

JL; Ron Kesler did call me back on today's (his) "FBI Had Eye On Jack Ruby As Informant" story. He wrote the story even though someone at the conference had passed him a note saying that stuff was available in 1965. The rest he said was all old and unproved Mafia allegations. (I told him the actual story of these reports) He went because he'd been assigned. Lardner is on vacation. The fact that there was any reporting confirms Lane's judgement that with a few respected names and crazy, old stuff he can get some attention. EM 7/25/75

FBI Had Eye On Jack Ruby As Informant

Part 715178
The FBI attempted unsuccessfully in 1959 to develop Jack Ruby as an informant, according to a letter from former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover released yesterday by author Mark Lane.

Lane charged at a press conference that the letter had been suppressed by the Warren Commission, which made no reference in its report to the FBI's contacts with Lee Harvey Oswald's killer.

Lane said the letter had been in a classified portion of the commission's exhibits and was obtained by him last week.

An FBI spokesman said the letter was part of the Warren Commission exhibits, but had no further comment.

The letter, addressed to J. Lee Rankin, the commission's general counsel, says an FBI agent contacted Ruby "in view of his position as a night club operator who might have knowledge of the criminal element in Dallas."

"The purpose of this contact," the letter continued, "was to determine whether or not Ruby did have such knowledge, and if so, if he would be willing to furnish information to this bureau. Ruby was advised of the FBI's jurisdiction in criminal matters, and he expressed a willingness to furnish information."

The letter added, "Between March 11, 1959, and Oct. 2, 1959, Ruby was contacted on eight other occasions, but he furnished no information whatever and further contacts with him were discontinued."