

Ruby's Links With Gangsters Noted by Chicago Police Aide

By AUSTIN C. WEHRWEIN
Special to The New York Times.

CHICAGO, Nov. 25 — Jack Ruby was an admitted associate of gangsters but never made the "big time," acquaintances said today. As the background of the slayer of President Kennedy's accused assassin was pieced together, it was apparent that he had been linked to several Chicagoans who were murdered. He was said to have boasted of having known such hoodlums.

Ruby, whose real name was Leon Rubenstein, was born in Chicago 52 years ago. He was friendly with Paul Labriola, who was slain in 1954, and Paul R. Jones, now in Federal prison on a narcotics conviction, according to a police official. Ruby moved to Dallas about 15 years ago.

Jones and Labriola went there in 1946, where they frequented Ruby's night club while trying unsuccessfully to bribe the sheriff, a Dallas source said.

Federal investigators here focused on Ruby's connection with the Waste Material Handlers Union in 1957. The union was expelled from the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization's on charges of corruption.

Organized Union

Ruby and Leon R. Cooke, a lawyer, organized the union in 1937. Two years later Cooke was shot to death.

Ruby, who bore the nickname "Sparky," left his union job — he once had the title of secretary — in 1940. That was soon after the union had been taken over by Paul Dorfman, a close friend of James R. Hoffa, head of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

In Palm Springs, Calif., Mr. Dorfman said Ruby was a "real nice guy" with "liberal" views.

He denied he had dismissed him from the union. Ruby lost his job as an organizer on orders of the regional A.F.L. office when it temporarily took control of the union after Cooke was killed, Mr. Dorfman said.

In 1959 Senate rackets investigators termed the union a link between Mr. Hoffa and the underworld. It has been involved in charges of graft, beatings and killings in the years after Ruby left it.

Earl Ruby, a brother, said in Detroit that reports about Jack Ruby's criminal connections were incorrect.

Made Small Bets

But sources here said Ruby had known gamblers and other "police characters" through his scalping of tickets at sporting events. He made small bets on fights and baseball games, they said.

He was said to have known Nathan Gumbin, a wealthy businessman who was killed in gangland style in 1948. They had business dealings when Ruby was with the union, sources said, and Ruby frequented a Roosevelt Road gambling house that Gumbin went to.

Theodore H. Shulman, head of the Sanatex Corporation and executive director of the Saste Trade Industries, said Ruby had been forced out of the union because of his temperament.

Ruby, he said, would excitedly threaten a strike before a grievance could be discussed.

Luis Kutner, a lawyer, said that when the Senate committee was at work in 1949, Ruby apparently wanted to become the crime syndicate's "pipeline" into the committee.

Mr. Kutner said Ruby became an "adviser" to the committee. But he added that he thought Ruby had been trying to impress "the boys" with his connections.

"He was a nervous, ambitious, frustrated guy who never made

the big time," Mr. Kutner said.

He insisted, however, that he would not say Ruby had had ties with the underworld, but that he had "tossed off names" of hoodlums.

Ruby always acted "tough," he recalled, wearing "sharp" suits and the pearl-gray fedora with the broad brim turned down in front, which Al Capone had made a hoodlum fad.

Another person who remembered Ruby was police Capt. Louis Capparelli. He was long commanding officer of the Maxwell district where Ruby was born. His father was from Russia and his mother from Poland.

"He wasn't a tough guy, as they say, but he was a very aggressive salesman, when he was selling something," the captain said. "He liked to be seen or heard, and I guess you could call him a frustrated policeman because he liked to be seen with a policeman."

'A Gentle Man'

S.F. Carson

11/26/63

New View of Jack Ruby

Traced to Coast

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS
Special to The New York Times.

DALLAS, Nov. 25—Acquaintances of Jack Ruby gave further insights into his character today. But nothing indicated an association with Lee H. Oswald, whom he killed yesterday apparently to avenge the assassination of President Kennedy.

Ruby was said to have been friendly with a small-time Chicago gang, but not directly tied to it.

A police source remembered him as the operator of a punch-board racket in San Francisco until a death threat forced him back to Chicago, then to Dallas.

However, the San Francisco police said a check of records showed that Ruby had not been a known gangster there.

"Hothead" best described the trait commonly known to his acquaintances and former employees.

Janet Conforto, an entertainer, recalled Ruby as "completely uncontrollable when he's angry."

"I'm sure when he shot Oswald he thought this would make him a hero to the people in Dallas, that he was righting the wrong that Dallas had done to President Kennedy," she told The Dallas Times Herald. "He gets something in his mind and it just builds up and builds up."

Miss Conforto was a recent headliner at the Carousel Club, which Ruby operated. She was on the way to New Orleans when she heard the word of Oswald's slaying. She called the newspaper to verify it and told her story.

Called a Police "Buff"

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 25 (UPI)—A former business associate of Jack Ruby said last night he believed Ruby had killed Lee H. Oswald to avenge the slaying of a Dallas policeman rather than President Kennedy's death.

"Patriotic he wasn't, a police buff he was," said Herbert C. D. Kelly, once part owner of the Carousel Club in Dallas.

"Ruby wasn't very interested in politics, I doubt that he even voted."

The man who decided to avenge the slaying of President Kennedy looked on himself as a nobody.

Jack Ruby, a nobody with a deep and profound love for his country.

So deep was this love that he once confided to a friend: "Isn't it wonderful that man

like me can come to Dallas and make a name for himself without people bothering him."

The friend is Bob Winsett, KABL disc jockey, who yesterday told The Chronicle this about Jack Ruby:

"He was a gentle man. Maybe not a gentleman, but

certainly gentle.

"He was not a learned man, but he tried to learn by watching others. He was impulsive, but not dastardly so.

"He regarded himself as a nobody who wanted to meet people, know people, and be known himself."