

Commission Exhibit No. 1611

1.

Date December 9, 1954

Detective D. L. BLANKENSHIP, Special Service Branch, Dallas, Texas Police Department, who resides at 2807 Province Lane, Dallas, was contacted concerning his joint arrest, with Detective E. E. CARLSON, of JACK LEON RUBY on December 5, 1954 for alleged violation by RUBY of the State Liquor Law. BLANKENSHIP was advised he did not have to make a statement, that any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law, and that he could consult an attorney at any time he desired. BLANKENSHIP voluntarily advised as follows:

A copy of the "Arresting Officer's Report", arrest number 54814, dated December 5, 1954, reflecting JACK LEON RUBY, 1719 1/2 South Ervay, was arrested by Dallas Police Officers D. L. BLANKENSHIP and E. E. CARLSON for "Inv. Vio. State Liquor Law - having beer on table after hours," was exhibited to BLANKENSHIP.

The report states "Give complete details as to what you know, what you saw or what you were told about suspect which prompted this arrest." The following comments were reflected on the report in answer to the above:

"This man is the owner and operator of the Silver Club located at 1717 3 Ervay, was in charge tonight at the time arresting officers saw 58 bottle partly full with Schlitz beer on the table occupied by Eugenia Mary O'Brien and Mary Jane Schultz. When Blankenship attempted to get the bottle Miss O'Brien tried to hold the bottle and said that it was her beer.

TLGB Number will be attached to this sheet.
The bottle of Schlitz was about half full of beer, placed in the property room."

A copy of the "Case Report" concerning the arrest of JACK LEON RUBY on December 5, 1954 by officers BLANKENSHIP and CARLSON, identification number 36398 was also exhibited to BLANKENSHIP. This report reflects RUBY was charged with "violation Art. II, Sec. 19 (16) permitting consumption during forbidden hours on Sunday." Under "Summary of Case" it was stated that "This man is the owner and operator of the Silver Club located at 1717 South Ervay and was present and in charge at the time. He permitted Eugenia Mary O'Brien and Mary Jane

on 12/9/53 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agents JAMES E. GARRIS &
JACK E. PEDEN/in Date dictated 12/13

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Schultz to consume a part of a bottle of Schlitz beer during forbidden hours on Sunday."

BLANKENSHIP stated that the curfew hours on Sunday morning for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages is 1:15 A.M.

BLANKENSHIP believed either he or CARLSON prepared the "Case Report" since it was a policy during 1954 for the arresting officers to prepare case reports when persons were arrested by them.

BLANKENSHIP advised that to the best of his recollection the "Details" set out above as reflected on the "Arresting Officer's Report," and the "Summary of Case" set out above as reflected on the "Case Report", are true and correct. He does not recall at this time whether or not he actually saw the customers consuming beer after hours at the Silver Club, but he said that from previous experience he did not arrest a night club owner unless he saw the night club owner's customers actually consuming beer after hours. He added that since JACK LEON RUBY was arrested for the murder of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, he checked the identification record of RUBY and learned that the above mentioned arrest made by him and officer E. E. CARLSON had been dismissed.

BLANKENSHIP related that after he and officer CARLSON arrested RUBY in 1954 and charged him, as stated above, he heard nothing further concerning the matter and he had nothing to do with the dismissal. Furthermore, he stated no one ever contacted him about the charge against RUBY.

The following information appearing in a "Motion of District Attorney to Dismiss Prosecution," filed in Dallas County Criminal Court Number 3 on February 8, 1955, under Docket number 1788-C (naming EUGENIA MARY O'BRIEN as customer), in the case of the State of Texas versus JACK LEON RUBY, was read to BLANKENSHIP:

"This is a liquor violation case. The witnesses in this case officers Blankenship and Carlson advised that they conducted the investigation, but that it was filed without their knowledge. The police report stated that they observed customers consuming beer after hours. Both officers stated that this is incorrect and they did not observe the customers consuming beer. It is recommended that this case be dismissed because of insufficient evidence."

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Signed "Lem Brotherton, Assistant District Attorney of Dallas County, Texas; Henry Wade, District Attorney of Dallas County, Texas."

A "Motion of District Attorney to Dismiss Prosecution," filed in Dallas County Criminal Court Number 3 on February 8, 1955, under Docket Number 1789-C (naming MARY JANE SCHULTZ as customer), which reflected the same information as Docket Number 1788-C, was called to CARLSON's attention.

In relation to the above, BLANKENSHIP advised it is possible, though not probable, that his report was filed without his knowledge.

Concerning the statement appearing in the above mentioned "Motion" that "The police report states that they (arresting officers) observed customers consuming beer after hours. Both officers stated that this is incorrect and they did not observe the customers consuming beer," BLANKENSHIP commented as follows:

He does not recall being contacted by anyone in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, or by anyone else, and advising them that "this is incorrect." To the best of his recollection the statement "this is incorrect," appearing in the "Motion" is false.

BLANKENSHIP stated he had known RUBY for sometime prior to December, 1954, when he and officer E. E. CARLSON arrested RUBY but BLANKENSHIP was unable to recall the specific date he first became acquainted with him. BLANKENSHIP said he did, however, become acquainted with RUBY when he was on the Vice Squad and through a routine check of RUBY's night club. BLANKENSHIP added he has been on the Vice Squad (Special Service Bureau) for about twelve years.

BLANKENSHIP related that since he has been on the Vice Squad, he had made official visits to RUBY's night clubs on numerous occasions, since the Vice Squad has the responsibility of seeing that performances at all night clubs at Dallas are orderly and "clean". He added that outside of his official visits to RUBY's night clubs, he has been to RUBY's clubs as a customer on two or three occasions. On these occasions, he did not pay the cover charge but did pay for the beer and food served to him.

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The last time BLANKENSHIP visited one of RUBY's clubs was approximately the latter part of October, 1963, when BLANKENSHIP took his wife to the Vegas Club.

BLANKENSHIP said he has never been employed by RUBY and he has never had any social contacts with him.

He described RUBY as an egotistical person with a quick temper, nervous, fidgety and he never relaxes. RUBY likes to be a "big dog" and he likes to be noticed, according to BLANKENSHIP. He added that RUBY never discussed politics in his presence. He stated that he has never had any reason to question the loyalty of RUBY to the United States Government.

BLANKENSHIP advised that all police officers assigned to the Vice Squad probably know RUBY but he knew of none who is closely acquainted with RUBY or who might consider RUBY a friend. He knew of no police officer who has worked for RUBY.

BLANKENSHIP related it is his understanding that RUBY was an acquaintance of JOE BONDS, former night club owner in Dallas, who was arrested and sentenced in approximately 1955 to 15 years in the State Penitentiary, Huntsville, Texas, on the charge of sodomy.

BLANKENSHIP advised he did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD and he knew of no association between RUBY and OSWALD. BLANKENSHIP never saw OSWALD in RUBY's night clubs.

BLANKENSHIP stated he was off duty on the day OSWALD was shot by RUBY. He said he has no idea how RUBY gained entrance to the basement of the Dallas City Hall on the morning of November 24, 1963.

BLANKENSHIP stated he did not see or talk with RUBY at any time between November 22, 1963 and November 24, 1963.

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