

Date December 24, 1963

RALPH LEON YATES furnished the following statement:

"Dallas, Texas  
December 10, 1963

"I, RALPH LEON YATES, make the following statement voluntarily to C. RAY HALL, who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make this statement. I have been told that I do not have to make a statement, that I have a right to talk with a lawyer before making any statement, and that this statement may be used against me in a court of law.

"I was born at Dallas, Texas, on January 23, 1936, and went to the ninth grade in school. I am now working as a refrigeration service-man for the Texas Butcher Supply Co., at 2038 Commerce, in Dallas, Texas, and live at 13564 Brockgreen in Dallas.

"On a date that I now believe was Wednesday, November 20, 1963, I had been to Charlie Jordan's Meat Market in Oak Cliff, and was driving on the R. L. Thornton Expressway on my way to the Parkit-Market on Shadygrove Road in Irving, Texas. I noticed a man hitch-hiking near the Beckley Street entrance to the expressway, and stopped and picked up this man. When this man walked up to get into the pickup truck, he was carrying a package wrapped in brown wrapping paper about four feet to five and one-half feet long. I told this man he could put the package in the back of the truck, but the man said that the package had curtain rods in it, and he would just carry it with him. Later, as I drove along, this man asked me if I knew where the Carousel Club was, or had ever been there. I told him that I had not been there and did not know where the Carousel Club was located. The man then asked me if I knew a JACK RUBENSTEIN, and I said 'What?'

205-144

on 12-10-63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 100-10461  
by Special Agent S. C. RAY HALL Date dictated 12-11-63  
MAURICE J. WHITE

MVS

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The man then said that JACK RUBENSTEIN was more commonly known as JACK RUBY, and RUBY ran the Carousel Club. I then asked the man if RUBY ran Jack's Branch Office Lounge on Industrial, and the man said that he didn't. I told the man that I had serviced refrigerators in a number of clubs, in the past, and had possibly been to the Carousel Club, but did not remember it.

"I mentioned to this man that there was going to be a lot of excitement in Dallas soon, and this man asked me what I meant. I told him that the President was coming to Dallas, but I personally felt that the President should not come to Dallas, because of the reception which ADLAI STEVENSON got not too long ago. This man then asked me if I thought a person could assassinate the President. I told him that I guess such a thing could be possible. The man then asked me if it could be done from the top of a building, or out of a window, high up, and I told him I guessed this would be possible, if a man had a good rifle with a scope on it, and was a good shot.

"This man then pulled a picture out of his pocket, and showed it to me. This was a photograph of the man who was in the car with me, and it showed him holding a rifle in his right hand, with the butt of the rifle resting on the ground. The photo showed the rifle to have a strap on it, but did not have a scope on the rifle. This photo also showed that the man had a pistol of some kind in a holster on his left side. After I looked at the picture, this man asked me if I thought the President could be killed with a gun like that one, and I told the man that I guessed so.

"This man then asked me if I knew the President's route for the parade in Dallas, and I told him I did not know the route, but it had been in the paper.

205/45



The man then said I misunderstood him, and he had asked me if I thought the President would change his route. I told him that I doubted if he would change the route, unless they might for safety reasons.

"We were almost to downtown Dallas by this time, and I told the man I was going on to Irving and asked him where he was going. This man said he was going to Houston Street, so I told him I would turn off the expressway and let him off on Houston Street. I turned off at the Commerce Street exit and when I got to Houston Street, turned left off of Commerce. I asked the man where he wanted off, and he said that anywhere along Houston Street would be all right, so I let him off at the corner of Elm and Houston Streets when I stopped there for a red light. The man got out of my truck, and took his package with him. I turned left and went on to Irving, and did not see which way the man went from where I let him out, except he walked across Elm Street going North on Houston. As the man got out of my truck, he said something about the triple underpass, but I didn't understand what he said.

"After I got back from Irving, that same day, I told DEMPSEY JONES, a man that I work with, about the conversation I had with this man.

"After President KENNEDY was assassinated, I saw pictures of LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the newspaper and on television. I remember seeing a full page photograph on the front page of one Dallas newspaper, that showed LEE HARVEY OSWALD just an instant before he was shot.

"I have been shown a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and this photograph has a label 'Dallas Police, 54018, 11 23 63.' This is a photograph of the man that I picked up and gave a ride to, and had the conversation with as set forth above in this statement.

205/86



"I have read this statement which is written on this and one other page and it is true to the best of my knowledge

/s/ Ralph L. Yates

"Witnessed:

"C. Ray Hall, Special Agent, FBI, Dallas, Texas  
Maurice J. White, Special Agent, FBI, Dallas, Texas"

YATES was asked if he had ever been in a hospital, and he said that while he was in the U. S. Air Force, he was treated by the doctors for a "nervous condition," but after he got out of the service he learned that he had a bad back, and thought this probably caused his "nervous condition." He said he had not been treated for any mental disorders.

The following description was obtained:

Name	RALPH LEON YATES
Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	27 (January 23, 1936, Dallas, Texas)
Height	5' 8"
Weight	160 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars and Marks	2" burn scar running from left corner of mouth upward on left cheek
Military Service	U. S. Air Force, February 2, 1954 to November 8 or December, 1957; APSN 18 453 689
Relatives	Wife - DOROTHY YATES, and children, JACQUELYN MARIE YATES, age 6, LORRIE JO YATES, age 5,

205/47



Relatives  
(continued)

ELIZABETH ANN YATES, age 3;  
RALPH LEON YATES, Jr., age 2;  
MARK A. YATES, age 1, all reside  
13564 Brookgreen, Dallas, Texas;  
Father - JIMMIE YATES, Jr., Red  
Bird Lane, Dallas, Texas, phone  
WE 1-4024;

Mother - Mrs. BERNICE (last name  
unknown), Elizabeth Street,  
Dallas, Texas.

Arrests

Claimed arrested for tire theft,  
Del Rio, Texas, in 1954, and  
sentenced to thirty days in jail.