

Mr. Edward Higgins  
Mr. J. Lee Burton *JTB*

I wish to suggest that the Commission should interview both of us on an off the record basis, so that we can supply greater details as to each matter covered and also answer questions which the news might raise.

Leon J. Hibert Jr.  
Burt H. Griffin

647 May 14, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

May 15, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Leon B. Hibert Jr.  
Burt W. Griffin

SUBJECT: Advisory of Ruby Investigation

1. Past Recommendations. In memoranda dated February 19, February 24, February 27, and March 11, we made various suggestions for extending the investigation initiated by the FBI in connection with the Oswald homicide. Some of the suggestions were accepted and action taken. Many were not. We have not pursued the matter largely because since the middle of March, almost 100% of our time has been occupied with the Dallas depositions and their sequellae. The following summarizes our view at this time with respect to appropriate further investigation.

2. General Statement of Areas Not Adequately Investigated. In reporting on the murder of Lee Oswald by Jack Ruby, we must answer at least advent to three questions:

- a) Why did Ruby kill Oswald;
- b) Was Ruby associated with the assassin of President Kennedy;
- c) Did Ruby have any confederates in the murder of Oswald?

It is our belief that, although the evidence gathered so far does not clearly show a conspiratorial link between Ruby and Oswald, or between Ruby and others, the evidence also does not clearly exclude the possibilities that:

- a) Ruby was indirectly linked through others to Oswald;
- b) Ruby killed Oswald, because of fear; or
- c) Ruby killed Oswald at the suggestion of others.

3. Summary of Evidence Requiring Further Investigation. The following facts suggest the necessity of further investigation:

1. Ruby had time to engage in substantial activities in addition to the management of his club. Ruby's night club business usually occupied no more than five hours of a normal working day which began at about 12:00 a.m. and ended at 2:00 a.m. It was his practice to spend an average of only one hour a day at his club between 12:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. The disposition was confined primarily to persons familiar to Ruby's club activities. The FBI has thoroughly investigated Ruby's night club operations but does not seem to have placed any link between his club and other activities. The basic materials do seem to refer to such other activities (see p. 27 of your report of February 13), but these are general and all-around and were not explored to determine whether they involved any unifying criminal purpose. It seems they pointed in such a manner as to permit a determination as to how much of Ruby's time they occupied.

2. Ruby has always been a person who looked for money-making "sidehustles". In the two months prior to November 23, Ruby apparently spent considerable time promoting an exercise device known as a "Vital Board". The "Vital Board" was purportedly manufactured by Plastallite Engineering, a West Coast manufacturer of oil field equipment which has poor credit references and was the subject of an FBI investigation in 1952. He made no sales of this item by Ruby nor do we know if any "Vital Boards" were manufactured for sale. The possibility remains that the "Vital Board" was a front for some other illegal enterprise.

3. Ruby has long been close to persons promoting illegal activities. Although Ruby had no known ideological or political affiliations (see p. 27 of your report of February 13), there is some evidence that he was interested in Cuban matters. In early 1957, Ruby engaged concerning the smuggling of persons out of Cuba. He has admitted that, at that time, he negotiated for the sale of Jews to Cuba. In September 1958, Ruby visited Havana at the invitation of Jose Vegas Rodriguez, Louis J. No. 112, who paid Ruby's expenses for the trip and who was later expelled from Cuba by Castro. No. 112 is described by Ralph Felt, Ruby's business partner, as one of Ruby's closest friends. Ruby called a job in No. 112 in early 1958. In 1958, it is reported that Ruby attended three meetings in Havana in connection with the sale of arms to Cuba and the smuggling out of refugees. The informant identifies an 84 number as Ruby's associate in this endeavor. Shortly after his arrest on November 23, Ruby named Frank Bremer as one of his expected associates. Bremer did not represent Ruby, however. Bremer's investigation has been conducted to establish if Ruby had contact about meetings in 1958. When Harry Gold testified to the Court on November 23, 1958 that Bremer was a member of the Jose Vegas Committee, Ruby corrected Gold by stating that the Jose Vegas Committee was the name they gave Jose Rodriguez. There is a difference. The Jose Vegas Committee is an existing anti-Castro organization, and Ruby, brother of Sam Ruby, sent an unregistered telegram to Bremer in April 1958. In addition, it is a reasonable possibility that Ruby has maintained a close liaison in Cuban affairs to the extent necessary to participate in gun or in smuggling.

g. Ruby had time to engage in substantial activities in addition to the management of his club. Ruby's night club business usually occupied an average of five hours of a normal working day which began at about 10:00 a.m. and ended at 2:00 a.m. It was his practice to spend an average of only one hour a day at his club between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The dispositions were confined primarily to persons familiar to Ruby's club activities. The FBI has thoroughly investigated Ruby's night club operations but does not seem to have planned with his other business or social activities. The basic materials do seem necessary to such other activities (see p. 27 of our report of February 22), but these are casual and collateral and were not explored to determine whether they involved any underlying sinister purpose. It was the purpose of this matter as to permit a determination as to how much of Ruby's time they occupied.

h. Ruby has always been a person who looked for money-making opportunities. In the two months prior to November 22, Ruby supposedly spent considerable time granting an estimated seven hours as a "paid board". The "paid board" was purportedly manufactured by Plastalite Engineering, a West Coast manufacturer of all field equipment which has had credit references and was the subject of an FBI investigation in 1954. It was at no time of this time by Ruby nor at no time if any "paid boards" were manufactured for sale. The possibility remains that the "paid board" was a front for some other illegal enterprise.

i. Ruby has long been about to pursue pursuing illegal activities. Although Ruby had no known ideological or political interests (see p. 23 of our report of February 22), there is much evidence that he was interested in Cuban matters. In early 1959, Ruby frequented concerning the smuggling of persons out of Cuba. He has admitted that, at that time, he accepted the role of judge for Castro. In September 1959, Ruby visited Havana at the invitation of Juan Vazquez, Juan J. Castillo who paid Ruby's expenses for the only and who has later recalled that Ruby by Castro. Castillo is described by John Paul, Ruby's business partner to one of Ruby's closest friends. Ruby visited again to Castillo in early 1960. In 1961, it is reported that Ruby attended these meetings in Havana in connection with the role of some to Havana and the smuggling out of persons. The informant identifies as an informant as Ruby's associate in this endeavor. Shortly after his arrest on November 22, Ruby named that person as one of his closest associates. Bureau files also reported Ruby, however. Informant's investigation has been conducted to contact or Ruby's reports about meetings in 1961. From Henry Wade informant in the report on November 22, 1963 that Oswald was a member of the Juan Vazquez. Ruby corrected him by stating that the Juan Vazquez Committee was not for Cuba Committee. There is a difference. The Juan Vazquez Committee is an existing anti-Castro organization. Ruby, brother of John Ruby, sent an unregistered telegram to Havana in April 1961. It stated that a responsible possibility exists that Ruby has maintained a close contact in Cuban affairs to the extent necessary to participate in the work of smuggling.

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1. Bits of evidence link Ruby to others who may have been interested in Cuban affairs. From Ruby's car was seized on November 22nd, it contained various right-wing radio articles issued by H. L. Hunt and a copy of the Wall Street Journal bearing the mailing address of a man who has not yet been identified. In May 1963, Earl Ruby, operator of a city cleaning business, is known to have telephoned the Helen Gandy Gregory (owner of the founder of John Birch Society). The purpose of the call is unknown. Jack Ruby's personal notebook contained the Massachusetts telephone number and address of Thomas Hill, former Dallas resident, working at the Boston headquarters of the John Birch Society. Although it is most likely that all of these bits of circumstantial evidence have innocent explanations, none has yet been explained.

2. Although Ruby did not witness the entrance of George Dallas, he may have had a prior interest in the President's visit. A November 21 edition of the Fort Worth Telegram showing the President's proposed route through Fort Worth, and the November 20 edition of the Dallas Morning News showing the President's route through Dallas, were found in Ruby's car on November 24.

3. On November 14 Jack Ruby met at the Carousel Club with Martha Check, sister of Mrs. Barbara Roberts, manager of Lee Oswald's rooming house. Mrs. Check said that she and Ruby discussed how landing Ruby money to open a new night club. Ruby was not questioned about this matter. On November 20, 1963, a woman, who may be identical to Barbara Roberts, was reported to be in San Antonio at the time of President Kennedy's visit. The possible identification of Mrs. Roberts in San Antonio has not been checked out. In addition, the link formed by Mrs. Roberts between Oswald and Ruby is buttressed in some measure by the fact that one of Ruby's employees acted as a tenant of the Beckley Street rooming house during the tenure of Lee Oswald. It has previously suggested the theory that Ruby and Mrs. Check could have been involved in Cuban news which Oswald gained knowledge through his contacts to infiltrate the anti-Castro cause. Our notes concerning the work of Mrs. Check in Jack Ruby stem from the fact that one of her own husbands was a convicted felon and one of her friends was a police officer who married one of Ruby's single-house owners. We have suggested that Ruby might have killed Oswald out of fear that Oswald might disclose Ruby and his friends falsely or not in an effort to save his own life. We think that neither Oswald's Cuban interests in Dallas nor Ruby's Cuban activities have been adequately explained.

4. Ruby made an attempt to make contact on November 21 and 22 with persons known and unknown, who could have been assisting Oswald. Ruby was visited in Dallas from November 21 to November 24, 1963 by Lawrence Meyer of Chicago. Meyer had visited Ruby the week just past. Ruby also made a long distance call shortly after the President's arrival to Earl Greber in Los Angeles. Greber had visited Ruby about the same time as Meyer in early November. Both Greber and Meyer give innocent explanations. Meyer claims he was in Dallas enjoying life with a "hook

not commencing work. Frank stated that he would not call a day later, as he had promised to do. Finally between 11:30 p.m. and midnight, Saturday, November 23, they made a series of brief long distance phone calls commencing with a call to Georgetown from Paul's friend's home in Galveston. Will stated that he called to compliment him for calling off his (Will's) dog at the Adelphi Hotel in Dallas. Subsequent checks have not been made in these respects.

It is felt, as believed that the possibility exists, based on evidence already available, that Ruby was involved in illegal dealings with other subjects who might have had contact with Oswald. The nature of such dealings can only be ascertained since the present investigation has not focused on that area.

It is suggested that these matters should be left "hanging in the air". They were either to be explored further or a firm decision must be made not to do so supported by stated reasons for the decision. As a general matter we think the investigation deficient in these respects:

- (1) Substantial time segments in Ruby's daily routine from September 26 to November 22 have not been accounted for.
- (2) Most of persons who saw Ruby from November 21 to November 24 have not been questioned by staff at home, although there are FBI reports of interviews with all these people.
- (3) Persons who have been interviewed because of known associations with Ruby generally have not been investigated themselves so that their truthfulness can be evaluated. The FBI reports specifically do not attempt evaluation. The exception has been that where the FBI has been given substantiating evidence against Ruby, it has made further investigation to determine whether others might also be implicated with Ruby. In every case where there was some evidence implicating others, those other persons have not been interviewed and their possible involvement investigated. Further investigation has not been undertaken to resolve the conflicts.
- (4) Much of our knowledge of Ruby comes from his friends Andrew Armstrong, Walter Paul, George Spector and Larry Conrad. Investigations have not been conducted to corroborate their claims.

#### Specific Investigation Recommendations

1. We should obtain copies of all papers found on Ruby's

... in his car, or at his home or office, nor in possession of the Dallas District Attorney. He already has photos of Ruby's address books, but no other items have been photographed or delivered to the Commission. These items include the A. L. Black literature and newspapers mentioned in paragraphs 21 and 22.

12. We should conduct staff interviews or take depositions with respect to Ruby's Cuban activities of the following persons:

1. Robert Ben Johnson. Ruby contacted Johnson in 1954 in connection with the sale of Jews to Cuba. The objective of an interview or deposition of Johnson would be to obtain information on possible contacts Ruby would have made after 1957 if his interest in current sales continued.

2. Janet Patten. Patten claims she met with Ruby three times in 1961 concerning refugee smuggling and arms sales. She says she can identify the house in Dallas where meetings took place. Patten now lives in Boston. Ruby admits he was once interviewed in the sale of Jews, at least, to Cuba.

3. We should obtain reports from the CIA concerning Ruby's connections. The CIA has been requested to provide a report based on a memorandum delivered to them March 13, 1964 concerning Ruby's background including his possible Cuban activities, but a reply has not been received at yet.

4. We should obtain reports from the FBI based on requested investigation of allegations suggesting that Erlene Roberts was in San Antonio on December 21.

5. The Commission should take the testimony of the following persons for the reasons stated:

1. Joan Johnson

2. [Name]

3. [Name]

13. Any children of Jack Ruby. Ryan is the oldest child and presumably will be the best witness as to family history. He talked to Jack on December 27, reportedly visited Jack the week before the assassination, and participated in Ruby's trial court hearings. He lived with Jack and Ryan in California prior to World War II, returned with Jack to Dallas in 1947, and sprayed the wages due for Jack in Dallas from 1947 to 1961. Ryan was a travelling salesman with Jack from 1941 - 1947; he was partner 1947-1947, and he is phone calls before December 21, 1963 and afterwards which require explanation.

11. **Kurtz Note.** This person was tortly in the develop-  
ment of the testimony by Sgt. Dean and Det. [unclear]  
against Ruby and of making Ruby on November 22 in the  
Police Department building.

12. **Jack Ruby**

13. He should take the deposition of the following persons  
for the reasons stated:

1. **Mr. [unclear].** This person is one of Ruby's original  
strawmen, and is reported to have been in the police  
backroom at Fort Worth before Oswald was shot and to  
have inspired [unclear] and been moved. He filed a  
copy of his notes against Ruby about and after the  
shooting of Oswald. He could explain some  
activities and possibly tell us about the Ruby trial.  
He should have these explanations.

2. **Mr. [unclear].** This person interviewed Ruby for  
at least on November 21 beginning at approximately  
12 noon. His report is in [unclear] to Sgt. Dean's  
trial notebook. He also interviewed Ruby on December  
23, 1963.

3. **Mr. [unclear].** This person was interviewed twice by the  
FBI and purports in his notes that he saw Ruby at  
Parkland Hospital shortly before or after the President's  
death was announced. Ruby denies that he was ever at  
Parkland Hospital. We must decide who is telling the  
truth, for there would be considerable significance  
if it were concluded that Ruby is lying. Should we  
make an attempt to find out who is correct?

4. **Mr. [unclear].** This person claims to have been [unclear]  
of the General Club prior to November 22, and that  
some [unclear] have been given [unclear]  
[unclear]. Should we evaluate [unclear]  
[unclear] on the basis of FBI records?

2. The FBI should re-interview the following persons for the  
purposes stated:

1. **Mr. [unclear].** To obtain personal history to see if he  
original meeting and subsequent contacts with [unclear]  
to obtain details of what he called in November 2003 [unclear],  
where he stayed, how long, who saw him, etc. The FBI  
should also check his own files on Oswald.



14. James H. ... (See as before)

14. Mr. ... (KID reported) ... happened to first contact ... on November 22 or 23; ... provided information to KID ... the location of ... (Cathy), and whether KID gave any instructions to ... to ... on the ... of November 22-24.

15. John ... ... at the Synagogue and ... of other persons who may have seen ... at the Synagogue on November 22 and 23. ... states that he saw ... at ... on November 22 and at ... on November 23; ... of these services lasted at least two hours and he does not know whether ... was present for the entire service. ... could "place" ... on ... during ...

16. Miss ... (See as before plus employment in ...)

16. Jack ... This person was an ... at the ... at the time of ... KID's ... He called ... on November 23, 1963. He also visited ... on ... he ... should be ... to this person.

17. James ... ...

These six persons were ... at length ... of their ... with ... and ... on November 22, 23 and 24. In general, ... had no knowledge of ... during these three days.

... and ... of the ... and ... with ... The ... KID's ... and ... on November 22 and 23. A ... should be ... and ... of the ... should be ... to ...

... and ... were the ... of a ... which ... by ... before ... KID. ... should be ... of the ...

...been making... on November 21. Although we tend to believe his statements, we believe a background check on his past activities of some of his activities on November 21 are warranted.

Paul is Ruby's business partner. A background check should be conducted on to him and his telephone calls during November should be checked out.

Edna Senter, Ruby's mother, alleged by Oswald to be a Communist, should not be have seen Ruby except at their apartment Sunday morning and for a few hours early Saturday morning. Senter's background and own activities on November 22, 23 and 24 should be verified.

5. Other areas of Ruby investigation which are not completed:

- a. Various rumors link Ruby and Oswald which do not appear to be true; however, the material we have are not sufficient to dismiss them satisfactorily. Such rumors include:
  - i. Communist connections of Ruby;
  - ii. Oswald's use of a Cadillac believed to belong to Ruby;
  - iii. After the deposition of Nancy Parris, Robert Williams and Sylvia Davis have been taken, further investigation may be necessary with respect to Ruby's Cuban connections.
- b. Ruby's notebook contains numerous names, addresses and telephone numbers. Many of these persons have either not been located or does not know Ruby. We believe further investigation is appropriate in some instances. However, we have not yet analyzed the reports nor on hand.
- c. We have no expert evidence as to Ruby's mental condition; however, we will check transcripts of the psychiatric testimony at the Ruby trial.

6. Comparison of Ruby and Oswald investigative efforts.

Reports have been taken from late this one-occurrence of the parties... to have taken 4 or more Ruby on November 22 and 23... occurred in connection with the Oswald investigation... should consider the work of the staff... and historical records. Party-all... are involved including persons listed in paragraph 3 i. (ii) above.

7. Other Investigative Suggestions. We have suggested in various paragraphs that the sources of additional material have been identified.

8. Radio and Movie Recordings. The Dallas radio stations have recorded every minute of the time on November 21, 22 and 23. We have obtained these radio tapes for all except a portion of November 22, and the tapes include a number of interviews with key witnesses in the Dallas area. In addition, the tapes shed considerable light on the manner in which Dallas police officials and Federal agents conducted the investigation and conducted in public view. We believe that similar radio tapes and movie films should be obtained from DFW, CDF, DCF, DFI and DAVIATA Head, and relevant portions should be reviewed by staff members. Witnesses appear on these films who have been considered by the Commission in preparing its report, a copy of such witnesses' statements should be made a part of the Commission records by interviewing with its witnesses. If one person were directed to superintend and manage this effort, we believe it could be done without unreasonable expenditure of Commission time and money.

9. Hotel and motel registrations, and the passenger manifests, and Immigration and Immigration records.

Copies of Dallas hotel and motel registrations and airline manifests to and from Dallas should be obtained for the period September 24 to December 1, 1961. Similarly, Immigration and Immigration records should be obtained for the period October 1, 1961 to January 1, 1962. We believe that these records will provide a useful tool in our witness inquiries after the Commission publishes its report. We do not suggest that these records necessarily be examined by the Commission staff at the present time. Only, for example, it is likely that in one district, persons will have been in Dallas during the critical period and they will claim to have important information. These persons will come to Dallas or return their claims.