

12/8/63

1.

Date _____

NORMAN SMITH, Gardiner's Neck Road, Swansea, Massachusetts, age 33, an insurance salesman, advised as follows:

He is a native of Swansea, Massachusetts. After completing service in the U.S. Air Force in 1953, he continued his education at Southern Methodist University (SMU), graduating in 1955. Thereafter he went into the theater acting business, specializing in jazz poetry and opened up the Dallas Little Theater on Oaklawn Avenue in Dallas, Texas. This closed on June 15, 1957. In the fall of 1958, he opened a coffee house called "The Poet" on Mc Kinney Avenue in Dallas. In the spring of 1959, he closed this and opened another coffee house called "The Eighth Day" and this was followed in the fall of 1959 with still another coffee house venture called "The Fat Man", all in the same general location in Dallas. In the spring of 1960, realizing that this was not his business, he left Dallas and returned to Swansea, Massachusetts where he has resided since.

During the approximate period 1957 - 1960, he knew JACK RUBY as the owner of "The Vegas", a stripper club in Dallas. He met RUBY in the "Artist's Club" in Dallas, which was an after hours club catering to musicians, actors and club owners. On occasions he played \$1 limit poker with RUBY and others, although he did not consider RUBY a gambling addict. He also met RUBY in "The Vegas" on occasions when RUBY booked a band from SMU called the "Cell Block Seven", which was a favorite of SMITH.

On one occasion, while in the "Artist's Club", RUBY became involved in a drunken brawl with someone and was kicking his adversary while the latter was on the floor. SMITH interceded and took a punch at RUBY to stop the melee.

In all, he had been in RUBY's company about 20 times during this period of time, but he would not consider himself anything more than a casual, social acquaintance of RUBY, based on their allied types of business. He had never been to RUBY's apartment, or had RUBY ever been to his home. He had never met any of RUBY's relatives, and RUBY had never met any of SMITH's family.

On 12/7/63 at Swansea, Mass. File # Dallas 44-1639
BS 44-337
 by SA JOHN E. KEARY/mab Date dictated 12/8/63

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2.

BS 44-337

He had only one business dealing with RUBY, and that involved the purchase of 20 or 30 chairs from RUBY to outfit one of SMITH's coffee houses.

He knows little of RUBY's background, other than the fact that RUBY came from Chicago. He had heard that RUBY attempted unsuccessfully to get a union started of waiters and club personnel in the mid 1950's. RUBY was also supposed to be interested in some pizza making machine around 1960 when SMITH left Dallas. Prior to running "The Vegas", RUBY was rumored to have had a hillbilly joint in the south end of Dallas where an irate customer was supposed to have bitten off the end of RUBY's finger.

RUBY, like other club owners, carried a gun in his money bag containing the club's money. However, he never knew RUBY to have carried a gun on his person or to have threatened anyone with it.

SMITH knew nothing inparticular concerning RUBY's relationship with Dallas Police.

RUBY was a very friendly type, an extrovert and generally well liked. He was a brawler and a bully in the sense that he only picked a fight with those he could physically beat up. He was a publicity hound always looking for publicity for his business, and he was reputed to be a successful club operator by competitors. He did not suspect RUBY of being a homosexual.

He is confident that RUBY had no connection with any secret organization either subversive or criminal, and he believes this due to the fact that RUBY was an intellectual moron, was irresponsible, had an unpredictable temper and consequently would be an untrustworthy member of any such organization.

RUBY was not overly patriotic, but seemed to have an inordinate respect for people in high places.

SMITH has no personal knowledge of OSWALD. SMITH was shocked of hearing that RUBY shot OSWALD and he has no explanation as to why RUBY would do such a thing.