

# Assassinology

## Jack Ruby's Cuban Connection

Soho Weekly News  
9/14/78

A.J. Weberman

**Who Was Jack Ruby?**  
By Seth Kantor  
Everest House, \$8.95

Seth Kantor, the author of *Who Was Jack Ruby?*, is an important witness in the Kennedy assassination. Kantor, a Dallas newspaperman, talked to his sometime acquaintance Jack Ruby at Parkland Hospital shortly after President Kennedy was gunned down. Ruby's presence at the hospital indicated he was interested in the assassination even before the President was dead. Kantor's testimony was repudiated by the Warren Commission, which decided he must have been mistaken, despite the fact that it was backed by at least one other witness.

Kantor traces Ruby's career from his early youth in Chicago as a tiny cog in the national organized crime machine and examines his operations in Dallas and, as much as can be traced, in Cuba, giving us a fascinating peek into an underworld that has played an important part in aboveground political and economic events.

Kantor's conclusions are somewhat less credible, in my opinion, than his testimony. He would have us believe that Don Santos Traficante, Meyer Lansky's Mafia henchman in Florida, was actually a member of KGB, the Soviet intelligence service. In this connection Kantor says Don Santos was Ruby's controller and made him an unwitting part of a plot to kill . . . Kennedy. Kantor points to several Bureau of Narcotics documents which cite "unconfirmed rumors" that Santos was working for Fidel. I believe "unconfirmed rumors" probably originated with Santos' competitors. I do not believe Fidel Castro would have any dealings in heroin, as the Bureau of Narcotics document goes on to allege. It is the anti-Castro Cubans who are involved in heroin and cocaine smuggling and who kill each other off over a bigger slice of the pie. Don Santos has a criminal record dating back to his early teens and has achieved the position he has in the national crime syndicate because he was more adept at killing than the rest of his fellow mobsters, not because he is a "Castro-double agent."

Aside from this, *Who Was Jack Ruby?* is a pretty good book. It documents the absurdity of Ruby's killing Oswald "because he had a communistic grin on his face." In readable, understandable fashion, Kantor lists Ruby's associates and fills us in on their mob backgrounds. Most of this information has been previously made available by Dr. Peter Dale Scott, but there are a couple of new things — for example, Kantor discovered that Ruby appeared as a co-signer on loans for several Dallas policemen.

Kantor studies Jack's career as a payoff-man beginning in 1947 when Paul Roland Jones, in charge of taking care of the Dallas Police Department at the time, was busted for importation of Turkish opium. Jack Ruby was questioned about this bust and he told them he had some business dealings with Jones concerning plumbing pipe. Jack

said Jones had sent him a small length of pipe to show around to people in Chicago. No one sells pipe in this fashion. Try going into a plumbing supply house and asking them to lay a "taste" of pipe on you. But try it with your friendly neighborhood connection and you'll get a different reaction.

The first chapter of this book is the best researched: Kantor refutes a hypothesis that I put forth in my book, *Coup D'Etat In America* — I claimed that when Ruby referred to "the Fox brothers" during his testimony on his trips to Cuba before the Warren Commission he was actually referring to the Lansky brothers (Meyer and Jake) because the "Fox" brothers, or any reference to them, could not be found by me or any other researchers, and the description Ruby gave of the "Fox" brothers fit the Lanskys — "left Cuba when Batista came to power," "were the greatest in Cuba," owned casinos, etc.

Kantor was able to locate one of the Fox brothers in the 1958 Havana telephone book and the number listed for him matched the number on an advertisement for a casino Ruby said was owned by the Fox brothers. Researcher William Scott Malone was also able to track them down — he spoke with their widows and was told that they left Cuba in 1961. According to Ruby, the Fox brothers left in January, 1959, immediately after Castro came to power. The Fox brothers were certainly not, as Ruby referred to them, the "greatest in Cuba" — if you ask me they were the obscurist in Cuba. Ruby was smarter than I thought — he didn't invent a name out of whole cloth to use as his metaphor for the Lanskys — instead he used the name of a vague connection from the past.

Dave McCord, the Foxs' attorney, was mentioned by Ruby during his Warren Commission testimony. Kantor

thoroughly researches McCord's background and reveals his connection to the Castle Bank and Trust Company, "a favorite money drop for organized crime bosses." Paul Heliwell, an associate of arms dealer and international assassin Mitchell Stuart Livingston Werbell, was a director of the Castle National Bank of the Bahamas. Heliwell dropped dead of a heart attack just before he was supposed to testify before a Miami Grand Jury regarding the Bank.

This book makes a significant contribution to the study of Jack Ruby, the man who had to carry out a contract on Lee Harvey Oswald after his boy, Officer Tippett, failed. If you disregard the nonsense about Commie-gangsters, I believe it adds up to a CIA/Mafia job in Dealy Plaza. The Agency kills the President and the mob takes out the patsy.

When Ruby stepped out of the crowd with his snub-nose 38 pointed at Oswald's stomach, a national crime syndicate member became exposed to close public scrutiny. Ruby had no idea that he would have to carry out the contract on Oswald until November 22, 1963, so his phone records, associations, movements, etc., are all highly incriminating. Kantor takes you through this fascinating world in 220 pages.