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Date 12/20/63

Mr. VERNON ROY SMITH, 176 South Osceola Street, Denver, Colorado, no telephone, (landlord's telephone West 5-5859), was interviewed at May D & F Department Store.

Mr. SMITH advised that he first met JACK RUBY about October, 1960, and that he worked for him from that time until about December, 1960, as a handyman around the Sovereign Club, a private membership club operated by RUBY in Dallas, Texas. SMITH continued that he quit his job about December, 1960, because he did not care to work any longer for RUBY. He described RUBY as being "very different." He enlarged upon this by stating that RUBY "would curse you out and later apologize." He continued that he did not care to work for RUBY because of this emotional part of his personality.

SMITH stated further that RUBY also operated a nightclub known as the Vegas Club which was a low type nightclub and SMITH was of the opinion that RUBY was trying to "upgrade himself" when he opened the Sovereign Club since it was a very plush club and the members, who SMITH does not know by name, all appear to be well off financially. SMITH continued that he had "heard" from an unrecalled source, probably another employee, that every new girl that came to work at the Sovereign Club was expected to go out with RUBY or "stay late" at the club with him after closing hours. SMITH stated that he is unable to furnish the names of any of these girls or the source of this rumor but that he recalls one night after the club closed he had to return for some reason and knocked on the door to gain entrance. He continued that RUBY finally appeared at the door to let him in and SMITH noted that RUBY's shirt was rumbled up so as to appear that he had had it off and rapidly put it back on to answer the door. SMITH continued that RUBY allowed him to enter on this occasion and as he went to some part of the club to secure whatever he came back for, he noticed one

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of the new girls employed by RUBY sitting in RUBY's office; however, she was fully attired. SMITH further described RUBY as a normal male so far as he knows with no effeminate actions. He stated that he has no knowledge of any close associations between RUBY and Dallas policemen and does not ever recall seeing Dallas policemen in uniform in the Sovereign Club except for one occasion when he saw a uniformed officer come to the reception desk in the club and speak to the receptionist; however, he did not enter the main part of the club. SMITH added that it is possible that plain-clothed men from the Dallas Police Department were entertained in the club without his knowledge.

SMITH advised that he has never seen LEE HARVEY OSWALD and has no information concerning any association between OSWALD or JACK RUBY. He advised further that in his opinion RUBY killed OSWALD because of his grief over the death of President KENNEDY.

SMITH added that he does not know of any close associates of JACK RUBY and would have no opinion as to whether or not RUBY conspired with any person to plot the death of OSWALD. SMITH concluded that he was unable to furnish any additional information concerning this matter but that if he learned anything additional, he would immediately notify the FBI.

On 12/19/63 at Denver, Colorado File # DN 44-387
 by SA RAY M. HICKMAN and
SA RICHARD L. CAMPBELL - nls Date dictated 12/20/63

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