

vi. Paul Roland Jones

Biographical Summary

(1986) Paul Roland Jones was born August 23, 1909, in Pittsburg, Kans. On February 1, 1931, he was arrested for first degree murder. (1351) He was convicted of murder in 1931 and sentenced to life imprisonment, but he was pardoned on July 8, 1940. (1352) Jones stated that he was pardoned from the Kansas City Penitentiary by Governor Husman. (1353) After Jones was released, he became involved in the egg dehydration business. (1354)

(1987) In late 1940, Jones moved to Dallas. He stated in one interview that he started gambling operations in Dallas about 1942. (1355) In September 1945, Jones was involved in the operation of the San Jacinto Liquor Store in Dallas. (1356) On December 4, 1945, he went to Mexico City to operate a casino, Casa Latino Americano. (1357) He resided at Latin American Apt. 1, Mexico, D.F., and had an office at the Reforma Hotel. (1358) In April 1946, he returned to Dallas. (1359) He returned to Mexico for a brief period in July 1946 but returned to Texas soon after this trip. (1360) In November and December 1946, Jones was involved in a bribery case with officials of Dallas County. In 1947, Jones was arrested for possession of narcotics in Laredo, Tex. (1361) He served approximately 2 years in Leavenworth on the narcotics violation, and after losing his bribery appeal, he was incarcerated at the Texas State Prison at Huntsville on the bribery conviction. (1362) He was released from prison in March 1952. (1363)

(1988) Jones stated that after he was released from prison, he contacted representatives of the Chicago syndicate to seek some help in getting established. (1364) Jones stated that, with the support of the Chicago group, he briefly operated a shrimp brokerage business in 1952, but closed this business and opened about six small beer taverns in Dallas. (1365) Jones discontinued the tavern business and left Dallas about 1953. (1366)

(1989) Jones stated that after leaving Dallas, he had been in Moab, Utah, for about 1 year, promoting uranium mines; then went to Birmingham, Ala., for about 2½ years; and then went to Charlotte, N.C., for about 3 years. He operated a chicken farm in Charlotte which, according to Jones, was primarily concerned with research into the production of disease-free eggs. (1367) During this period from 1958 to 1960, when Jones was operating the egg research farm, he was associated with Harry M. Hoxsey, who operated a cancer clinic in Dallas for many years until his operation was declared illegal. (1368) Jones stated he would frequently visit his associate in Dallas, and for at least part of the time he maintained an apartment in Dallas. (1369) (1990) Paul Roland Jones, since deceased, used the following aliases: Duck Jones, Buck Johnson, and Paul Thomas.

(1991) *Legal activities.*—Jones stated he had been in the brokerage business and the egg and poultry business since the time he was 30 years old. (1370) Eva Grant was also told that Jones was in the eggs brokerage business. (1371) He was also involved in the acquisition and operation of a liquor store in Dallas. (1372) Jones stated that in 1952 he was in the shrimp brokerage business for a short period. (1373)

He then operated some beer taverns in Dallas.(1374) He discontinued the beer taverns and became involved in the operation of a chicken farm in North Carolina.(1375) In the 1960's, Jones claimed to be involved in the promotion of low-cost housing developments.(1376) (992) Considering Jones' numerous arrests and his frequent changes of residence and occupation, his financial and social position appears somewhat unstable.

(993) There is some evidence Jones had political and law enforcement connections. He obtained a pardon from a life sentence in 1940. In Dallas, he associated with several law enforcement officials.(1377)

(994) *Illegal activities and organized crime.*—Jones had been actively engaged in criminal activity since the 1930's. In February 1931, he was convicted of first degree murder. In the 1940's, he had several arrests for vagrancy and investigation. In 1946, he was arrested for attempted bribery; in 1947 for conspiracy of concealing narcotics.(1378)

(995) Jones has been described as a "prominent member of the Weinberg gang and a go-between for the Chicago mob." (1379) An FBI report described the Weinberg gang as having hoodlum contacts in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, Arkansas, and many other States.(1380) Through an investigation of the gang, it was determined that Dallas was the "terminal point" for "gang business" ventures in and out of Mexico and that the gang had reportedly established a branch office in the Reforma Hotel, Mexico City, supervised by Jones.(1381)

(996) According to the FBI report, Weinberg also attempted unsuccessfully to gain control of the gambling, slot machines and juke box activities in the southern States. The Weinberg gang apparently had a connection with the Capone syndicate, because on several occasions prominent members of the syndicate were seen in conference with Weinberg and other members of the gang.(1382)

(997) Jones stated that soon after his release from Lansing in July 1940, he had been directed by Nick de John of Chicago to come to Dallas to survey the area as to the possibility of taking over gambling, slot machines, bookies, and the numbers racket.(1383) He had been instructed to live in Dallas and to become a local sportsman.(1384) He followed instructions. During the war dealt exclusively in black marketing gasoline coupons and other items in conjunction with Nick de John and other Chicago racketeers.(1385)

(998) Jones advised Nick de John that the Dallas syndicate was composed of Benny Binion, Ivy Miller, Earl Dalton and others. It was his opinion that they should not take over the gambling in the area.(1386) He reported that business in slot machines, juke boxes and beer and other items was a fertile field.(1387) Jones told the FBI that he started in gambling activities in Dallas about 1942.(1388) Nick de John provided Jones with funds to buy the San Jacinto Liquor Store.(1389) He also purchased other unidentified businesses and property.(1390)

(999) De John sent James Weinberg, Paul Labriola, Martin Ochs, James Barcella and Dannie Lardino to assist Jones. Paul Labriola and James Weinberg were described by Jones as being members of the Guzik mob.(1391) De John told Jones these individuals were

"too hot for Chicago." (1392) They developed many contacts in Dallas for the sale of whiskey and beer. These contacts included Abe O. Schepps, Carl Ducan, Southern Distributors, and Glazier Wholesale Drug. (1393)

(1000) Some time during the early 1940's, Marcus Lipsky arrived from Chicago and told Jones he had the OK from the Chicago syndicate for the purchase of slot machines and music routes throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. (1394) Jones doublechecked with De John, who confirmed Lipsky's story. (1395) Jones acted as Lipsky's front man in the acquisition of various companies. He assisted Lipsky in arranging the handling of his notes by the Mercantile National Bank of Dallas. (1396) In October 1945, they purchased a portion of the Southwestern Amusement Co. (1397) They also purchased interests in the Mineral Wells Music Co., the Tristate Music Co., the Western Distributing Co., the Delta Music Co., and the Shreveport Novelty Co. (1398) All these transactions were arranged by Jones. (1399) Jones was to receive 25 percent of the profits from the operations in Dallas and 10 percent for the operations outside of Dallas. (1400)

(1001) At some point during 1945, a dispute arose between Lipsky and Weinberg. Lipsky heard that Labriola and Weinberg were members of Murray Humphreys' and "Loud Mouth" Levine's group. (1401) According to Jones, Weinberg was the self-appointed leader of the gang of hoodlums sent by De John, and he wanted a cut of Lipsky's profits. (1402) De John came to Dallas to settle the dispute. He ordered Weinberg to confine his activities to the operation of the San Jacinto Liquor Store, and Lipsky to handle the slot machines, pinball, and juke boxes. (1403)

(1002) In November 1945, Joe Green, Marcus Lipsky, and John Waterman met in Dallas to discuss establishing gambling activities in Mexico. (1404) Jones agreed to go to Mexico as a front for Lipsky. He arrived in Mexico City on December 4, 1945. He was to receive \$25,000 for setting up the operation. (1405) Jones waited in Mexico City for Paul Mann to arrive (Mann was involved in bookmaking activities). Mann ordered Jones to make the political arrangements with the Mexican officials. (1406) They established a casino called the Casa Latino Americano. (1407)

(1003) In mid-April 1945, Dallas police picked up Jones, along with Sam Yaras, Lou Schneider, a taxicab driver named George, Julius Breakstone, Leo Goldsand, Marcus Lipsky, James Barsell, Paul Labriola, James Weinberg, and William Joseph Messina for investigation of swindling. (1408) According to Jones, they were told to leave Dallas. (1409)

(1004) On July 6, 1946, Jones met in Fort Worth, Tex., with James Weinberg, Paul Labriola and John Miro. (1410) On July 13, 1946, Jones was arrested in Oklahoma City, along with Mike Weinberg, James Weinberg's brother, Sam Gilbert, and Thomas Neiding. They were charged with vagrancy and held for general investigation. (1411) They were released July 15, 1946, and apprehended again upon their arrival in Dallas. (1412)

(1005) Jones apparently broke with the Weinberg gang around this time. (1413) In August 1946, the gang was taken to the Dallas County line by local authorities and told never to return. (1414)

(1006) Jones returned to Mexico City on July 23, 1946.(1415) He was arrested there on July 27, 1946, by Mexican authorities and interviewed by the FBI.(1416) On August 10, 1946, IRS agents returned Jones to Dallas. He was turned over to the custody of the Dallas County Sheriff on September 16, 1946, based on a warrant charging him with theft.(1417) Jones was released on \$2,000 bond on September 16, 1946.(1418) He departed for Chicago on September 18, 1946, and returned to Dallas on November 1, 1946.(1419)

(1007) Jones had also been involved in the bribery attempt of Dallas officials. In June 1946, Steve Guthrie won the Democratic primary election for sheriff in Dallas County. He was to take office in January 1947.(1420) The district attorney was also retiring, and a "reform" candidate was coming into office.(1421) According to Jones, prior to this time illegal operations had been carried on with the consent of Sheriff Smoot Schmid and various members of the Dallas Police Department.(1422) Payments were made to Attorney T. K. Erwin of Dallas who reportedly transmitted the payments to the appropriate people.(1423)

(1008) Jones stated that he believed it would be impossible to operate illegal operations under the new administration, so he made plans to discontinue his activities.(1424) On October 29 or 31, 1946, however, Jones contacted George Butler, a detective with the Dallas police department.(1425) Jones claimed Butler contacted him and informed him that Guthrie wanted to see him.(1426) Jones met with Butler and Guthrie at Guthrie's home on November 1, 1946.(1427) The FBI file contains partial transcriptions of the recordings that were made of this meeting. On one of them, the following statements were made:

Guthrie mentioned that "Bennie Binion" takes off one million flat per year, and that he gets \$2,000 per week during peak periods.

Jones says that the syndicate "okayed" Lipsky in Dallas.

Jones mentioned he had been in Havana, Cuba, at one time.

(1428)

(1009) Because these recordings were not completely transcribed, it was impossible to ascertain the entire content of the meeting. An FBI report states that at this meeting, Jones informed Guthrie and Butler that he was the organizational man for the Chicago syndicate headed by Jake Guzik, who had incorporated all of the Chicago syndicate formerly under the leadership of Al Capone.(1429)

(1010) On November 3, 1946, Jones called Butler from Chicago and told him that two headmen from the syndicate and two others from Las Vegas, Nev., would be arriving in Dallas on November 5, 1946.(1430) On November 5, 1946, Jones and Jack Knapp registered at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas.(1431) On the same date, another meeting was held with Jones, Jack Knapp, Butler, and Guthrie.(1432) Knapp said he represented the Chicago syndicate and that his purpose was to determine if Jones could deliver Dallas as he had promised.(1433) Knapp said he would contact one of the big men in Chicago and have him in Dallas for a meeting at Guthrie's home on November 6, 1946.(1434)

(1011) On November 6, 1946, Pat Manning arrived in Dallas, and another meeting was held on November 7, 1946.(1435) Manning iden-

tified himself as being a member of the Chicago syndicate. (1436) A teletype dated November 8, 1946, from the Chicago FBI office advised that Pat Manning was believed to be Pat Manno, "who is in actuality a member of the Chicago syndicate and close friend of Joe Batters (Anthony Accardo)." (1437)

(1012) An FBI report states that at the November 7 meeting:

Arrangements were perfected during this meeting with Manning for the Chicago syndicate to move into Dallas, take over all gambling activities in the county and set up their slot machines and other gambling devices. (1438)

(1013) The transcriptions of the November 7 meeting contain the following information:

—Guthrie states that four men should be run out of town because they could jeopardize the takeover. He states they are de Lois Green, Johnnie Grizzaffi, Junior Thomas, and Mac Barnes. Butler adds Monk Wright.

—Jones states that Grizzaffi is a local boy who handles dope. Guthrie and Butler state that Grizzaffi is a trigger man.

—Jones states that Bill Decker was an "old-time bootlegger here and he's rather a popular sort of fellow and he's been the under sheriff all of the time." Jones claims Decker and Dean Gauldlin (the district attorney) asked Jones if he wanted Dallas, and Jones declined the offer.

—Guthrie stated that Bennie Binion runs the local gambling syndicate in Dallas from his home in Montana.

—Jones spoke of setting up a gambling club in Dallas County. He told Guthrie, "Here is my proposition to you. You pick a man, a local man, we will put him in business. We will rent him a building but we will finance it. He will put in some juke boxes, some marble tables, some slot machines. We will get him a mechanic and a pickup truck. We will start hustling getting him some locations, legitimately, no muscles attached. Somebody that you trust, I trust him. We will furnish him all the slot machines, marble tables, punch boards, etc. . . . We will operate and there will be only one gambling house in the county."

—Guthrie stated that "We all know Bill Decker is a payoff man with Bennie Binion" and Butler agreed with Guthrie.

—Jones stated that "Jack Guzik is the main man." (1439)

(1014) Jones and Knapp left Dallas for Chicago on November 8, 1946, from Syracuse, N.Y. Jones advised he was going to New York City and then to Chicago, where a meeting of the Chicago syndicate was planned for November 18, 1946. (1440) This meeting was allegedly for the purpose of formulating plans for moving into gambling activities in Dallas. (1441) Toll records indicate Jones was in Syracuse, N.Y. from November 13, 1946 to November 24, 1946. (1442)

(1015) On December 1, 1946, Jones and Knapp contacted Butler requesting assurance that everything was all right for taking over after January 1, 1947. (1443) Jones indicated he expected to purchase a Dallas night spot for \$186,000 by December 2, 1946. (1444) Jones also stated that Pete Strance and Bill Bundy, local Dallas characters, had recently been in Chicago and contacted Eddie Vogel, stating that they had gambling concessions in Dallas after January 1. (1445)

(1016) On December 3, 1946, Butler told Jones to keep away from Dallas for 10 days.(1446) It was also reported that a Dallas firm of criminal attorneys was representing the Chicago groups as a go-between in handling the payoffs.(1447) On December 16, 1946, the FBI reported that Murray Humphreys, Jack Knapp, Paul Jones, and Jake Guzik were reported to have been in Dallas in the past few days, attempting to make contact with Guthrie for the completion of negotiations for the gambling monopoly in Dallas County.(1448)

(1017) On December 18, 1946, the FBI reported that "Romeo" Jack Nappi, Dominic Blasi, Paul Roland Jones and Jess Chilton were charged with attempted bribery of elected officials and held without bond. Pat Manno was also charged but not apprehended.(1449) On January 9, 1947, the FBI reported that Jones was still confined in the Dallas jail.(1450) He was convicted of attempted bribery in 1947 and subsequently released on appeal bond.(1451)

(1018) On August 27, 1947, U.S. Customs arrested Taylor Crossland for having brought 48 lbs. of opium into Texas from Mexico.(1452) Crossland implicated Maurice C. Melton and Jones. Melton was arrested on October 29, 1947, and corroborated the information supplied by Crossland implicating Jones.(1453)

(1019) Jones was arrested on October 24, 1947, by Federal narcotics agents.(1454) He was tried in Federal court in Laredo, Tex., and received a 3-year sentence, of which he served over 2 years in Leavenworth. During this period, Jones lost his appeal on the bribery conviction and was transferred to the Texas State Prison in Huntsville. He was released in March 1952.(1455)

(1020) When Jones was interviewed by the FBI in 1964, he was under indictment for perjury by a Federal grand jury in New York City.(1456) According to Jones, the indictment had arisen out of the trial of over 20 people in New York in 1959 concerning the Texas Adams Oil Co.(1457) The indictment against Jones was returned in 1960.(1458)

Relationship With Jack Ruby

(1021) When Jack Ruby was interviewed by Federal narcotics agents in October 1947 in connection with the narcotics investigation of Jones, he stated he had known Jones for the past 4 or 5 months. He had been introduced to Jones by his sister, Eva Grant, but had never spoken to him in Chicago.(1459) In a 1963 interview, Ruby stated he had met Jones in 1947 "at the Silver Spur, it was the Singapore Club first, on Ervay Street here in Dallas." (1460) Ruby acknowledged that he was introduced to Jones by Eva Grant.(1461)

(1022) In Eva Grant's testimony before the Warren Commission, she stated that she had been introduced to Jones by Dr. Weldon Duncan, who told her that Jones was in the eggs brokerage business.(1462) When interviewed by the committee, she stated that in 1947 she was keeping company with Dr. Weldon Duncan, who introduced her to Jones.(1463) She also stated that Jones offered to buy the club from her,(1464) but she refused to sell. Jones used the telephones at the club on several occasions.(1465)

(1023) When asked by the Warren Commission if Jones knew Ruby, Grant responded, "If he did—no; I doubt if he ever even heard of

him" and "I don't think he has ever seen him—well, wait a minute, he may have seen the man or heard about him." (1466) Grant was then asked if Ruby had known Jones at the time of the narcotics case (fall of 1947). She responded:

I don't think he ever saw him as far as I know, but I want to tell you that Paul Roland Jones went to Chicago during the period of those 6 months and he did meet my brother Hyman. I don't know what conversations my brother had—my brother thought he was a nice guy—we didn't know anything about his background. (1467)

(1024) When Hyman Rubenstein was asked if Jack Ruby had known Jones, he replied, "He never met Jones. I met Jones through Eva." (1468)

(1025) Jones provided yet a different version of his introduction to Jack Ruby. He stated that following his conviction in 1947, he was released on appeal bond and met Dr. Duncan and Grant in Dallas. (1469) A short time later, he went to Chicago and had been in the company of Paul Labriola, Jimmy Weinberg, and possibly Danny Lardino. (1470) Jones stated:

They had been in the Congress Hotel to see a man there and met Ruby, whom Jones did not at that time know, coming across the lobby of the hotel. Those with Jones had addressed Ruby by name and introduced him to Jones. (1471)

(1026) According to Jones, Ruby asked him about the doctor with whom Eva was associating. (1472) The FBI report of Jones' interview states, "The others accompanying Jones had told him that Ruby was 'OK'." (1473) Jones told Ruby the doctor had a bad reputation, and Ruby said he planned on going to Dallas to straighten his sister out and asked if Jones would help him. Jones stated that, "One of those accompanying Jones had again replied that Ruby was alright and urged Jones to help him, which Jones had agreed to do." (1474) A "very few days later" Jones returned to Dallas, and about the same time Ruby appeared in Dallas. Ruby contacted Jones and asked him for assistance in locating an apartment. (1475)

(1027) Jones related substantially the same version of his first meeting with Ruby in an interview on December 17, 1963. (1476) He added, however, that Grant had arranged the meeting between Jones, Labriola, and Weinberg. (1477)

(1028) There is conflicting evidence regarding Ruby's involvement in the Dallas bribery incident.

(1029) The FBI had reviewed the transcriptions of the recordings, but not the actual recordings. (1478) It was noted in the FBI report that some of the recordings were inaudible and a detailed transcription was therefore impossible. It was also stated that some of the recordings were summarized. (1479) According to the FBI, a review of the transcripts failed to disclose any mention of Ruby. (1480)

(1030) The committee received the recordings of the meetings between Jones and the Dallas County officials and George Butler's notes from these meetings. The recordings were almost completely inaudible.

(1031) The FBI interviewed George Butler, who stated :

Ruby was not involved in the bribery attempt. In fact, he had never heard of Ruby until after the investigation and trial had been completed. He stated the way Ruby came into the picture was a number of individuals who were involved in the bribery attempt and in particular Paul Roland Jones began "hanging out" at Ruby's club after the sentence. (1481)

(1032) Carl F. Hansson, who was chief of police in Dallas during 1947, stated that "on several occasions" during the Jones investigation, he had read the transcriptions of the phonograph records taken of the various interviews; he did not recall the name Ruby ever being mentioned. Hansson stated that "he positively does not think that the name of Jack Ruby ever came up in the recorded interviews of Jones by Guthrie and Butler." (1482)

(1033) Steve Guthrie provided the following version of Ruby's involvement :

Jack Ruby at that time was a "smalltime peanut" with this group who were going to bribe Guthrie. Ruby's name came up on numerous occasions, according to Guthrie, as being the person who would take over a very fabulous restaurant at Industrial and Commerce Streets in Dallas—Ruby was to run the club. Jack Ruby never in person talked with Guthrie about this matter and, in fact, Guthrie and Ruby had no conversations during this investigation. However, according to Guthrie, Ruby's name constantly came up as being the person who would run the restaurant, and Guthrie said if the records can still be heard, Ruby's name will be heard on numerous occasions. (1483)

(1034) Two Chicago reporters also indicated that they had gotten information that Ruby was involved in the bribery case. Frank Kiernan, special assistant to the U.S. attorney in Chicago, received the information from Jack Wilner, a crime reporter for the Chicago Daily News. (1484) Wilner had stated that Ruby was reportedly involved in 1947 with Nick de John, Paul Labriola, Marcus Lipsky, and Paul Roland Jones in an effort to take over gambling in the Texas area. (1485) Morton William Newman, another reporter from the Chicago Daily News, stated he had heard from George Butler that Ruby was involved in an attempt to bribe Steve Guthrie. (1486) He was also advised that Ruby was a particularly close friend of Jones. (1487)

(1035) According to the FBI report of Jones' interview, Jones stated :

* * * he had never mentioned the name Jack Ruby, and that he could be sure of this, because he had never heard of Jack Ruby at this time. He said that he is sure that neither Manno nor Nappi had mentioned Ruby during the conversations and negotiations with Butler and Guthrie, as Jones was present at all of them. He stated in addition the conversations had not had to do with exactly who would be operating what in the Dallas area, and thus there would have been no occasion

for discussion of Ruby or anyone else as the person who was to operate a restaurant at Industrial and Commerce Streets. (1488)

(1036) With respect to Ruby's possible involvement in the 1947 narcotics case, Hyman Rubenstein was subpoenaed to testify at Jones' trial in 1947. (1489) He told the Warren Commission:

It seems that some of Paul's associates were smuggling dope, by airplane, from Mexico—across the line—and Paul got grabbed. They found my ticket, I think one of my cards, in his pocket. So, I am subpoenaed. (1490)

(1037) When asked about Jack Ruby's involvement, Hyman stated, "Jack was never in Dallas before in his life. He didn't know nothing about Dallas. He never met Jones. I met Jones through Eva." (1491) Hyman was positive Jack Ruby had never met Jones.

(1038) In October 1947, Hyman Rubenstein signed a statement for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (1492) that he had met Jones about 10 months earlier. He stated:

He called me at my home and said he was a friend of my sister, Eva Grant, and that he would like to see me if I wasn't too busy. We met at the Sherman Hotel in the Celtic Room, and our conversation was merely general subjects of the day. The next time I met him was on a Sunday morning after he called me at my home, and this meeting was held at the Sherman Hotel in the Celtic Room. He introduced me to Taylor Crossland and Maurice Costello Melton, and we all had breakfast together. The latter meeting held at Hotel Sherman, Celtic Room, took place during the first week of August 1947. (1493)

(1039) Hyman also stated he sent a sample of pipe to Jones in Dallas. He saw Jones on approximately the 15th of October 1947. He stated they never discussed narcotics. (1494)

(1040) Hyman Rubenstein also mentioned the pipe sample in his Warren Commission testimony: (1495)

Paul is looking over things down in Dallas that they can't buy. We were looking for stuff in Chicago that you can't buy either; merchandise. One of the items was pipe; of course, right after the war, you couldn't buy anything. There was nothing to be had. I made a connection with somebody I don't remember now—this is 20 years ago—on pipe. So I sent Paul down a small piece of pipe about 6 inches, and I put a sticker on it and mailed it down to Dallas, and I said, I sent him a letter how else can you send a piece of pipe, that was the best way. I figured nobody is going to use a piece of pipe like that. I put the label on it and mailed it down to Paul Jones. I mailed it to the tavern; Eva's place. He got it. (1496)

(1041) Eva Grant also testified about the pipe sample:

We were buying metals, at least we were trying to buy metals and materials to sell to—in fact, gas companies—one is—I have files, believe me, and I think it's at Jonesboro—is

it in Arkansas or Oklahoma? Well, we got the specifications and Paul Roland Jones brought me a piece of metal, maybe 6 inches long—it's a certain type of pipe, rather, he brought me, and this man didn't want it, so I sent it on to Chicago to my brother. It seems to me I sent it to my older brother, Hyman, and he says he knew somebody that might be able to make what you call a finder's fee or broker's fee, but little did we know of Paul Roland Jones' connection—I pick up the headlines and they got Paul Roland Jones in jail somewhere—in Fort Worth. I no sooner picked this up—this paper, the paper of this city, my brother is calling from Chicago that the FBI or some organization, one of your organizations went to the Congress Hotel where Jack was staying, and they are questioning him about whether—about what he knew about Paul Roland Jones. I don't think Jack ever heard me mention the name. (1497)

(1042) In a Secret Service report, Eva was reported to have said that Jones had suggested several business deals to Eva, one of which involved iron pipe. (1498) According to the report, Jones said he had access to thousands of feet of 1¼-inch pipe which was stored in a warehouse at Ardmore, Okla. He gave her a 6-inch sample, which she mailed to Hyman in Chicago. (1499) She was interviewed by narcotics agents in Chicago and, she stated, was shown books of photographs, but only recognized Jones. (1500) Grant stated she was "absolutely positive" that none of her brothers were ever involved in the narcotics business. (1501)

(1043) The Federal Bureau of Narcotics file on Jones, Crossland, and Melton states that prior to their arrests:

The above subjects were surveilled during the course of this investigation and they checked into the Central Park Hotel, Chicago, on August 2, 1947. While at the hotel they made several phone calls which were checked out and the number of Kedzie 1717 was listed to Hyman and Jack Rubenstein, 3650 West Lexington, Chicago. (1502)

(1044) A Secret Service memorandum states that Customs requested that the Bureau of Narcotics interview Hyman and Jack Rubenstein. (1503) The memorandum states:

The meeting between Jones, Hyman, and Jack Ruby was arranged by Eva Grant, 1717 South Ervay Street. They met in Jack's room at the Congress Hotel, room G-142. Melton stated that Hyman and Jack Ruby when propositioned concerning narcotics refused to [sic] any part of it. (1504)

(1045) Jack Ruby was interviewed by Federal Bureau of Narcotics agents on October 29, 1947. (1505) He identified a photograph of Jones and said he had known him for the past 4 or 5 months. He had been introduced to Jones by Eva. Ruby stated he had never had any conversations with Jones "relative to narcotic drugs nor has he ever talked to Paul Jones in the city of Chicago, either personally or via telephone." (1506) Ruby stated that "he was visiting in Dallas, Tex., on October 2 and 3, 1947," which are the dates that Paul Jones, Taylor Crossland, and Maurice Melton were in Chicago. (1507)

(1046) In another interview, Jack Ruby stated:

Later I heard that I had a phone call from Paul Jones at the Congress Hotel in Chicago where I was staying but I wasn't there at the time and I didn't talk to him. Later some narcotics agents came to see me and showed me some pictures. I think the only one I knew was Jones. I told the agents all I knew but I didn't know anything about narcotics or what those fellows were doing. I know that Hymie, my brother in Chicago, had some kind of deal with Paul Jones. I think it was something to do with iron pipe. Everyone was trying to make a buck in those days after the war when things were short. For all I know, maybe they were shipping narcotics in iron pipe but I didn't know anything about it. (1508)

(1047) Ruby was certain he had not met with Jones, Melton or Crossland in Chicago and that Jones had not propositioned him regarding narcotics. (1509) Ruby stated he did not know Crossland or Melton. (1510)

(1048) The FBI also interviewed Maurice Melton and Taylor Crossland. Melton stated that "to the best of his recollection he never met Jack Ruby." (1511) He stated that he could have met Hyman Rubenstein and Jack Ruby in Chicago, but could not recall such a meeting. (1512) Taylor Crossland also could not recall meeting Ruby. (1513) He stated that Jones took him and Melton:

to an unknown motel in Dallas, where Jones introduced them to an individual who might possibly have been identical with Ruby. Jones and this man went into the motel for about 5 minutes and then Jones returned to the car and said, "We'll have to go to Chicago to dispose of the stuff." (1514)

(1049) Jones stated in an FBI interview that from 1953 to the present he had been in Dallas only three or four times a year for brief periods. He stated:

On most occasions he [Jones] would stop by once at a club being run by Jack Ruby and see him casually. He said he had no business connections with him. He would also occasionally see Eva Grant at one of the clubs, which at least a part of the time she has been running on behalf of Jack Ruby. (1515)

(1050) Jones also stated that he had seen Ruby about a week before the assassination. (1516) In another interview, Jones said he:

. . . saw Ruby about 10 days prior to the assassination of the President at Dallas. He saw him at the Carousel Club and asked Ruby how he was getting along. Ruby replied he was not doing any good and said "his competitors had become his enemies." He asked Ruby if he could help and Ruby replied that he got himself into the situation and that he had to get himself out. (1517)

Treatment by the Warren Commission

(1051) The Warren Commission concluded that Jack Ruby was not involved with Paul Roland Jones in the 1947 organized crime move into Dallas or the narcotics case. (1518) It offered the following bases for this conclusion:

- There is no record that Hyman and Jack were prosecuted by Federal authorities in the narcotics case.
- Jack, Hyman, and Eva denied any participation in any narcotics activities.
- Jones and his co-conspirators also denied Ruby was involved.
- One of Jones' confederates stated that Jones propositioned Hyman and Jack concerning the narcotics, but they refused to participate.
- One of the conspirators implicated Jones, but not Ruby or his brother.
- According to Jack Ruby, he moved to Dallas to help Eva operate the Singapore Club and because his merchandising business had failed in Chicago.
- George Butler stated Ruby was not involved in the bribery case.
- The 22 recordings of the Guthrie, Jones, and Butler meetings failed to mention Ruby and indicated that only one "confederate" would be brought in and he would not be Jewish. (1519)

(1052) The Warren Report does state that Ruby was friendly with "numerous underworld figures" and included Jones among them.

(1520) The Commission concluded, however, that there was no significant link between Ruby and organized crime. (1521)

(1053) The Warren Commission decided to discount Steve Guthrie's statement that Ruby was mentioned during the 1947 bribery case and to accept Butler's statement instead. The Warren Commission did not review the actual recordings of the meetings between Jones, Guthrie and Butler. They had the FBI review incomplete transcriptions of the recordings.

vii. Russell Douglas Matthews

Biographical Summary

(1054) Russell Douglas Matthews was born on July 26, 1920, in Aspermont, Tex. When he was 7, he moved to Dallas. (1522) He served in the Marine Corps from December 1941 to October 1945. (1523) After leaving the Marines, Matthews returned to Dallas, where he remained until 1958. From July 1958 to January 1959, he resided in Havana, Cuba; he was also there from the middle of 1959 to November 1959. (1524) He returned to Dallas and remained there until January 1971. In the early 1960's, Matthews resided in Irving, Tex. (1525) According to FBI reports, Mrs. Donna Sue Helton, a known prostitute, also resided at his Irving address. (1526) FBI reports in 1967 and 1968 list Matthews' address as 4509 Southern Avenue, Dallas. (1527) In 1971, Matthews moved to Las Vegas and, as of 1978, was residing there. (1528)

(1055) There is very little information regarding Matthews' employment prior to 1958 when he traveled to Cuba. In his deposition, he stated he could not remember the jobs he had had in Dallas. (1529) Matthews said, "I have been in business by myself most of my life." (1530) He did not elaborate on this statement except to note that he