

Testimony Shows Gambling Not New on Ross

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By EARL GOLTZ
 Gambling is no new thing on Ross Avenue.

One of the places hit by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in their notorious Jan. 18 raids was just across the street from a well-patrolled boogie joint in the 1850s.

In both instances, local law officers were allegedly well aware of the illegal gambling activities.

The Dallas News' attention was called Tuesday to testimony given federal agents investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy here in 1963, which is included in the Warren Report and other exhibits in the National Archives.

A PART-TIME PIANO PLAYER for Jack Ruby told the agents that a Dallas police detective and a state highway patrolman were "regular patrons" of an underworld bookmaking operation in the early 1950s.

The now-vacant liquor and drug store which reportedly "fronted" the bookmaking at 2706 Ross Ave. is across the street from a service station hit in one of the simultaneous Jan. 18 raids.

The information was given the FBI by Bobby Gene Moore, who said he played the piano in Ruby's night club and also worked for Joseph Civallo, Dallas' delegate to the 1957 organized crime meeting in Apalachin, N.Y.

Moore was questioned by FBI agents on Nov. 20, 1963, two days after Ruby shot to death Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy.

MOST OF MOORE'S REMARKS were contained in an exhibit in the National Archives, including the section that names the local law officers who, the FBI quoted Moore as saying, were "aware of the gambling action if they were not actually involved." Only some of the eight paragraphs of information

in his interview was published in the Warren Report.

The FBI said Moore volunteered the information to refute a statement on a television interview in which a Ruby associate said Ruby had no "gangster connections."

Moore told the FBI, in the Archives document, that Ruby was a "frequent visitor and associate" of Civallo and Frank LaMorte shortly after Ruby moved to Dallas from Chicago in 1947.

(Moore apparently was referring to a meat store and import shop at 3400 Ross Ave., where he said he worked between 1952 and 1956 when he left Dallas. The city directory during the early 1950s listed Charles Civallo, Joseph's brother, and LaMorte as operators of the shop. Joseph Civallo died about two years ago.)

THE FBI APPARENTLY DID NOT check out Moore's story with Civallo or the law officers. No references to follow-up interviews with any of those named by Moore can be found in either the Warren Report or the National Archives.

One of the officers identified by Moore, Dallas police detective Charles Sansone, was arrested Dec. 5, 1966, and charged with operating a business of accepting wagers on sporting events without having registered and paid a federal wagering tax.

Sansone was arrested in the same case with Phillip S. Bosco, operator of the service station raided last January by the FBI.

The 1966 charges against Sansone and Bosco were dismissed after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled gambling stamps compelled self-incrimination. Sansone, who for several years had lived one block from Civallo until Civallo moved in 1963, resigned from the police force in 1967.

THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROLMAN identified by Moore told The Dallas News he once worked with Sansone on the Dallas police force, but he denied he ever "went in there (liquor and drug store allegedly a boogie front) in my life, that I can recall."

The former patrolman said he got to know Civallo "when I worked on the Dallas police department and I used to stop there (3400 Ross Ave.) when I bought Italian cheese."

"I met these Italians when Charley (Sansone) and I worked together as partners," he said. "But that boy (Moore) just told them a damn lie as far as my part in it (gambling). He probably saw me around the import place."

He said he knew of the operator of the liquor and drug store as "an old time boogielegger," but not the operator of a bookmaking front.

BOSCO, WHO WAS NOT arrested in the raid last January, has been arrested

five times on illegal bookmaking charges in Dallas since 1963 but has been sentenced a total of only 10 days in jail and fined \$500.

None of the five men whose homes and businesses were raided by the FBI last January was arrested, but gambling paraphernalia was seized to use as evidence when federal attorneys intend to later seek indictments by a grand jury.

The FBI also has 30 days of taped telephone conversations—reportedly including the voices of at least a dozen Dallas police officers—with the man they described as the kingpin of the bookmaking operation.

The gambling raid was the first staged here by the FBI without the participation of local police.

MOORE SAID HE LIVED in a rooming house at the rear of the liquor and drug store which he contended was "a front for a boogie type operation where bets were taken on all types of athletic

events and horse races." In the early 1950s, according to the Warren Report, he said the "place was patronized by most of the gambling element Dallas and Ruby was a frequent visitor," the report stated. The former piano player at Ruby's old Vegas Club at 3306 Oak Lawn said he didn't know Ruby was connected with the gambling operation or was merely a participant.

Ruby also was "friendly" with Bosco, who Moore thought was "engaged" in criminal activities in Dallas although he had no specific information to substantiate this, according to the Archives exhibit.

Moore told the FBI he believed Ruby was "connected with the underworld in Dallas because of his association with Civallo and Bosco, among others and the bookmaking operations at 2706 Ross Ave."

The Warren Commission, however, concluded that "the evidence does not establish a significant link between Ruby and organized crime."