thought of the ad by Bernard Weisman. I told Russ about Gordon McLendon and an editorial about Adlai Stevenson. We talked about other things current at the time. I stayed until about 2 a. m. They ate the sandwiches and had a visit. We also talked about the Wade interview. (At this time Ruby started looking down, staring, twisting paper) I'm at a

disadvantage.

WARREN: (After delay) (Brought him up to date and said you were talking about their having a visit.)

RUBY: We talked about the tragedy. I left at 2 p.m. and was going to the Times-Herald Building. I don't normally go to the Times-Herald. I call them and they copy the News ad. I promised a boy at the Times-Herald that I told him about the "twist board". I wanted to change the ad to make it more effective. I heard someone honk a horn very loud. I saw a police officer in a car with Kathy Kay. They had been drinking and I stopped and stayed with them. The officer was Harry Olsen. I have always thought a lot of him. I left them out of all of this before. I didn't want Harry Olsen to be involved. The girl's name was Kathy Kay. He said they should cut this guy inch by inch into ribbons. Kathy Kay said -- she is an English girl I guess -- the English would drag him through the streets. They were crying and carrying on. I left and went to the Times-Herald.

I want to see what that note is. (Tonahill had handed the note to Lee Rankin and Ruby read the note, threw his glasses down which were loaned to him by Tonahill. He said this note says this is the girl who started me off. Ruby said something in a loud voice about Tonahill, then

WARREN STATED: You have been speaking very rationally.

RUBY: I have got to go to Washington to get my tests, but I don't want to talk any more unless you get me a test, get me to Washington immediately, after what Joe Tonahill has written. "This is the thing that started Jack in the shooting." You're lying, Joe. You're trying to make premeditation. I want

RUBY: This is just Friday - - - -In the Times-Herald I went upstairs -- this is about three -- I left KLEP at two. I was with the girl and the officer about an hour. It could have been 4 o'clock. I am in the composing room with Pat Godosh. I had brought in the "twist board". He wanted to see how it worked. It works on pivots. I don't want to be frolicky. It is on ball bearing discs. It looked like you are having a gay time. The board makes you look that way even though I wasn't. I asked about the black border on the ad (Here Ruby wanted Decker out. Decker asked him if he did see anyone in there that he didn't want, they would be removed. Said he wanted all the sheriff officers out. So Decker, Holeman and the Assistant Jailer left. Decker told Tonahill that he was personally responsible for Ruby's person in the absence of the Sheriff's Office being present.)

(After Decker left, Ruby started again)

RUBY: If you want me to say anything more, you'll have to get me to Washington. If you want me to tell the truth, I'll have to go to Washington. I can't tell it here.

(At this time Ruby starts staring at Joe Ball)

RUBY: Who are you?

BALL: I am a lawyer from Los Angeles. I know Melvin Belli, but I am not acquainted with him.

WARREN: There is no representative of the Committee that has any connection whatsoever with anyone.

(Again Ruby wanted to stop talking and go to Washington)

MOORE: I think you should tell your story.

RUBY: Warren, your life is in danger in this city.



WARREN: I don't know that. If you care you can talk to me in private.

RUBY: Have you ever had a witness like me?

WARREN: We have had many other witnesses who didn't remember as well. I think you should tell the story. It will be made public. I'll undertake to get you a lie detector test. We need the story.

RUBY: Can you take me to Washington now?

WARREN: We can't now. There are many factors involved -- the publicity of the matter. The Commission is not a law enforcement agency.

RUBY: They took precautions with you and you got here OK. The paper said so.

WARREN: I don't believe everything I read in the paper. Did you know Lee Oswald?

RUBY: This is why I want a lie detector. I am in danger here. Have I sounded crazy? Have I made sense? I may not live until tomorrow. If I'm talking sensibly I want to get to the public sincerely why my act was committed. It must be before the people of the highest authority. Then take the test. Don't you think if your life was in danger you'd do something.

WARREN: I'd think about it very carefully. We have the right to subpoena witnesses. We have the right to give tests and to verify testimony. We have taken testimony from 200 people from Dallas without going to Washington. Eva wrote a letter asking that you testify. We want you to feel you can refrain from testifying but don't you think it would be to your advantage to tell your story. Don't you see how you could help?

RUBY: Too much time has gone by.

WARREN: It is not too late. The Warren Commission has not made a report yet. We will have more witnesses and do not feel we are handicapped by the lateness of the examination.

CONGRESSMAN FORD: We didn't take Mrs. Kennedy's statement until day before yesterday.

RUBY: My whole family is in jeopardy. Their lives are in jeopardy. I'm a foregone conclusion. Eva, Kileen, Mary, I love them. Sam, Earl, Hyman, Madge, my in-laws, they're in jeopardy of losing their lives just because they are related to me.

WARREN: Kileen wrote us a letter saying you wanted to testify. It may seem a long time ago.

RUBY: If you got to me sooner, then you'd know the truth about Ruby and his emotional background. Nothing happened prior to Sunday. I was emotional and carried away for Mrs. Kennedy. Someone owed it to the President that she didn't have to come back for the trial. I am being victimized in a plot on the world's worst tragedy and crime. Had I been given the chance sometime back, I told the officer some months ago. I asked about a lie detector, but my lawyers were not there. Oswald was not guilty but now Jack Ruby is.

WARREN: We can assure you that you are not. That no one believes it.

RUBY: There is an organization here, the John Birch Society. General Edwin Walker is the top man. Take it for what it's worth. The act I committed put a lot of people in jeopardy. Do you want me to delete this and not tell what's going on?

WARREN: No.

RUBY: I won't be living long, nor will my family. When I left my apartment some -----let's go back to Saturday. The Rabbi eulogized the man who fought in every battle, in every country, had to come back to his country (Ruby started crying here). I must be the world's greatest actor. Saturday night I just visited a little club and drank a coke. I was depressed. I went home and saw a letter in the newspaper to Caroline. It was a heart-breaking letter. Remember that? Alongside the letter there was a comment that Mrs. Kennedy might have to come back for the trial of Lee Oswald. I got carried away. Prior to that thought, I was never malicious to that person, never spoke to anyone. No subversive organization, no underworld person tried to contact me. It all happened that Sunday morning with the Mrs. Kennedy article. I had been taking preluden (phonetic). I took it for food. Suddenly I felt that I wanted to show my love for another faith -- me Jewish. It came in my mind that Mrs. Kennedy shouldn't come back. I drove to the County Building. A crowd was already gathering there. I guess it was because of the move at 10 o'clock. I guess I heard that on the radio. I got a call from a little girl. I said can't you wait? It was a double purpose. The wire and the other that started me down to the driveway to see Weaver. I went to the Western Union and sent the money. Then walked to the ramp. I didn't sneak in or cowardly get in. An officer was talking to Sam Rio Pearce sitting in a car. I walked down the steps. There was the person. I wouldn't say it was hatred. He was insignificant for what my purpose was. I didn't want to be a hero. No one was near me and I didn't mingle with the crowd. You can check the time

The wire was sent about 1:17. Check the time to the bottom of the ramp. No time for conspiracy nor to mingle with the crowd. I was crazy. I had my hand on my gun in my hip pocket. Here we were. I saw him. That's all I can say. I don't care what happens to me. I said "You rat, you shot the president", and I did say I'm Jack Ruby but I didn't curse. I might have said something -- being of Jewish faith I wanted to show love even though not of the same faith. A friend of mine, a Catholic gambler, we were close. He thought a lot of me. I know he was heart-broken. I could see the face of McWillie before me. I thought I'd sacrifice myself to save Mrs. Kennedy from coming back to the trial. All things of my background I don't want to be a martyr. I knew notorious people in Chicago. I worked in a union. I left in 1940 because of the organizations moving in. I made many calls and had unfair competitors. They violated the rules of the union. I didn't. All the calls I made were to get help with the Variety of Artists. Competition was pretty rough. I called Bobby Fay, Barney Ross, Joey Adams, not to be involved with the underworld. I'd been away from Chicago 20 years. I called Mauzy and head of the union in Texas. I don't know his name. I think it's Dutch Miller. What's his name? All the calls were at a time prior to what happened. I wanted help with the union. This is the only purpose of the calls.

WARREN: Did you ever know Oswald?

RUBY: Did you talk to McWillie down in Cuba? He is the Credit Manager in the Tropicana. He wanted me to come down. This was the good times. Now everything's different. He sent

me a ticket and I stayed at his apartment. I couldn't speak Spanish and I don't like gambling. This was in August of 1959. My thought of being close to Havana was all because of him. In a plane there was an article he had sent me. I idolized him. There was a guy on the plane said U. S. was not treating Castro right. McWillie slugged him. I tried to get Tony Zoppi to write this. Ray Brantley, Ray's Hardware Store in Dallas, he called me and said call Brantley and get four little Cobra guns. I called Brantley and said Ray, McWillie wants four little Cobras, something like that. Ray says I know McWillie. This is the only deal with anyone from Havana. Brantley denies this. He feels it is against the law to send guns out of the country. Says they have an affidavit that he didn't receive this call. I didn't pick it up. It was C.O.D. If Brantley won't say that I called it will look bad for me. I have only seen Oswald in the assembly room. The part about the Cobras was in the early part of 1959. I didn't follow up to see if the guns were delivered.

WARREN: There was some stories in the papers about jeeps.

RUBY: This was the early part. I never had facilities to get jeeps. Perhaps in conversations with people I mentioned it. At one time a man smuggled some guns. I think his name was Langley out of Bay Shore. I read an article about him being given a jail term. This was before Batista fell. There is an organization in this area that has been indoctrinated that I killed the president. Just a feeling, Mr. Warren, you recall Friday night when I left the Times-Herald. I went to my apartment and got George Senator up. I said you have got to get up George. You have got to go with me. I called Larry at the Club

and told him to get the Polaroid. I stopped at the Post Office to see about Box 1792. I think it came to my mind that I saw on a billboard Impeach Earl Warren. It came from Massachusetts and I thought it was the same number. I went to take the pictures.

LEE RANKIN: Did you know Officer Tippitt?

RUBY: I knew a Tippitt, not this one. I knew some Tippitts, but I did not know this one.

LEE RANKIN: There was a story about Weisman, yourself and a rich oil man which was to the effect that you were seen at your Club together.

RUBY: I am the one who made the big issue of Weisman. When I went to the Turf Lounge there was a fellow there by the name of Bellocchio. He said I have got to leave Dallas. It was about the ad. I only know one rich oil man. One of them runs the Stork Club.

WARREN: Mark Lane, the attorney for Mrs. Oswald, gave us this story. Lane testified before the Commission that Tippitt, Weisman and a rich oil man had an hour long conversation. Lane said it was confidential and he couldn't state who gave this information without a release from the person but he has not received any release as yet.

RUBY: I am innocent of any conspiracy as anyone in this room. I want you to go into it further even if you might embarrass me. When I lived in Chicago and sold tickets to sporting events you come to know these people. You don't have any other affiliation with them. This is the extent of my criminal activity. I haven't stolen, been part of a goon squad, gambler or bookie.

I didn't know what a gun looked like in Chicago. I don't belong to any subversive organizations and don't know anyone who does. I had a poor start. I lied about the gun in the showup. I didn't have it. I made that up for my defense.

LEE RANKIN: What year was it that you were in Cuba?

RUBY: Cuba was in 1959. I lived in McWillie's apartment. I couldn't speak their language. I had two dates down there with girls I met at the Tropicana. The Fox Brothers own the Tropicana. I don't know their names but Martin is one of them. They are in Miami now. They came to Dallas to collect a debt.

(I left the room at this point and when I came back in approximately one or two minutes the following occurred)

RANKIN: Will you tell us what you said to Sorrells after the shooting?

RUBY: Ray Hall, the first one who interrogated me, while we waited in a little room either on the second or third floor. Spent an hour with him. I was broken up, and I constantly repeated about Mrs. Kennedy coming back. I gave him all about my background. I don't remember about the floor, being on an elevator. I don't recall about Sorrells. Being of Jewish faith I wanted to show great love. Somebody introduced me to someone and they say I said "What are you, a newsman?" This is ridiculous. I don't recall. I wouldn't do this for publicity and get myself hurt. I never inquired from the TV man when Oswald was being down. This is ridiculous. You don't ask a question like that. None of it's true, about me saying "You couldn't do it - get three more off." I never cursed. I might have said "Little Weazel" if Pryor says so.

RANKIN: There is some statement that you went out to Parkland Hospital.

RUBY: I didn't go to Parkland Hospital.

RANKIN: Did you say anything about Jews having guts?

RUBY: I never said that. I might have said this to Bromberg. I did say this. McWillie said about me, "Jack runs the Club well, nobody runs over him."

I went to Florida and I stopped at New Orleans. I went to Miami on a stopover. I got some rum. I talked to Delta employees in New Orleans and told them where to go in Miami. I could have gone to Miami and back through New Orleans. I saw the same fellows, Delta employees.

RANKIN: Are these employees in New Orleans?

RUBY: Yes, they work in New Orleans.

RANKIN: Do you remember going up the elevator after shooting of Oswald?

(There was a long delay here and Ruby stared at the desk, twisted his hands)

RUBY: Little things I don't remember. When the Fox Brothers came to Dallas they came with Mrs. McWillie. They had pictures with me in Havana. I stayed about eight days in the apartment. I never used the phone. I don't know how. McWillie left early in the morning and I came out to the Club later. Sometimes I went with him. Taxicabs are high down there. Aye Gardner was there. I left after eight days. I was bored. Gambling is not my business.

RANKIN: Have you ever been to Mexico?

RUBY: I went to Mexico 34 years ago, in 1934. I only



You, Warren, would know about mass feeling against my people. This goes over your head, doesn't it?

WARREN: I can't clearly understand but we don't have this information, you do.

RUBY: I wish President Johnson would get deeper into the facts. I want him to find me out before he relinquishes certain powers to certain people. Jews are being exterminated. It's money. Consequently, a whole new government is taking over. Do I sound screwy telling these things? You'll never see me again. Let me ask if the President appointed you?

WARREN: Only Congressman Ford and myself were appointed. The others were hired employees.

RUBY: If you don't send me back to Washington tonight to show the President I am not guilty, then you'll see the most tragic thing that has ever happened. I won't be here for long. Maybe something can be saved. Maybe something can be done. Talked all this time and nothing climatic. What's to be done, Chief Justice? Something's got to be done. If I got up to Washington something can be saved. Right now we need to clean up the falsehoods about the Jewish race. If President Johnson knew the truth from me, if I am eliminated now --- has the president been told that I am part of the plot?

WARREN: If the President has been told that he gave no indication he believed it.

RUBY: If they found out I was telling the truth, maybe my people won't be tortured or eliminated.

WARREN: You can be sure the President wouldn't let that happen.

RUBY: Maybe if I can tell the truth people won't be tortured.

WARREN: The President will hear all of your testimony.

RUBY: I won't be around when that time comes.

JOE TONAHILL: Who's going to eliminate you?

RUBY: Certain things come about. If you don't take my testimony my people won't be informed.

WARREN: It had been taken and will be shown to the President and the public and to the country.

RUBY: You have lost me, Chief Justice.

WARREN: How?

RUBY: I won't be around. The only thing can help me is the lie detector test. This I want to have.

WARREN: I promised you that you could take such a test.

RUBY: When?

WARREN: I assure you it won't be unnecessarily delayed. On behalf of the Commission, I promise you that.

RUBY: When can I see the President?

WARREN: I haven't seen him yet but I will tell him.

RUBY: All I want is the lie detector. How do you know whether I told the truth or not?

WARREN: You get questions and you answer them yes or no.

RUBY: Maybe I can answer when I conceived the thought. It was on that Sunday morning.

WARREN: You can write out the questions you want to be asked.

RUBY: Yes, but when you leave here I am finished. My