Other Individuals and Organizations Involved in Interview: Brown, John Conrad

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 11/24/63 11-30-63

MR. THOMAS STEWART PALMER, 2728 West Davis, telephone FE 1-3746, employed as branch manager, American Guild Variety Artists, Inc. (AGVA), 1500 Jackson Street, telephone RI 2-8292, voluntarily appeared at the Dallas Office and furnished the following information:

MR. PALMER has been branch manager of AGVA at Dallas since May, 1962. He was preceded in this position by JACK CONRAD BROWN who uses the stage name of ALTON SHARPE, who performs as a magician. BROWN currently resides at 1422 Sedgewick, Chicago, and was branch manager of AGVA, Chicago Branch, from May 1962 until approximately November 21, 1963. BROWN is also a cousin of WILMA E. HUGHES, Secretary AGVA, Dallas.

PALMER advised that at approximately 9 a.m. on November 24, 1963, MRS. HUGHES telephonically advised him she had just talked by telephone to JACK CONRAD BROWN who had asked her to contact PALMER and ask PALMER to deliver a message to JACK RUBY in Dallas. PALMER advised as nearly as he can recall, the exact request which he received was "tell JACK not to send the letter today, it would be awkward in Chicago".

PALMER advised he does not know the significance, if any, of this message and stated the most logical purpose for the message is that JACK CONRAD BROWN was discharged or suspended from his position as branch manager of AGVA in Chicago on about Thursday, November 21, 1963, and the letter referred to in this message may well be a letter which JACK RUBY may have offered to write to other officials of AGVA in behalf of JACK BROWN to petition AGVA to reinstate BROWN.

PALMER advised that in any event, regardless of the purpose, he did not contact and had no intention of contactin JACK RUBY to deliver this message.

He advised following the later incidents which occurred on November 24, 1963, he felt it advisable to contact the FBI and to report his receipt of the request to convey the above message to RUBY.

Commission No. 4

on 11/24/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agents ALFRED C. ELLINGTON and GARY S. WILSON /wvm Date dictated 11/24/63

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He advised JACK CONRAD BROWN is a former resident of Dallas and it is his impression he was employed by the Veterans Administration in Dallas until about three years ago when he perfected a magician's act and became associated with AGVA.

He said he has known JACK RUBY for approximately one and one-half years as the operator of the Carousel Club and in this connection has had contact with RUBY in supplying performers for the entertainment offered by the Carousel Club. He said he has recently learned but cannot confirm that JACK RUBY is not the owner of the Carousel Club but is instead a front man for RALPH PAUL whom he described as a short squat, elderly man who "shacks up" with a TAMMI TRUE. He said he does not know, but may be able to locate, the address of TAMMI TRUE in Fort Worth, Texas. He said he does not know if RALPH PAUL is the actual owner of the Carousel Club.

He advised he has heard from JACK RUBY indications that RUBY considers himself "quite a gambler" and a person who "knows all the angles" but in the only incident which he recalls hearing about involving RUBY's gambling activities was from some source which he does not now recall, he heard that on one particular night, date not recalled, RUBY lost $600 in a card game to an individual who had "shaded" a deck on RUBY and that RUBY was "not even smart enough to know it".

He advised JACK RUBY has a sister named EVE, whose last name is not known by him, who owns or operates the Vegas Club on Oak Lawn Avenue. He remembers one incident possibly six months or a year ago in which JACK RUBY had a disagreement with EVE in which he struck her or slapped her around. He does not remember the reason for this difference but he feels sure it was over money matters.

He advised the only known associates of JACK RUBY are associated with him in the operation of the Carousel Club, these being RALPH PAUL, previously mentioned; GEORGE SENATUR, a roommate of RUBY's who is employed as a doorman at the Carousel Club; and a "colored boy" whose name he cannot recall, but who tends bar at the Carousel Club and upon whom RUBY depends for administrative assistance in managing the business of the club.

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He said he knows of no close association of RUBY with any law enforcement officer but he does know that RUBY has often boasted of his contacts at City Hall, as well as his contacts all over the country.

He said he does recall one incident in which RUBY was involved in a fight at the Burgundy Room at the Adolphus Hotel in which the other party in the fight was taken to the hospital and RUBY was taken to jail. He said later the same night RUBY was released either on bond or otherwise and after getting released was boasting around town about his contacts and stated "if you ever have any trouble (presumably with law enforcement officers) come to see me."

He said in the one and one-half years that he has known RUBY, he has never seen him with a gun and has never received any indiciation from RUBY that he owned or carried a gun.

He said he had never seen or heard any indication from RUBY of any political interests, either national or in city affairs, displayed or voiced, and had the definite feeling that RUBY had no political preferences whatever and was interested only in whether or not he lost any business or money to his competitors.

He said he has not seen or been in contact with RUBY since Monday night, November 18, 1963, when he went by the Carousel Club to pick up the wages due by RUBY to a performer. He said on this occasion RUBY was extremely cool to him and he could think of no reason for this attitude unless it was because he was there to pick up money.

He said he does not know when RUBY came to Dallas but that RUBY has stated he was formerly a labor organizer in Chicago.

He said RUBY is a peculiar person in that he has done many favors for people who were broke or "down and out" and yet he fears these favors were done primarily to impress these persons that he (RUBY) was a man of considerable influence. He said he considers JACK RUBY to be a "schemer" and that he "never does anything, except to engage in fights,

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"without first thinking about it". To his knowledge, RUBY does not confide in anyone and possibly is closer to RALPH PAUL than to anyone else in this area. He said he has heard RUBY mention that he "is RALPH's boy" and that RALPH would like to have him as a son.

He said he has never seen anyone associated with the Carousel Club during his connection with AGVA whom he would consider as a "thug", except that about one year ago an alleged friend of RUBY from Chicago worked for about one week as a doorman and that he considered this fellow to be "a real sharpy". He said he does not remember this man's name but does recall that RUBY said he was a nice guy who was temporarily out of work.

PALMER advised he knows of no reason and can find no logic in the shooting of LEE OSWALD by JACK RUBY on November 24, 1963. He said he has never seen or heard of OSWALD prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY and the ensuing publicity and knows of no association or acquaintances between OSWALD and RUBY.

PALMER advised it is inconceivable to him that JACK RUBY would shoot anyone as a result of any grief which he might feel as a result of the assassination of President KENNEDY since he feels it is not in keeping with the character of RUBY to have or to express any strong feelings in this regard, but that any strong feelings elicited from RUBY usually dealt with the question of whether someone tried to "chisel him out of money".

PALMER advised in the event he secures any additional information which may be helpful in this matter, he will gladly furnish it to this office.

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Other Individuals and Organizations Involved in Interviews

FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date ~~11/25/63~~ 11-30-63

Mrs. WILMA E. HUGHES, Secretary-Representative, American Guild Variety Artists, Inc., (AGVA), 1500 Jackson Street, Dallas, Texas, residence 4413 Cornell Street, Garland, Texas, advised she has been connected with AGVA for a period of a little less than two years. In this capacity she has been acquainted with JACK RUBY, the owner and operator of the Carousel Club inasmuch as AGVA supplies performers for the Carousel Club.

Her contact with RUBY has been on a purely business basis, and she does not recall having ever had a personal conversation with him. In his dealings with her at the AGVA office she has never seen him display any "temper", and she characterized his actions in her office as being gentlemanly and gracious.

She advised she has not seen RUBY for a period of approximately one month, however, has talked with him by telephone possibly ten days ago on which occasion she accepted some message, the nature of which she does not recall, for delivery to TOM PALMER, Branch Manager of AGVA at Dallas.

Mrs. HUGHES advised that the former manager of the Dallas Branch of AGVA at Dallas is ALTON C. SHARPE, also known as Jack C. Brown, who until last week had been more recently employed as the Branch Manager of the Chicago Branch of AGVA. ALTON SHARPE is a cousin of Mrs. HUGHES, and she received a telephone call from him on November 24, 1963, at which time SHARPE advised he had resided in Dallas for several years but was confused by the television publicity given the recent assassination of President KENNEDY in that the reports he had heard described the place of assassination as being at the intersection of Central Expressway and Elm Street. She said his primary purpose as best she can recall in making this call to her was to determine whether the assassination occurred at this intersection inasmuch as he could not recall the building which was described in the publicity given as being located in that vicinity.

During the telephone call from SHARPE and during a period in the call in which Mrs. HUGHES was talking with Mrs. SHARPE, she heard ALTON SHARPE in the background ask his wife to relay a message to Mrs. HUGHES and have her contact JACK RUBY at the Carousel Club and ask him to send a letter to his (SHARPE s) residence rather than to the AGVA office in Chicago inasmuch as SHARPE was no longer employed at the Chicago AGVA Branch. Mrs. HUGHES said she has no idea

Commission No. 4

on 11/25/63 at Garland, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent SA's ALFRED C. ELLINGTON & GARY S. WILSON /cv Date dictated 11/25/63

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Other Individuals and Organizations Involved — Interviewed

Brown John Conrad

FD-302 (Rev. 3-8-63)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

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as to the nature or contents of the letter mentioned but she feels relatively sure it would have some connection with AGVA business.

Mrs. HUGHES advised she has had no contact with RUBY in which RUBY ever expressed any political views and can recall no conversation in which he discussed any subject other than as pertains to his business with AGVA in securing performing artists.

She advised prior to the newspaper and television publicity given the assassination of President KENNEDY and the alleged assassin of President KENNEDY, she had never seen or to her knowledge heard of LEE HARVEY OSWALD and has definitely never seen him in the company of JACK RUBY.

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FD-302 (Rev. 3-3-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Ruby, Jack 2-2

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Date 12/16/63

Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed

THOMAS STEWART PALMER, 2728 West Davis, Apartment 125, in addition to the information given on November 24, 1963, advised that he was the local representative of the AGVA, having taken over from ALTON SHARP, of the same organization, who had left Dallas first for St. Louis and had then been transferred to Chicago. (ALTON SHARP's stage name is JACK CONRAD BROWN)

PALMER stated that WILLIAM DONNELY is the husband of the sister of PALMER's wife. DONNELY lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, and is an engineer on a railroad believed to be the Southern Pacific and his run is made between Las Vegas, Nevada and Los Angeles, California.

PALMER stated that on November 25, 1963, the day after JACK RUBY had shot LEE HARVEY OSWALD and after PALMER had furnished information to the local Dallas FBI Office, that he called WILLIAM DONNELY in Las Vegas. PALMER's purpose in calling DONNELY was to have the information which PALMER possessed in the possession of at least one additional person, in event the information turned out to be significant.

PALMER further stated that when his secretary, Mrs. HUGHES, who is a cousin of BROWN, received the call from ALTON SHARP that PALMER was not sure in his mind whether or not the information could have some significance in relation to RUBY's shooting of OSWALD or whether it related to JACK RUBY's business at the Carousel Club.

From PALMER's experience he stated that RUBY was "always striving to impress people" and in this connection would frequently bypass the local AGVA Office and ALTON SHARP in Chicago and had, on occasion, contacted JOEY ADAMS, the National President in New York City, on some matter that could have been handled locally.

PALMER explained, however, that on the possibility that the information might have been of value to the FBI investigation, he had immediately furnished it to the FBI and stated he did not want to furnish it to any

on 12/13/63 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent LEO L. ROBERTSON, JR. Date dictated 12/14/63

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local authority.

PALMER also stated that from his dealing with RUBY as the AGVA representative he knew that RUBY had the feeling that he was being discriminated against and, for that reason, would probably have contacted Chicago direct.

PALMER concluded that, in the recent shake-ups in the AGVA, BROWN had been relieved of his duties in Chicago and IRVING MAZZEI, West Coast AGVA Representative, had also been "eased" out. In view of the AGVA shake-up and RUBY's known nature, PALMER stated that he was of the opinion that the previously referred to message undoubtedly referred to RUBY's desire to deal with "higher ups" and thereby impress people more.

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