

May 11, 1964

TO: Mr. J. Lee Rankin

FROM: Leon D. Hubert Jr.,  
Burt W. Griffin

SUBJECT: Murder of Ruby Investigation.

1. Final 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 pressed 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 represents our view at this time with respect to appropriate further investigation.

2. General Statement of Issues Not Hitherto Investigated. In reporting on the murder of Lee Oswald by Jack Ruby, we must at least advert to these 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 make clear a conspiratorial link between Ruby and Oswald, or between Ruby and others, the evidence also does not clearly exclude the possibility 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 Demanding 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 of his night 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. His deposition was confined primarily to pastime activities at 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 material in this reference to such other activities (see p.27 of our report of February 10, 1954) has been reviewed and collected and was not explored to determine whether they involved any underlying criminal purpose. Was there any profit 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 "ventures". In the late winter prior to November 23, Ruby apparently spent considerable time planning an enterprise which he called a "Joint Board". The "Joint Board" was purportedly manufactured by Plastiline Engineering, a West Coast manufacturer of all field equipment which has poor credit references and was the subject of an FBI investigation in 1952. He has no sales of this item by Ruby nor do we have if any "Joint Board" was manufactured for sale. The possibility remains that the "Joint Board" was a front for some other illegal enterprise.

3. Ruby has long been close to persons pursuing illegal activities. Although Ruby had no known ideological or political interests (see p.25 of our report of February 10), there is much evidence that he was interested in Cuban matters. In early 1957, Ruby frequented concerning the smuggling of persons out of Cuba. He has admitted that, at that time, he spent a lot of time in Cuba. In September 1957, Ruby visited Miami at the invitation of his Cuban contact, Louis J. ... who told Ruby's reasons for the trip and who was later expelled from Cuba by Miami. ... is described by Ruby as Ruby's business partner on one of Ruby's ... trips. Ruby visited a ... in Miami in early 1958. In 1958, it is reported that Ruby attended these activities in Miami in connection with the sale of arms to Cuba and the smuggling of ... of refugees. The informant identifies as ... on Ruby's activities in this endeavor. Shortly after his arrest on November 23, Ruby stated that ... as one of his expected witnesses. However, this was expressed by Ruby, however, insufficient investigation has been conducted to confirm or deny the report about meetings in 1958. When Harry Gold was arrested on the 23rd of November 23, 1957 that Gold was a contact of the ... Ruby corroborated this by stating that the ... Committee, the ... Ruby has this Committee. There is a difference. The ... Office ... in its existing and future organization. But Ruby, ... of ... Ruby, and an ... telegram to Havana in April 1958. It ... that a reasonable possibility exists that Ruby has maintained a close contact in Cuba, either to the extent necessary to participate in the sale of ...

f. Bits of evidence link Ruby to others who may have been interested in Cuban affairs. When Ruby's car was seized on November 23rd, it contained various right-wing radio scripts 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 dry cleaning business, is known to have telephoned the Welch Candy Company (owned by 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 Dallas 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.

g. Although Ruby did not witness the motorcade through Dallas, he may have had a prior interest in the President's visit. A November 20 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.

h. On November 16 Jack Ruby met at the Carousel Club with Bertha Check, sister of Mrs. Barbara Roberts, manager of Lee Gould's rooming house. Mrs. Check said that she and Ruby discussed her leading Ruby away 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 Gould and Ruby is buttressed in some measure by the fact that one of Ruby's strippers dated a tenant of the Beckley Street rooming house during the tenure of Lee Gould. We have previously suggested the theory that Ruby and Mrs. Check could have been involved in Cuban arms sales of which Gould gained knowledge through his contacts to infiltrate the anti-Castro Cubans. Our doubts concerning the real interest of Mrs. Check in Jack Ruby stem from the fact that one of her four husbands was a convicted felon and one of her friends was a police officer who worked one of Ruby's strip-tease saloons. We have suggested that Ruby might have killed Gould out of fear that Gould might implicate Ruby and his friends falsely or not in an effort to save his own life. We think that neither Gould's Cuban interests in Dallas nor Ruby's Cuban activities have been adequately explained.

i. Ruby made or attempted to make contacts on November 22 and 23 with persons known and unknown, who could have been co-conspirators. Ruby was visited in Dallas from November 21 to November 24, 1963 by Lawrence Wayne of Chicago. Wayne had visited Ruby two weeks previously. Ruby also made a long distance call shortly after the President's death to Sam Guber in Los Angeles. Guber had visited Ruby about the same time as Wayne in early November. Both Guber and Wayne give identical explanations. Wayne claims he was in Dallas enjoying life with a "chick

but accompanying travel. Orin claims they called to say he would not mail a dog that day, as he had promised to do. Finally between 11:30 p.m. and 12 midnight, Saturday, November 23, Ruby made a series of brief long distance phone calls culminating with a call to entertainer Brock Hall at a friend's house in Galveston. Hall claims Ruby called to scold him for calling off his (Hall's) dog at the Adlon Hotel in Dallas. Background checks have not been made on these persons.

2. In short, we believe that the possibility exists, based on evidence already available, that Ruby was involved in illegal dealings with Cuban elements who might have had contact with Oswald. The existence of such dealings can only be ascertained since the present investigation has not focused on that area.

3. We suggest that these matters cannot be left "hanging in the air". They must either be explored further or a firm decision must be made not to do so supported by stated reasons for that decision. As a general matter we think the investigation sufficient in these respects:

- (1) Substantial time-reports in Ruby's daily routine from September 26 to November 22 have not been accounted for.
- (2) About 40 persons who saw Ruby from November 21 to November 24 have not been questioned by staff members, although there are FBI reports of interviews with all these people.
- (3) Persons who have been interviewed because of known connections with Ruby generally have not been investigated themselves so that their truthfulness can be evaluated. The FBI reports specifically do not attempt evaluation. The strategy has been that where the FBI has been given incriminating evidence against Ruby, it has made further investigation to determine whether others might also be implicated with Ruby. In cases where there have been no such implicating others, those other persons were not interviewed and denied the incriminating allegations. Further investigation has not been undertaken to resolve the conflicts.
- (4) Much of our knowledge of Ruby comes from his friends Andrew Armstrong, Edith Paul, George Scharer and Jerry Gifford. Investigations have not been undertaken to corroborate their claims.

#### Specific Investigative Recommendations:

- a. We should obtain photos of all property found on Ruby's

person, in his car, or at his home or club, now in possession of the Dallas District Attorney. We already have photos of Ruby's address books, but no other items have been photographed or delivered to the Commission. These items include the H. I. Hunt literature and newspapers mentioned in paragraphs 21 and 22.

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

1. Robert Lee McKean. Ruby contacted McKean in 1954 in connection with the sale of Jews to Cuba. The objective of an interview or deposition of McKean would be to obtain information on possible contacts Ruby would have made after 1954 if his interest in armament sales continued.
2. Anna Ruzin. Ruzin claims she met with Ruby three times in 1942 concerning refugee smuggling and other sales. She says she can identify the house in Dallas where meetings took place. Ruzin now lives in Boston. Ruby admits he was once incarcerated in the sale of Jews, at least, to Cuba.

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 17, 1964 concerning Ruby's background and possible Cuban activities, but a reply has not been received to date.

3. We should obtain reports from the FBI based on reported investigation of allegations regarding that Russian Embassy was in the episode on November 21.

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

1. Anna Ruzin  
San Diego  
East Side

2. the meetings of Jack Ruby. Anna is the oldest child and presumably the best witness as to family history. He talked to Jack in Dallas, reportedly visited Jack the week before the assassination, and participated in Ruby's first Cuban contacts. She lived with Jack in a house in California prior to World War II, induced Jack to come to Dallas in 1947, and managed the home club for Jack in Dallas from 1948 to 1953. That was a traveling salesman with Jack from 1941 - 1942; she was partner 1943-1947, and was a sales girl before November 21. All the statements that require explanation.

ii. **Jack Hall.** This person was factily to the development of the testimony by Sgt. Dean and Det. Anderson against Ruby and of making Ruby on November 21 in the Police Department building.

iii. **Jack Hall.**

1. He should take the depositions of the following persons for the reasons stated:

i. **Tom Henson.** This person is one of Ruby's original witnesses, and is reported to have been in the police basement at that time before Oswald was shot and to have observed if Oswald had been moved. He filed a writ of habeas corpus for Ruby about one hour after the shooting of Oswald. He could explain these activities and possibly tell us about the Ruby trial. We should have these explanations.

ii. **Bill Lusk.** This person interviewed Ruby for 2 1/2 hours on November 21 beginning at approximately 11 a.m. His report is contradictory to Sgt. Dean's trial testimony. He also interviewed Ruby on December 21, 1963.

iii. **Bob Martin.** This person was interviewed twice by the FBI and possible in his claim 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 evaluation without making further research?

iv. **Bill Dean.** This person claims to have seen Oswald at the General Club prior to November 22, and that these parties were then any other has been given wide circulation. Should we evaluate Dean's credibility solely on the basis of FBI reports?

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

i. **Bill Martin.** He should present history to establish original meeting and subsequent contacts with Ruby; he should advise of visit to Dallas in November 1963 including where he stayed, how long, and how late, etc. The FBI should also check the gun files in Dallas.

ii. William Sullivan. (Same as Order)

iii. Sam Dean. (KLIIF reporter) To ascertain how he happened to first contact Ruby on November 22 or 23, 1963 (Ruby provided information to KLIIF concerning the location of Chief Curry), and whether KLIIF gave any instructions to Ruby to work for it on the weekend of November 22-23.

iv. Bill Silberman. To establish when Silberman met Ruby at the Synagogue and obtain names of other persons who may have seen Ruby at the Synagogue on November 22 and 23. Silberman states that he saw Ruby at the 6 P.M. service on November 22 and at the 9 A.M. service on November 23; but both of these services lasted at least two hours and he is not sure whether Ruby was present for the entire services. Silberman (and others) could "place" Ruby, or fail to do so, during critical hours.

v. Walter King. (Same as Order plus employment in Dallas.)

vi. Frank Hall. This person was an entertainer at the Adelphi Hotel, Dallas, at the time of President Kennedy's assassination. Ruby called him in Galveston at 11:47 p.m. Sunday, November 23, 1963. He also visited Ruby at the County jail. A background check should be conducted on this person.

vii. James Lawrence, James Paul, James Barrett, Charles, George Lawrence, Richard, William Paul, George.

These six persons were reported as having business or other relationship with Ruby, including with Ruby's personal and business affairs, and contacts with Ruby on November 22, 23 and 24. In general, each was professed to have had no knowledge of Ruby's activities during those three days.

James Paul was with Ruby during the operation of the Curran and worked closely with Ruby for 16 months. His deposition covers Ruby's activities and activities state generally and particularly several hours on November 22 and 23. A background check should be conducted on this person and selected parts of his testimony should be checked and to test his veracity.

James and Doris Corbin were the registrants of a 1955 Chevy which was bought by Ruby approximately 5 months before Ruby shot Oswald. Margaret O could testify that she believed she knew Doris Corbin. Background checks should be conducted on the Corbins.

Witnesses have been interviewed and testimony recorded November 27. Although we tend to believe his explanation, we believe a background check on his past verification of some of his activities on November 27 and 28 is warranted.

Final to Ruby's business partner. A background check should be conducted as to him and his telephone calls during December should be checked out.

George Senter, Ruby's associate, alleged by Conrad to be a homosexual, claims not to have seen Ruby except at their apartment Sunday morning and for a few hours early Saturday evening. Senter's background and own admitted activities on November 27, 28 and 29 should be verified.

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

- a. Various rumors link Ruby and Conrad which do not appear to be true; however, the statistics we have are not sufficient to discredit them satisfactorily. Such rumors include:
  - i. Communist associations of Ruby;
  - ii. Conrad's use of a building believed to belong to Ruby;
  - iii. After the disappearance of Nancy Parrish, Robert Johnson and Sylvia Cain have been taken, further investigation may be necessary with respect to Ruby's Cuban connections.
- b. Ruby's notebooks contain numerous names, addresses and telephone numbers. Many of these persons have either not been located or deny knowing Ruby. We believe further investigation is appropriate in some instances; however, we have not yet evaluated the reports we on hand.
- c. We have no expert witness as to Ruby's mental condition; however, we will obtain transcripts of the psychiatric testimony at the Ruby trial.

4. Comparison of Ruby and Conrad investigative efforts.

Operations have been taken from late into the afternoon of the persons who are known to have talked to or seen Ruby on November 27 and 28. A check of the information occurred in connection with the Conrad investigation. We believe the comparison would consider the work of the staff investigators both by investigative and historical standards. Forty-five witnesses are involved including persons listed in paragraph 3 i.(1), supra.



7. Other Investigative Activities. We have suggested in our previous reports that the sources of conflicting material have been virtually ignored.

a. Radio and Movie Recordings. The Dallas radio stations have broadcast every minute of the trial on November 22, 23 and 24. We have obtained these radio tapes for all except a portion of November 23, and the tapes include a number of interviews with key witnesses in the Oswald case. In addition, the tapes shed considerable light on the scenes in which Dallas police officials and Federal agents conducted the investigation and questioned in public view. We believe that similar radio tapes and movie films should be obtained from NBC, CBS, ABC, WJZ and various other stations, and relevant portions should be reviewed by staff members. Witnesses appear on these films who have later 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 introducing them as evidence. If any person were directed to disregard and organize this effort, we believe it could be done without unreasonable expenditure of time and money.

b. Hotel and motel registrations, airline passenger manifests, and Immigration and Investigation records.

Copies of Dallas hotel and motel registrations and airline manifests to and from Dallas should be obtained for the period September 22 to December 1, 1963. Similarly, Immigration and Investigation records should be obtained for the period October 1, 1963 to January 1, 1964. We believe that these records may provide a useful tool in any evidence develops after the Commission submits its report. We do not suggest that these records necessarily be examined by the Commission staff at the present time. But, for example, it is likely that in the future, persons will come forward who will claim to have been in Dallas during the critical period and who will claim to have important information. These records may help to identify or refute their claims.