

M E M O R A N D U M

October 19, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney
FROM: TOM BETHELL
RE: INFORMATION FROM BILL TURNER

On October 18, 1967, BILL TURNER called and advised as follows:

In 1964 a man TURNER knows (who, I believe, worked for Ramparts) went to Oak Cliff and lived for a while "undercover" at 1026 N. Beckley Avenue. While staying there he got some information from a woman identified only as KATE. She stated that OSWALD probably purposely chose to live in that particular rooming house (for reasons not related); she further stated that there was a young man called DON living there at the time of the assassination and probably several months prior to that.

Informant asked MRS. A. C. JOHNSON about DON. She was very evasive, but did affirm that he had lived at the rooming house. She said, "No, he didn't know OSWALD. He went on - just passing through here."

The list of people staying at 1026 N. Beckley Avenue at the time of the assassination, obtained from the National Archives, includes one DONALD GREEN, not further identified.

District Attorney Jim Garrison

September 21, 1967

From: Bill Turner

Subject: Former Dallas Patrolman Harry N. Olsen

On September 19, 1967 I went to the Doctors' Business Bureau, Heartwell Building Room 1210, 19 Pine Street, Long Beach, California, in an attempt to locate Olsen. Al Burns, manager, said Olsen no longer works for the firm but is employed in Orange County. He stated Olsen is trying to start a new life in California and completely sever his ties with Dallas. Burns has Olsen's telephone number at work (he would not say what the company is, but from jottings he made I presume it is Trans Continental), but had promised Olsen he would not give it out because several reporters have tried to find him. Burns reached Olsen by telephone and I talked with him. He did not want to be interviewed, stating everything he knew was in the Warren Commission testimony. I insisted that there have been additional developments which necessitate our talking to him. He asked if I had a subpoena; he did not want to become openly involved. I said no, but I could find him if it were necessary to get a subpoena. He agreed to be interviewed. We arranged to meet at a restaurant at Chapman and Harbor in Garden Grove.

The interview was cordial. Olsen said he himself has had his doubts about the Warren Report and has been following the attacks on the Commission with interest. He remarked that Arlen Specter, the Commission staff member who interviewed him, was singularly unimpressive and did not seem to be searching too hard for facts. He said he declared that Jack Ruby was a homosexual and Specter had it stricken from the record.

Olsen said he has been avoiding reporters because he does not want to get involved in the controversy. However, he is perfectly willing to assist this investigation provided his name is kept out of it. I agreed to proceed on that stipulation.

As a matter of interest, Olsen said one reporter did find him, somehow learning where he worked. The reporter was a Ted Mutch, who said he worked for a Dutch news service. Mutch exhibited a passport and overseas press card, and spoke with an accent. As a contact he left the address of an unnamed friend: 908D 12th St., Santa Monica, Cal., 213-394-3051. Olsen is suspicious of how Mutch found out where he worked, and did not accede to an interview.

The following is the relevant portion of a 1 1/2 hour session with Olsen.

In the summer of 1962 Jack Ruby left Dallas on a supposed trip to Havana via New Orleans to pick up an act. He was gone two weeks, returning without an act and uncharacteristically silent regarding the trip.

The only Cuban Olsen knew to be an associate of Ruby's was a young limbo dancer at the club, name not recalled. The dancer

... Ruby in early 1963 and then back to the United States
... was sponsored by Ruby.

Asked if Ruby spoke Russian, Olsen said he heard him speak
some foreign language, but that it could have been Yiddish.

Asked if he heard the name Jim Braden around Ruby's club,
Olsen said the name was very familiar and he tended to associate
it with a "high-roller" from Houston that Ruby was going to fix
up with a girl.

Olsen stated Ruby had many friends in Houston. He recalled
particularly a man in the outdoor sign business who was always
accompanied by a business associate or bodyguard and drove a white
Cadillac. This man came by the Carrousel off and on for some three
years, and at the end was in the process of selling the sign bus-
iness. Olsen said he was in his late 20s or early 30s.

Olsen advised that a patrolman named Bill Swafford was a
frequent visitor to the Carrousel. The most frequent visitor, he
said, was Gerry Hill (the sergeant who found shell casings at the
Tippit shooting scene and was at the Texas Theatre), to whom Ruby
was always giving six-packs of beer. Hill escorted FBI men to
persons around the Carrousel locale and told the persons, "Tell the
FBI what you know about Ruby." Olsen says that one of these persons
cracked, "Why don't you, you knew him best." (It is noted that Hill
was not questioned by the Commission vis a vis Ruby.)

Olsen did not know the nature of the relationship between
Bertha Cheek and Ruby, but he did say that Cheek obtained many
business leads from a man named O. L. Nelms, a shrewd entrepreneur
who once bought and sold the Sanger-Harris department store, making
\$100,000 on the deal.

Olsen does not know Lewis McWillie. He was only vaguely
familiar with Officer Tippit. He does not know what motorcycle
policeman was particularly friendly with Ruby.

I asked Olsen if he knew Ray Brantley. Yes, he said, that
is the Brantley with Ray's Gun Shop. He was busted once for sale
of an automatic carbine and was sentenced to 1 and a half years.
He feels Brantley would be in on a lot of fast-buck deals.

I asked Olsen about the Abundant Life Temple in Oak Cliff.
He did not know anything about it specifically, but said there
could well have been more going on there than met the eye. He
mentioned a private club on Zangs as a possible place the Tippit
killer could have ducked into. This club can be entered through
a rear door only. It has an old mortuary sign in front, and would
be on the east side of Zangs.

Olsen said that on the day of the assassination he was
guarding a ramshackle house in Oak Cliff, sitting inside. He
said an attorney had hired him to guard the property of a recent
deceased person (this is apparently where some think Olsen
was lying when he said he was guarding an "estate.") He heard the
sirens but did not see anything himself.

Olsen stated that he believed George Senator had been living with Ruby for better than a year, but he lived "off base" a month or two at a time when Ruby would bring home some "boy friend" to live with him.

I displayed an assortment of photographs to Olsen. He picked Gordon Novel as possibly identical to a man he saw leaving Ruby's Carousel one night. He could not be more specific. He picked Jim Hicks as possibly identical with a Jim Lee, who owned a beer joint a block from the Carousel (he no longer owns it). The photograph of Edgar Eugene Bradley evoked a definite response. Olsen is certain he has seen him before, most likely around Ruby's. However, he could not associate a name or activities with the person in the photograph.

Olsen said he was ousted by Chief Currie because it came out that he had been hanging around Ruby's club and going with a Ruby stripper. Asked whether this meant the Dallas police wanted him off the force because this tainted the department or because he might know too much about events peripheral to the assassination, Olsen replied he didn't know for sure but it could have been for both reasons.

By the conclusion of the interview, Olsen expressed a desire to help us in any way possible short of becoming openly involved. I had shown him photographs of Hall, Howard and Seymour, and he thought Hall looked familiar. He asked for copies of the photographs, as well as the photograph of Bradley. I did give him copies of the Hall-Seymour-Howard photos. I would guess that he wanted to show them to his wife, former Ruby stripper Kathy Kay. It is of course possible that he would report back to the FBI or some other agency as to what we are up to, although I am inclined to doubt that this is the case.

I gave Olsen my address and he will be in touch if he learns anything. At some future date it would probably be desirable to reinterview him, as this first interview seems to have only scratched the surface. He is not spontaneous in giving out information and it has to be somewhat pried out of him. Recontact with him must be made through Al Burns as The Doctors Business Bureau in Long Beach.

6