

The Evening Bulletin

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The FBI Files

Oswald Still Appears To Be Lone Assassin

By JOSEPH R. DAUGHEN
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Of The Bulletin Staff

Washington — The 40,000 pages of FBI files on the assassination of John F. Kennedy made public yesterday provided little to support the belief of millions of Americans that the late President was murdered as part of a conspiracy.

The material released by the FBI — largely because of demands of pro-conspiracy theorists under the Freedom of Information Act — tended to reinforce the conclusion of the Warren Commission: that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in gunning down Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas.

Please Turn to Page 4

FBI Opens Its Files To Public

Continued From First Page

Indeed, much of the Warren Commission's report was based on the same investigative data opened yesterday. But this data represents only half of the most massive investigation in FBI history. It does not deal with many of the conspiracy theories that arose after publication of the Warren report in September 1964.

The remaining 40,000 pages — a half ton of paper — concern investigative efforts made after June 1964. These

If there is any FBI evidence to support the various conspiracy theories — that more than one gunman was involved, that Oswald was working for Cuba's Fidel Castro or involved in an anti-Castro plot, that the CIA was implicated — it will have to be found in the files not yet released, if at all.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations, formed in September, 1976, is still chewing over the 14-year-old case. It also is investigating the 1968 murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for which James Earl Ray has been convicted and is serving a life sentence. The committee was created because of continuing public doubt about the investigations of the two killings.

The FBI files do attempt to extinguish a subsidiary conspiracy theory: that Oswald, 24, was himself murdered by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby as part of a plot to prevent the

Ruby Pictured Himself As Underworld Figure

By JOHN J. FARMER
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Washington — He admitted Chicago's most prominent mobsters and dropped their names regularly. But they either never heard of him or scoffed him as a "punk."

He coveted a reputation as a "big shot" with lots of money. But his sleazy night clubs were chronically in financial trouble. His credit rating was "unsatisfactory" and he had less than \$400 in the bank. He squirmed flashy women, liked to be thought of as a "ladies man" and, in the

Please Turn to Page 4

Ruby died in Parklane Hospital of a blood clot of the lung on Jan. 3, 1967. He also had extensive cancer. He was awaiting his second trial for killing Oswald when death came at age 35.

The entire Ruby file, running to 90 volumes, was made public. It contains hundreds of interviews by federal agents trying unsuccessfully to find a link between Ruby and Oswald.

The Ruby inquiry paints a picture of a man unbalanced by distress over the assassination and quotes him as saying of his slaying of Oswald, "somebody had to do it."

"No one else was involved," Ruby told Dallas police, according to the files.

The FBI, which spent at least \$187,000 to prepare the two halves of the Kennedy file for release, would not answer questions about the content of the material. Nor would it elaborate on why three segments had been

of \$4,000.10 for a copy of the file. It permitted newsmen to pursue the documents in an FBI reading room without charge.

The material itself made it clear that the agency expended untold man hours running out thousands of bogus leads about conspiracies from well-intentioned persons as well as from crackpots.

But at the very beginning, the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was concerned about the possibility of a conspiracy. The files show that on Dec. 12, 1963, Hoover said he had talked President Lyndon B. Johnson out of releasing a preliminary Justice Department report stating that Oswald had acted alone.

"I said I personally believe Oswald was the assassin," Hoover said in a memo dated that day. "The second aspect as to whether he was the only man gives me great concern."

*"I'm sure him fully and he told them -
CIA Director John DeLoach...
view in the Mr Dyer he was unable to
whisky bottles on the floor by the
bed."*

Ruby Pictured Self As a Mob Figure

Continued from First Page

words of an acquaintance, "wanted to know everyone in town and wanted everyone to know him."

But he lived alone most of his life, had few friends and was thought by some to be a homosexual.

He admitted authority, especially policemen. But in the end he embarrassed them by murdering their prisoner, Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected assassin of President John F. Kennedy before their eyes in the basement garage of the Dallas police station.

This is the portrait of Jack Ruby that emerges from 90 volumes of investigative material released yesterday by the FBI in connection with the Kennedy assassination.

Ruby, who died in prison Jan. 3, 1967, lives in these FBI documents as a violence-prone, minor figure from the honky-tonk entertainment world of downtown Dallas, who blundered into history by murdering Oswald because he believed that "somebody had to do it."

FBI investigators queried hundreds of persons, relatives of Ruby, business associates and B-girls, neighbors, creditors, Chicago racket figures — in an effort to determine whether there was a link between Ruby and Oswald or between Ruby and organized crime.

In neither case is any link established in some 40,000 pages of FBI files released yesterday. Another 40,000 pages are to be made public in January. These deal with FBI findings after June 1964.

In the reports made public yesterday, person after person who knew Ruby denied knowing Oswald or ever having heard Ruby mention him. And those who knew Oswald reported they

*Rubenstein, had much to tell...
that was favorable of him.*

Friends and acquaintances from his Chicago years remembered Ruby as "Sparky," an excitable, argumentative kid from a poor family who dropped out of Marshall High School in the 1920s to hang around the Lawrence pool hall, work sporadically at carnivals and scalp tickets to Chicago sports shows. All the while hating the nickname, "Sparky."

His mother, Fanny, was described as obese (4-foot, 6-inches and 182 pounds), an "irregular" housekeeper, who wound up in a mental hospital, according to Ruby's cousin, Dr. Hyman L. Rubenstein. Ruby's father is portrayed in the FBI files as a sometimes carpenter who drank.

Threaded through the file is the suggestion of extreme nervousness and emotionalism, a trait in the Rubenstein family. At least one of Ruby's brothers and one sister are portrayed as having required psychiatric treatment.

Ruby himself, according to several witnesses, had a steel plate in his head — the result of a police beating when he tried to crash the second Dempsey-Tunney heavyweight championship fight in Chicago.

Ruby tried a variety of jobs as he grew older — none successfully. He sold punchcards in factories in Chicago and in the East and later hawked newspaper subscriptions for the Hearst chain in San Francisco. He returned to Chicago in the late 1930s where a lawyer friend, Leon Cook, in-

Please Turn to Page 5

At that time, Hoover described Oswald as a "nut," and a member of "the extremist pro-Castro crowd." Oswald had lived in Russia for a time, married a Russian, and belonged to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. However, he also was associated with the anti-Castro movement.

One reason for Hoover's concern was the FBI's obtaining letters from Cuba, at least one of them addressed to Oswald. Two of the letters, ostensibly written by different persons, implied that Oswald had received help from Cuba in the form of money and encouragement.

One letter, signed "Pedro Charles," referred to money paid to Oswald and praised his marksmanship. It was dated 12 days before the assassination but was actually mailed afterward.

A second letter was signed, "Marig del Rosario Molina," was addressed to then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. It accused "Pedro Charles" of masterminding the murder.

Because "both letters were prepared on the same typewriter," Hoover said in a memo, "it appears this matter represents an attempted hoax."

Another item that worried Hoover was a report from an unidentified columnist in Rome, who claimed to have seen a Spanish intelligence report stating the "The assassination of President Kennedy was brought about by Fidel Castro."

This report said that Castro was concerned that the CIA's alleged role in the murder of the Diem brothers in South Vietnam had led the CIA to adopt a policy of changing governments by assassination.

"It (the CIA) might very well be willing to attempt the assassination of Castro in order to bring about a change of government in Cuba," the report described Castro as thinking.

At that time, apparently unknown to Hoover, the CIA was engaged in several plots to murder Castro. But in the FBI files, Hoover's memos show that he felt assured the CIA was cooperat-

ing. According to information developed more than a decade later by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the CIA was actively engaged in trying to kill Castro, going so far as to recruit organized crime figures to do the job. The Senate committee, however, was not able to link Kennedy's assassination to revenge on Castro's part.

On the question of Oswald's being able to fire off three rounds from an ancient Mannlicher-Carcano rifle in the 5.5 seconds established by the Warren Commission as the period of time during which Kennedy was under fire, Hoover said of Oswald that:

"He was a marksman, and it wasn't anything he could not do, that we have tested it on our rifle range and were able to get shots off even faster than he did; that there is no question in my mind about it."

One of the questions raised by Warren report critics was the ability of former Marine Oswald to get off three shots so quickly and still hit a moving target 300 feet away.

About 5 percent of the files made public deal with false leads consistently checked out by the FBI. These came from all over the world — from children and school teachers, government workers and ordinary citizens, and from many crackpots.

An example is a tip that came from Joe Dyer of Flint, Mich., who called the FBI on Dec. 4, 1963, to report that five men in the pay of the Soviets, including a Dallas detective, were behind the killing. On Dec. 5, an FBI agent filed this report:

"Dyer stated he knew all this information because he was 'two headed' and could read people's minds..."

Mrs. Theo Dyer, his wife, had another explanation, the FBI agent noted:

"She said Mr. Dyer receives Social Security checks the third of every month and since Dec. 3, he has been constantly intoxicated," the agent reported. "She stated that when she left for her place of employment at 2:30 P.M. Dec. 4, he was intoxicated and when she returned at approximately midnight Dec. 4 he was still intoxicated."

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had never heard of Ruby before the Kennedy assassination. However, the House Select Committee on Assassinations is known to be investigating reports that Oswald and Ruby were seen together in Ruby's nightclub, "The Carousel."

To check possible mob connections, the FBI even questioned John E. Capone, brother of the late "Scarface Al" Capone, Depression-era don of the Chicago mob.

Neither Capone nor any important mob figure questioned knew Ruby other than as a pool-hall denizen of Chicago's Lawndale district or as a "punk" who was quick and skilled with his fists.

Frank (Burch) Londero, identified as the operator of strip shows on Chicago's North Side in the early 1960s, attacked directly the theory that organized crime had commissioned Ruby to "hit" Oswald to prevent him from identifying others in the "conspiracy."

"Look at it our way," he is quoted as saying. "It's not logical to send a guy (Ruby) to hit a guy (Oswald) who's stood up for 25 hours. You know you can trust a guy who can stand up for 25 hours, but how do you know you can trust the guy you send in to hit him? He might break in half hour."

James E. Dunn of Louisville, Ky., who knew Ruby in Dallas, said the stocky strongman "liked to drop names of Chicago underworld figures" and bragged that he had to leave Chicago because he had "offended some of the big boys." But Dunn theorized that Ruby "was not smart enough to make a living in that field in Chicago."

Not many in Chicago, where Ruby was born March 25, 1911, as Jack

Dallas Club Owner Victim of Obsessions

Continued From Page 4

stalled him as secretary of the scrap iron and junk workers union, one Cook had formed.

Ruby's tenure with the union expired shortly after Cook himself expired in a hail of bullets during a union meeting. Theodore H. Shulman, an executive of Chicago's waste trades industry, which dealt with the union, recalled Ruby's inability to handle complaints calmly.

Ruby, he told the FBI, "would threaten to call a strike and shut down

a company before the grievance could be discussed."

World War II took Ruby into the Air Force for three years where he was awarded a Good Conduct ribbon and permanent assignment in the United States. It was shortly after his release from service that Ruby followed his sister, Eva Grant, to Dallas to help her manage a small nightclub.

In Dallas in 1947 Jack Rubenstein changed his name officially to Jack L. Ruby, adding the middle name Leon in memory of his departed benefactor,

Leon Cook.

In the years between 1947 and November 1963, Ruby operated — either as a front, partner or outright owner — several different Dallas nightclubs, gathering acquaintances mostly among the strippers, B-girls, bouncers, bartenders, policemen, reporters and small-time hoodlums who make up much of any big city's nightlife.

He was arrested nine times on charges ranging from assault to violating local liquor laws, but was convicted only once on a minor charge.

For almost 10 years, Ruby had a steady girl, Alice R. Nichols, who remembered him as someone who worked out regularly at the local YMCA (he was a weightlifter), took good care of himself physically, complained about taxes and was a poor businessman.

No sooner did a business begin to show some signs of success, she said, than Ruby would overexpand and bring on collapse.

Like many others interviewed, she described Ruby as "violent" and "highly emotional." But devoid of strong political views. Indeed, several witnesses, including George Senator, a bachelor neighbor who moved in with Ruby one month before the assassination, said they never heard Ruby mention President Kennedy.

News of Kennedy's assassination, however, seems to have detangled Ruby, according to several witnesses.

His sister, Eva, told the FBI that Ruby was upset even before the shooting by an ad in the Dallas morning news that attacked Kennedy and depicted him surrounded by a thick black border. Ruby, she said, called the Dallas paper to complain and was especially upset that the ad was signed by a Bernard Weisman.

"Is that guy a Jew?" she quoted Ruby as saying. "They ought to whack the hell out of him."

When word of Kennedy's death spread, Ruby seems to have fallen into despair. He closed his two nightclubs, the Vegas and the Carousel, for the weekend. But that night he called radio station KLIP and brought over drinks and sandwiches for the night staff while notifying them that he closed his clubs because, "I'd rather lose \$12,000 to \$15,000 than not be able to live with myself."

He wanted the publicity it appears to assuage his grief.

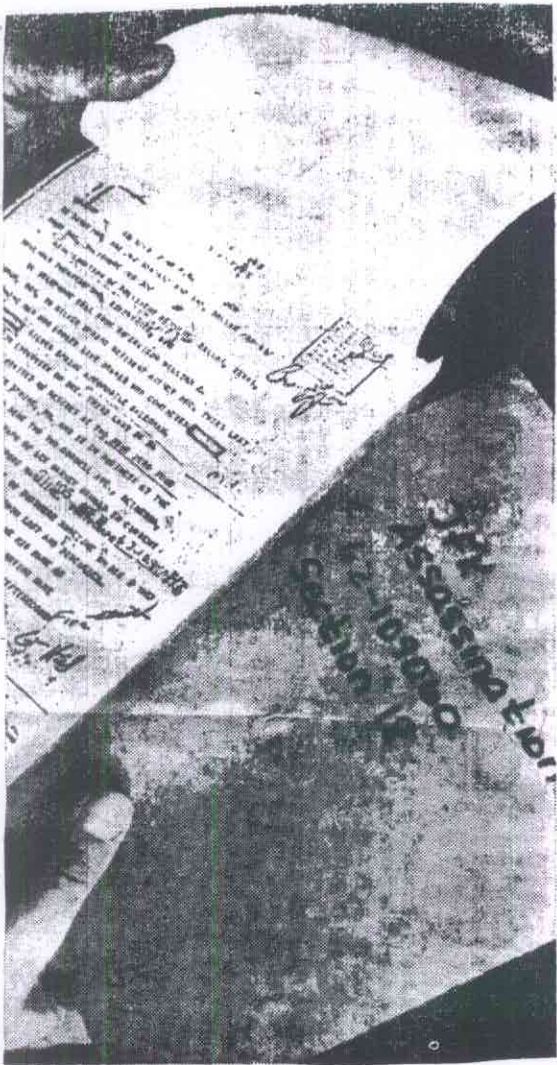
Ruby seems to have stayed up all night Nov. 22d after Kennedy was killed. He called a friend in California, Alexander P. Gruber, to report his distress.

His sister, Eva, was "hysterical," Ruby told Gruber, and he finally ended the call, saying, "I'm crying and can't talk to you anymore," according to the reports.

A day later Ruby killed Oswald with a single shot from a .38-caliber revolver in what he described to police as "a compulsive act" and "a burst of insanity."

Eva Grant, his sister, related how Ruby had talked of Kennedy fondly as "a family man" and of "how much Robert F. Kennedy must want to do something to Lee Harvey Oswald but couldn't." The Dallas police were similarly inhibited, Ruby declared, according to his sister.

But Jack Ruby knew no such inhibitions and he was, in the eyes of most of those who knew him and finally in his own eyes, expendable.



Packets from the FBI files on the assassination of John F. Kennedy that are open to the public.

AP Photo.