

Why was Jack L. Ruby afraid to admit his role in the Watergate cover-up to Leon Jaworski, Esq.?

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by Craig Karpel

Leon Jaworski, Esq., will live to regret the day he left the comfortable anonymity of his Houston law practice to join the crew down in Damage Control. Just like Jack L. Ruby lived to regret the day he tried to tell Earl Warren why he had to kill

Lee Oswald as Leon Jaworski, Esq., sat opposite him in a fluorescent-lit room in the Dallas

County Jail giving poor Jack the double fish-eye on behalf of John B. Connally and a number of John Does too libelous to mention.

You mean—don't tell me!—Leon Jaworski was in the room the day Jack L. Ruby begged to be taken

directly to Washington so he could stop telling nothing but the truth and start telling the whole truth??

Sure—and if you don't believe me, ask the next President of the United States, Gerald Ford, 'cause he was sitting right next to Jaworski at the time. Hey Jerry—what's da story?!

And if the foregoing isn't enough to give you the 10-years-after heebie jeebies, try on this one: Jack L. Ruby told the Commission he met with a lawyer named Leon some time in 1959 or 1960.

Leon? The Leon? I don't know. I tend to think so. I could be wrong. It could be just a coincidence, like the fact that the other party present at that meeting was named McCord.

But it was no coincidence that Leon Jaworski, Esq., was there when Ruby was questioned. Jaworski was hand-picked by Connally, then governor of Texas, to be in that room that day. Immediately after the assassination, he had been selected by State Attorney General Waggoner Carr to head a probe into Kennedy's death. This investigation was pre-empted by the Warren Commission, but Jaworski was immediately appointed Special Counsel to the Attorney General of the State of Texas, with the mission of monitoring the Commission and reporting on its work to Carr and Connally.

The Warren Commission took testimony from 550 witnesses, but Jaworski was present at the interrogation of only the nine who particularly interested his associates:

On February 10, 1964, Marguerite Oswald, a mother in history.

On February 20, Robert Oswald,

brother of Lee. Robert told the Commission that Marina had told him that Lee intended to shoot Richard Nixon when the former Action Officer of the Bay of Pigs invasion visited Dallas in the summer or early fall of 1963. (Nixon admits that he was in Dallas the day Kennedy was killed, the day before, and the day before that.)

On March 31, Robert A. Frazier, the FBI firearms expert who opined that the Mannlicher-Carcano supposedly found in the Depository could have fired all the shots.

On March 31, Ronald Simmons, Army ballistics expert, who claimed that Oswald did not have to be an expert shot to have performed the feat of marksmanship he was credited with.

On May 5, John W. Fain, the FBI agent who had interviewed Marguerite and Robert in 1960 and Lee in 1962.

On May 5, John Lester Quigley, the FBI agent who interviewed Oswald in New Orleans on August 10, 1963—at Oswald's request.

On May 5, James Patrick Hosty, Jr., the FBI agent who had conducted an investigation of Oswald earlier in 1963—and whose name, telephone, and license plate number appeared in Oswald's address book.

On June 11, Marina Oswald. Noteworthy, Marina testified in five separate sessions, but Jaworski was present only during the one in which she suddenly altered the version of the "Nixon incident" she had repeatedly given the FBI—in which Lee was going to "see" Nixon—to one in which Lee was going to "use his pistol" on Nixon if there was an "appropriate" or "convenient opportunity."

And, on June 7, Jack L. Ruby. Also present were Earl Warren;

Representative Gerald Ford, Commission member; J. Lee Rankin, Commission general counsel;

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Joseph A. Ball, assistant counsel; Arlen Specter, assistant counsel; Robert G. Storey, special counsel to the attorney general of Texas; Jim Bowie, assistant district attorney; Joe H. Tonahill, attorney for Ruby; Elmer W. Moore, special agent, U. S. Secret Service; and J. E. Decker, sheriff of Dallas County. It is interesting that during the course of the session Ruby referred to or spoke to everyone in the room except Jaworski.

Throughout Ruby's testimony, in which he protested too much that he was not part of a conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy, and that he wanted to take a lie detector test, were colloquies like these:

Mr. RUBY: Gentlemen, unless you get me to Washington, you can't get a fair shake out of me. If you understand my way of talking you have got to bring me to Washington to get the testimony. Do I sound dramatic? Off the beam?

Chief Justice WARREN: No; you are speaking very, very rationally

Mr. RUBY: Gentlemen, if you want to hear any further testimony, you will have to get me to Washington soon, 'because it has something to do with you, Chief Warren. Do I sound sober enough to tell you this?

Chief Justice WARREN: Yes; go right ahead.

Mr. RUBY: I want to tell the truth, but I can't tell it here Does that make sense to you?

Chief Justice WARREN: Well, let's not talk about sense. But I really can't see why you can't tell this Commission . . .

Mr. RUBY: But you don't have a right to take a prisoner back with you when you want to?

Chief Justice WARREN: No; we have the power to subpoena witnesses to Washington if we want to do it, but we have taken the testimony of 200 or 300 people, I would imagine, here in Dallas, without going to Washington.

Mr. RUBY: Yes; but those

people aren't Jack Ruby.
Chief Justice WARREN: No; they weren't.

Leon Jaworski, Esq., had the option that day in 1964 of making it possible for Jack L. Ruby to have spilled the beans on the Kennedy assassination. He could have said, "Mr. Chief Justice, in my capacity as representative of the attorney general of this state, whose charges are pending against Mr. Ruby and in whose custody he is being held, I am going to telephone our attorney general right now and inform him of the need to arrange for Mr. Ruby to be brought to Washington at once to testify further before this Commission. Does anyone have a dime?"

But he didn't say that. He don't say nothin', he just sit there. With the direct result that Jack L. Ruby went to his grave with the truth about his role in the plot to kill Kennedy untold.

If Leon Jaworski, Esq., wouldn't open his mouth to solve the crime of the century, what assurances does he offer us that he will undertake the vastly more complicated exertions involved in discovering the truth about Richard Nixon's crimes, none of which is yet widely regarded as capital?

During the Ruby session, Warren explained that Jaworski was present "in connection with watching the work of the Commission so that they will be satisfied as to

the quality of the work done insofar as the State of Texas is concerned."

If Leon Jaworski, Esq., was satisfied as to the quality of the work of the Commission at the very moment that it refused to make it possible for Jack Ruby to tell what he knew, then Leon Jaworski, Esq., is too easily satisfied. He ought to be back in Houston running funny money for the CIA, like he took time off from doing to help stare at Jack L. Ruby.

What's more, I think it's pretty damned peculiar that Leon Jaworski, Esq. was also there practicing his basilisk act as the potentially explosive "Nixon incident" was defused by Marina Oswald's suddenly enhanced faculty of recollection. Is it possible that Leon Jaworski began protecting Richard Nixon not on November 2, 1973, but on February 10, 1964?

Or was he protecting himself? After Ruby told the Commission about his trip to Cuba in 1959, he launched onto a tangent about how one of the Fox brothers, who owned

the Tropicana Hotel in Havana, had come to Dallas some time afterward to collect a gambling debt from a man named Murray. Ruby described a Chinese dinner he had at the Luau Restaurant at Love Field with Fox and his lawyer, one Dave McCord. "And there was an attorney by the name of Leon," Ruby said. "Is he associated with McCord?" he asked. Rankin quickly changed the subject.

But Jack L. Ruby was on the beam that sad day. "Maybe you do things to cover up," he said, to a group which included an attorney by the name of Leon, "if you are capable of doing it."

(P. S. The L. in Jack L. Ruby stands for Leon.)

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President's Commission On The Assassination of
President Kennedy*

Sunday, June 7, 1964

TESTIMONY OF MR. JACK RUBY

The President's Commission met at 11:45 a.m., on June 7, 1964, in the interrogation room of the Dallas County Jail, Main and Houston Streets, Dallas, Tex.

Present were Chief Justice Earl Warren, Chairman; and Representative Gerald R. Ford, member.

Also present were J. Lee Rankin, general counsel; Joseph A. Ball, assistant counsel; Arlen Specter, assistant counsel; Leon Jaworski and Robert G. Storey, special counsel to the attorney general of Texas; Jim Bowie, assistant district attorney; Joe H. Tonahill, attorney for Jack Ruby; Elmer W. Moore, special agent, U.S. Secret Service; and J. E. Decker, sheriff of Dallas County.

Some Testimony omitted

Mr. RUBY. Never; that is the only one that I made.

I stayed at the Volk's Apartments with Mr. McWillie, lived in his apartment. Ate directly in a place called Wolf's, downstairs. Wouldn't know how to speak their language. I wouldn't know how to communicate with them.

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

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

Mr. RANKIN. Who are the Fox brothers?

Mr. RUBY. Martin Fox and I can't think of the other name.

Mr. RANKIN. Do you know where they are located now?

Mr. RUBY. They are in Miami, Fla. They know everything about McWillie, I heard; and know the officials.

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

The Fox brothers came to Dallas—I don't know which one it was—to collect a debt that some man owed the Cotton Gin Co. here.

Do you know their name, Mr. Bowie?

Mr. BOWIE. Murray, or something.

Mr. RUBY. He gave some bad checks on a gambling debt, and they came to visit me. The lawyer, I think, is Mark Lane. That is the attorney that was killed in New York?

Chief Justice WARREN. That is the fellow who represents, or did represent Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. I think I read in the paper where he no longer represents her.

Mr. RANKIN. He is still alive though.

Chief Justice WARREN. Oh, yes.

Mr. RUBY. There was one Lane that was killed in a taxicab. I thought he was an attorney in Dallas.

Chief Justice WARREN. That was a Dave Lane.

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

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

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

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

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 Gln Co., 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. Sorrels and the others after the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Can you recall that?

Mr. RUBY. The only one I recall Mr. Sorrels 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.

1. We did not realize that Jack Ruby and Chief Justice Earl Warren had any mutual friends.