

12/5/63

Date December 13, 1963

Date
Commission Exhibit No. 1561

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WALTER C. BROWN, 4826 Mills Place, Dallas, Texas, was interviewed at the Castaway Club, 5600 East Mockingbird Lane. BROWN was reported to have previously played at the Vegas Club in Dallas, Texas, for JACK RUBY. Mr. BROWN furnished the following information:

BROWN has been playing with JOE JOHNSON's Band for approximately 3 1/2 years and for over 3 years of this period BROWN played at the Vegas Club in Dallas for JACK RUBY. The band left the Vegas Club on about November 3, 1963, after some disagreement between the band leader, JOE JOHNSON, and JACK RUBY. BROWN did not know RUBY on a close personal basis since his relationship with RUBY was strictly that of an employer-employee. In addition, RUBY spent the majority of his time at the Carousel Club in Dallas as the Vegas Club was managed by RUBY's sister, EVA GRANT. BROWN knows nothing concerning RUBY's personal life.

After viewing a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, BROWN indicated that OSWALD was unknown to him. BROWN indicated that although numerous police officers stopped in the Vegas Club from time to time, he knew of no officer who was particularly close to RUBY or EVA GRANT.

ASSOCIATES AND EMPLOYEES OF JACK L. RUBY

JANET ADAMS CONFORTO, nee MOLE, who dances professionally as a "strip tease" performer under the name, "JADA", was interviewed at the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 4, 1963.

She furnished the following information:

She had been associated with her husband, JOSEPH CONFORTO, from whom she is now separated, in the operation of a strip tease club known as "Madame Francine's" at 440 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. This club closed in June, 1963.

JACK RUBY came to New Orleans by car in June, 1963. RUBY may have heard about CONFORTO through EARL NORMAN, a comedian, whom she believed had worked in some clubs in Dallas, Texas and may have worked for JACK RUBY.

While in New Orleans, RUBY went to the French Opera House, a strip tease club on Bourbon Street, operated by HAROLD TANNENBAUM. RUBY had apparently never met TANNENBAUM on any previous occasion. The purpose of RUBY's trip to New Orleans, according to RUBY, was to scout for talent for his club in Dallas, Texas. TANNENBAUM introduced CONFORTO to RUBY at the French Opera House. RUBY offered her \$550 per week to perform at the Carousel Club in Dallas, Texas. CONFORTO wanted to take a vacation at that time and told RUBY she was not interested. A week or so later, RUBY sent a telegram to HAROLD TANNENBAUM requesting CONFORTO to work for him for two or three weeks at the Carousel Club. CONFORTO did not reply to this telegram.

on 12/11/63 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-1639
by Special Agent ALVIN E. ZIMMERMAN & JOSEPH G. FEGGS:BL 294 Date dictated 12/11/63

On 12/4/63 New York, New York File # NY 44-974
by SAS JAI 3 J. ROGERS and EDWARD FLANAGAN/db 297 Date dictated 12/5/63

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NY 44-974

CONFORTO drove to Dallas, Texas the end of June, 1963 for a vacation. Her recollection is that one, "PAPPY" DOLSON, who is well-known in the Dallas area, took her to the Carousel Club where she again met RUBY.

RUBY again tried to hire her asking her to work for just two weeks. At first she refused, but then consented to work at the Carousel Club and did begin performing there on July 17, 1963 under a two month contract at a salary of \$300 a week. Her understanding was that if her act went over well in the club, RUBY would raise her salary to \$550 per week.

She later found out that RUBY had penciled in on the contract that it was renewable only at his option and she had no right to cancel the contract on its' expiration, September 17, 1963.

She signed a new contract on September 17, 1963 for \$300 per week. This contract was to last until January 1, 1964 and she, at first, thought her weekly salary was to be \$350. This contract was signed through theatrical agent, JACK COLE of Dallas, Texas and was to contain a mutual cancellation option at the end of the contract term.

CONFORTO found out later that RUBY had apparently prior to the signing of the contract, changed the terms so that only he had the option to cancel at the end of the contract term.

CONFORTO explained that she would be paid each Monday, by check which she immediately had RUBY cash, and she was never able to understand the amounts deducted from her salary by RUBY. She frequently tried to discuss this matter with him, but he always told her that he was busy and she never did finally settle this matter with him. This was constantly a matter of contention between her and RUBY.

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NY 44-974

Near the end of October, 1963, CONFORTO was staying at a motel in Dallas, Texas and had her son, now age 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, with her. She was ill with a bad cold and wanted to take Thursday and Friday off. RUBY was incensed because she wanted to take time off and apparently did not believe that she was ill. She was treated at the motel by a Doctor HESSER, and she did not work on Thursday, which she believed was October 24, 1963.

She did work on Friday, October 25, 1963 and she noticed that RUBY seemed very angry with her apparently because she had not worked on the previous day. At the end of her number on Friday, October 25, 1963, RUBY turned off the lights at the end of her act to humiliate her.

She worked on October 26, 1963 and told RUBY that she wanted to take Sunday and Monday off and he became very incensed at this. At about 5:15 p. m. on Tuesday, RUBY sent a telegram to CONFORTO telling her that she was fired and that he intended to sue her for two weeks pay.

The following day, Wednesday, she went to TOM PALMER of the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) in Dallas, Texas and complained to PALMER about her dispute with RUBY. He told her to work until the following Sunday and then pick up all her gowns and leave. She went to work at the Carousel Club on Wednesday. After her first number, RUBY again turned off the lights on her and began screaming at her. He told her that he would not let her go on stage the rest of that evening. She went back to the club on Thursday and RUBY would not let her perform. She was afraid that he might do some damage to her gowns which were in the club and which she indicated were expensive.

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NY 44-974

On October 31, 1963 she went to see Judge RICHBERG and signed a warrant against RUBY. She explained that she merely wanted a restraining order against RUBY and did not want him arrested. However, someone at the court informed her that she could not get a restraining order since she worked in the same building with RUBY. She also had explained the purpose of signing this warrant to Judge RICHBERG.

On Friday night, she went to Judge RIMBERG's court and RUBY was there after apparently having been arrested. In a loud voice, RUBY made accusations against her, accused her of being a prostitute and of entertaining men in her motel room where she was residing with her son. She does not know the exact outcome of this court action, however, she did not work at the club again and the following Sunday, she went to the club and picked up her gowns.

While she was employed at the club, she noted that RUBY frequently used obscene language in her presence and in the presence of the other female employees. He had on only one occasion asked her to go on a date with a friend of his who was in Dallas on a visit, but she refused.

On one occasion, RUBY asked her to move into his apartment indicating that their relationship would be a platonic one, but she refused. She described RUBY as emotional, nervous and the type who loved to be the center of attraction. He liked people to consider him a "colorful person and a character."

He was always hustling, trying to build up business for his club and occasionally when people were waiting in line to get into other strip tease clubs, he would talk to people on these lines and try to get them to go to his club.

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While she was at the club, someone whose identity she does not know, complained that her act was "too strong". When RUBY heard this, he accused her of trying to ruin him and the club. She telephonically contacted some official, name unknown, in Dallas, Texas and requested that they view her act and she would make any necessary changes. She believed her act was then approved.

RUBY was the type who liked to tell people that the police let him "get away with things at his club", because of his friendship with the police, but she did not believe that this was true.

She had on several occasions, noticed a bulge on RUBY's hip and on at least one occasion he patted his clothing and indicated that he carried a gun. She saw the gun on one occasion and she believed that it was a .33 snub-nose. She saw him throw it in the trunk of his car.

Although she did not consider RUBY as cruel and vicious or the type who would intentionally harm anyone, he was always verbally abusing his employees.

WALLY WESTON, who was the Master of Ceremonies at the club, left RUBY's employ sometime in October and is now believed to be at the Merry-Go-Round in Louisville, Kentucky.

WALLY WESTON left partly because of differences with RUBY and partly because of a family problem.

She did not know of any association he had with members of the underworld, but he did frequently tell people he "knew all the boys", meaning racketeers.

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NY 44-974

He constantly fought with his sister, whom she believes had a part interest in the club and was reported to have physically abused her with his fists.

CONFORTO indicated that after her dispute with RUBY, RUBY called a number of her friends to "bum-rap" her. CONFORTO said she meant to try to run down her character. He also did the same thing to WALLY WESTON.

She expressed the opinion that the only reason RUBY shot LEE HARVEY OSWALD was so he could be a hero to the people of Dallas and the country. He loved publicity and she felt that he did not care if he got 10 or 15 years in jail as long as he succeeded in getting a lot of publicity.

She pointed out that a number of things that happened in October had caused RUBY to be depressed. He had stated at that time that his friends were running out on him and no one was supporting him. He had lost his case with AGVA concerning his dispute with two other Dallas clubs regarding amateur night. Also, WALLY WESTON and CONFORTO had left his club.

CONFORTO, on November 25, 1963 was driving to New Orleans, Louisiana, and was about 100 miles outside of Dallas, Texas when she heard over the radio that RUBY had killed LEE HARVEY OSWALD. She became so upset that she returned to Dallas and then decided to come to New York.

She stated that she has been interviewed in New York by representatives of the New York Daily News and the New World Telegram, and has appeared on local television programs.

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NY 44-974

She had no knowledge of any association between RUBY and LEE HARVEY OSWALD. She had never seen OSWALD in the Carousel Club, or at any place.

She was born February 12, 1936 at New York, New York. She was married at the age of 18 to NICK BONNEY in California. At the age of 19, she married JOSEPH CUFFARI, in Baltimore, Maryland. Her third husband was RALPH SMALLWOOD, whom she married at Bainbridge, Georgia at the age of 22. Her fourth husband is JOSEPH CONFORTO, whom she married 2 1/2 years ago in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has one child JOSEPH JEROME ADAMS PETER CONFORTO, who was born May 14, 1959, New Orleans, Louisiana.

JOSEPH CONFORTO is the father of this child and the child is now with her ex-sister-in-law, JENNIE CANNELLA, 401 Sable Drive, Arabi, Louisiana.

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