

The Assassination Number 18

3/17/66

## Reopen The Warren Commission

We present two interesting witnesses this week. We give parts of their testimony simply to show what kind of a joint Jack Ruby was really operating in Dallas. Both Hardee and Mrs. Rich back each other in their independent testimony, so we feel both told the truth. Certainly we feel Mrs. Rich was telling the truth for she had to volunteer in order to get to testify. She made one of the most damaging admissions a woman can make against herself, so we feel we have a truthful picture of the Carousel Club operated with complete cooperation of the Dallas Police.

Deposition taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

December 26, 1963

JACK HARDEE, JR. was interviewed at the Mobile County Jail, Mobile, Alabama, where he is incarcerated in federal custody. . . .

Some deposition omitted.

HARDEE stated that he has spent some time in Dallas, Texas, and he had met JACK RUBY during the course of his contacts in Dallas. He stated that approximately one year ago, while in Dallas, Texas he attempted to set up a numbers game, and he was advised by an individual, whom he did not identify, that in order to operate in Dallas it was necessary to have the clearance of JACK RUBY. He stated that this individual, whom he did not identify, told him that RUBY had the "fix" with the county authorities, and that any other fix being placed would have to be done through RUBY.

HARDEE stated that he did not like RUBY upon their first contact, and this, coupled with a change in his plans, which was unrelated to this, caused him to change his mind about operating the numbers game, and the plan fell through.

Some deposition omitted.

During the period that HARDEE was in Dallas approximately one year ago, he was in RUBY'S presence on several occasions. He stated that RUBY impressed him as being the type of individual who would kill without much provocation.

HARDEE also stated that the police officer whom HARVEY LEE OSWALD allegedly killed after he allegedly assassinated the president was a frequent visitor to RUBY'S night club, along with another officer who was a motorcycle patrol in the Oaklawn Section of Dallas. HARDEE stated from his observation there appeared to be a very close relationship between these three individuals.

HARDEE also stated that he had seen RUBY in the Dallas Police Department wearing a gun, and officers there, whom he did not know, were aware that RUBY was wearing a gun at the time.

Some deposition omitted.

HARDEE stated that he knows of his own personal knowledge that RUBY hustled the strippers and other

girls who worked in his club. RUBY made dates for them, accepting the money for the dates in advance, and kept half, giving the other half to the girls. These dates were filed in the new hotel in downtown Dallas and the Holiday Motel in Irvington, where RUBY had an associate, whom HARDEE could only identify as a Negro who drove a big Cadillac.

We start Mrs. Rich's testimony with the following:

Mrs. RICH. I also want it in the record I came here of my own free will. Also that I don't want it known and that I would like Kennett cautioned to be quite about this. I want someone to caution the Kennetts to keep quiet about this. Rod opened the letter, and he has been telling everybody in Boston about it. I don't particularly want it known.

Mr. HUBERT. Well, I am not in a position to pass upon your request. But I am quite certain that the Commission will take it into account.

Some testimony omitted here.

HUBERT. Will you please state your full name?

RICH. Nancy Elaine Perrin Rich.

Some testimony omitted here.

RICH. May I ask a question?

HUBERT. Yes; if you wish.

RICH. All of this is confidential?

HUBERT. I cannot give you the assurance that it is.

RICH. Meaning this would not be publicized for the entire world, so to speak. The average person outside of who it directly would be reported to.

HUBERT. I cannot give you the assurance that you ask for on that point. If you would prefer not to answer the question in the light of your feelings about it, and the statement I have just made to you, then we can pass on to another point.

RICH. Let me ask you this. Is it pertinent and important that you know?

HUBERT. Well, yes.

RICH. Very well, he claimed to—

HUBERT. Now, you understand, I am not giving you any assurance that there will not be available to the public a transcript of this testimony.

RICH. I understand this. I thoroughly understand this.

HUBERT. All right.

RICH. Well, he claimed to have worked for Jack Dragna, presently residing at San Quentin.

HUBERT. That is to say he is in the penitentiary?

RICH. That is correct.

HUBERT. Do you know for what offense?

RICH. Income tax evasion, I suppose. I don't know for sure.

HUBERT. All right.

Some testimony omitted.

RICH. Let me state at this time that half of what I am about to say— I am sorry—all of what I am about to say is hearsay. Half, I believe.

HUBERT. We understand that. You are telling us what he told you he had done in the past, but that you don't know for sure whether it is true.

RICH. That is correct. But I want that in the record.

That he did everything from handle Dragna's call girls to be a heavy, so to speak.

HUBERT. What do you mean by a heavy?

RICH. Well, bodyguard.

HUBERT. Bodyguard for whom?

RICH. Jack Dragna, and various subsequent members, shall we say, of the organization that used to come into California.

HUBERT. What organization was that?

RICH. Call it by what you will—syndicate, Mafia.

HUBERT. Who were some of the people involved?

RICH. I could not tell you. I do know that he mentioned that he personally knew Mickey Cohen and Virginia Hill.

HUBERT. You don't know any other names?

RICH. Jimmy Gilreath.

Some testimony omitted here.

HUBERT. Were you living with him at the time he died?

RICH. I was.

HUBERT. You state to us now that the coroner's report in New Orleans, I suppose—

RICH. That is correct.

HUBERT. Showed that his death was caused by arsenic voluntarily consumed, right?

RICH. That is correct.

HUBERT. Now, you lived part of the time that you were married to Perrin in Dallas, did you not?

RICH. Yes. Why I am hesitant—I would like to clarify that statement. I went to Dallas seeking Mr. Perrin. He had left me.

HUBERT. Where were you living when he left you?

RICH. We were living in Belmont, Mass.

HUBERT. What address?

RICH. No 11 Holden Road.

HUBERT. How long after he left you did you seek him out in Dallas?

RICH. I was in New Hampshire with the state legislature at the time. I was doing public relations. And I had just obtained a job, a position for him, and I telephoned to Massachusetts to tell him to come on down, and there was no answer. And I had a feeling that something was wrong. So I hightailed it back to Massachusetts, and there was a note. And the note said that he was going to Dallas. I called and he wasn't there. I called halfway over the United States, thinking of places he told me he had been, and I couldn't find him.

Some testimony omitted.

HUBERT. Now, when you say bartender, what do you mean? What were your actual duties?

RICH. I was actually a bartender. I worked behind the bar mixing and serving drinks.

HUBERT. What sort of drinks?

RICH. Whatever was allowed. Actually, you are not allowed to serve mixed drinks there. We do to special customers. You are not allowed to serve hard liquor. But I served beer, and wine, of course, and your setups.

HUBERT. What customers did you serve hard liquor to?

RICH. Whomever I was told to.

HUBERT. You don't know their names?

RICH. I couldn't quote you names, perhaps.

HUBERT. Who told you to serve them?

RICH. Mr. Ruby. It was a standing order. For a particular group of people. Then whenever he would come in and say, "This is private stock stuff," that would mean for me to go where I knew the hard liquor was and get it out, and get it ready for the people in his private office.

HUBERT. What was the particular group—who did it consist of?

RICH. The police department.

HUBERT. Are you saying that Jack Ruby told you that when any member of the police department came in, that there was a standing order that you could serve them hard liquor?

RICH. That is correct.

HUBERT. And are you also saying that you did so?

RICH. I am saying that I needed a job and did so.

HUBERT. Do you remember the names of any particular officers to whom you served hard liquor?

RICH. House, Rayburn—

HUBERT. Let's see if we can get some first names.

RICH. I don't remember what House's first name was, but it was Paul Rayburn, and Detective—something House—they were partners. They worked as a team, juvenile. And the rest were just faces and uniforms.

HUBERT. How would you know them?

RICH. At that time, I knew them.

HUBERT. You knew them to be police?

RICH. Oh, yes.

HUBERT. Did they pay?

RICH. Oh, no; of course not.

HUBERT. Was that an order, too, from Mr. Ruby?

RICH. That was. Unless they came in in the evening with their wives. Then, of course, they paid. But then again, they didn't have hard liquor, either, at that time. This is when they came in, by themselves, I was to go get the private stock, as he called it, special stock. They were served whatever they wanted on the house.

HUBERT. Was that widespread?

RICH. I am not sure I understand what you mean by widespread.

HUBERT. Well, you have mentioned two names, and then said there were others whose names you don't remember.

RICH. Well, the only reason I remember House and Rayburn is because they were personal friends of mine.

HUBERT. Well, how many others do you suppose you served?

RICH. I couldn't estimate. I couldn't give you a true and accurate figure. Anyone that came in from the police department. Including certain attorneys in town. One attorney I particularly remember was a fellow named Sy Victorson, who subsequently became my attorney, and a personal friend.

Some testimony omitted.

HUBERT. Is that the only record you have?

RICH. That's correct—that I know of.

HUBERT. Well, I assume that you would know all the records you have.

RICH. Well, when I say that, I was picked up twice in Dallas and both times the charges were dropped—as far as I know. That is what Sy Victorson told me.

HUBERT. Were you ever charged?

RICH. Not that I know of.

HUBERT. Were you ever booked?

HUBERT. But you were arrested.

RICH. Yes. One time I was in jail for a couple of hours, the other time 5 hours, because they could not get hold of Sy, who was on the golf course.

HUBERT. Were you told why you were being arrested?

RICH. I was arrested for investigation of vag, narcotics—

HUBERT. Of what?

RICH. Vag—vagrancy. Narcotics, prostitution, and anything else they could dream up. This is very shortly after I had threatened to go and bring suit against Mr. Ruby. I was told I might find the climate outside Dallas a little more to my liking if I didn't take the advice of the police department.

HUBERT. Who told you that?

RICH. The time I went down and wanted to bring charges against Mr. Ruby for assault and battery, I was told not to, and at that time I was also advised—I was not told to leave the city or anything like that, but that it was nice in Chicago, for instance, that time of year.

HUBERT. And I think you said that you did not remember the name of the man.

RICH. I cannot remember the name of the detective that I spoke to; no.

HUBERT. But he was the detective on the police force?

RICH. He was. Jack Ruby is very well known in Dallas. A little too well known.

HUBERT. What do you mean by that?

RICH. Just a personal opinion. I believe—now, this is not a fact, that is just talk, this is just personal opinion—I believe at the time of the —am I naming it correctly—Oswald assassination, it was claimed that Ruby got in there pretending to be a reporter. Am I correct that that was in the printed page?

HUBERT. Well, what comment have you got to make to that?

RICH. Anyone that made that statement would be either a damn liar or a damn fool.

HUBERT. Why?

RICH. There is no possible way that Jack Ruby could walk in Dallas and be mistaken for a newspaper reporter, especially in the police department. Not by any stretch of the imagination.

HUBERT. Is that your opinion?

RICH. That is not my personal opinion. That is a fact.

HUBERT. Well, on what do you base it?

RICH. Ye gods, I don't think there is a cop in Dallas that doesn't know Jack Ruby. He practically lived at that station. They lived in his place. Even the lowest patrolman on the beat. He is a real fanatic on that, anyway.

HUBERT. When you say even the lowest patrolman on the beat, what do you mean?

RICH. Everybody from the patrolmen on the beat in uniform to, I guess everybody with the exception of Captain Fritz, used to come in there, knew him personally. He used to practically live at the station. I am not saying that Captain Fritz didn't know him. I am saying he was never—I have never seen him in the Carousel. He has always been, I think, a little too far above things for that.

HUBERT. Well, you have seen other high-ranking officers there?

RICH. Yes; I have.

HUBERT. Would you name them, please?

RICH. I would if I could. I would be only too glad to.

HUBERT. You mean you don't know?

RICH. I cannot recall names, sir.

HUBERT. How did you know they were high-rank-

officers.  
RICH. At that time I knew them. Two years from now, somebody asked me your name. I would remember. I knew you I had seen you, but I could not tell him your name.

RICH. Everybody remembers Captain Fritz. Will Fritz is quite a famous man. And I would say he is of the highest integrity. Probably the only one I know of on the police department that is.

Some testimony omitted.  
HUBERT. What was the significance of your remark that when you worked he worked, and when you did not work—

RICH. As long as I was hustling he would work, and long as I wasn't hustling he would not work.

HUBERT. What does hustling mean?  
RICH. It means to hustle.

HUBERT. What is hustling?  
RICH. That is an expression used in that particular

id.

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This is your editor just before we entered the Parliament buildings for a guided tour given us by one of the members of the House of Commons.