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INSIDE LABOR

Jack Ruby's Life: A Glimpse Into the Underworld's Snake Pit

By Victor Riesel

Washington, D.C.: -- For days I have been wandering through the life and times of Jack Ruby, indicted for the murder of the murderer of John Kennedy. I have traced Ruby, his friends and friends of his friends.

I have been in a snake pit through which have slithered such characters as "Needlenose" Labriola, Paul Jones, goons from Joe Valachi's Cosa Nostra and killers and con-men out of the Chicago Capone combine.

I have found that Ruby's night spot at one time was a haunt of Chicago hoods who came to Dallas to "case it" for its possible "take." They decided they could take at least $18 million a year out of the city from labor rackets and other operations.

From Dallas they planned to expand the business to cover Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Their gall was matched only by their arrogance and disdain. One of them suggested that to prove their toughness they murder four local gamblers, put their bodies in a car and leave it outside police headquarters.

Jones, who was friendly with Ruby now in prison, had broad horizons. One Dallas police lieutenant later told the McClellan Committee that Jones had told him that the group planned to unionize every truck driver in the U.S. Jones said: "When we do that, we can bring industry to its knees, and even the government if we have to...." Jones indicated that his combine thought this was the most important area of their activities.

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