MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy

SUBJECT: Information Concerning Jack RUBY
(aka Jack RUBENSTEIN) and His Associates

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 19 May 1964, requesting that this Agency furnish any information in its files relative to Jack RUBY, his activities and his associates.

2. This memorandum will confirm our earlier statement to the Commission to the effect that an examination of Central Intelligence Agency files has produced no information on Jack RUBY or his activities. The Central Intelligence Agency has no indication that RUBY and Lee Harvey OSWALD ever knew each other, were associated, or might have been connected in any manner.

3. The records of this Agency were reviewed for information about the relatives, friends and associates of RUBY named in your summary of his background. Our records do not reflect any information pertaining to these persons.

Thomas H. Karamessines
Acting Deputy Director for Plans

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A Background on Jack Ruby.

Jack Ruby was born on about March 25, 1911, in the United States, the fifth of eight living children of Joseph and Fannie Rubenstein. These three children are: Hyman Rubenstein, born December, 1901, in Poland; Anna Rubenstein Volpert, born June, 1904, Poland; Marion, aka Muriel, Rubenstein Carroll, born June, 1906, in United States; Dr. Rubenstein (Magid) Grant, born in United States, 1909; Sam (Rubenstein) Ruby, born December 1912 in United States; Earl (Rubenstein) Ruby, born April 1916 in the United States; and Eileen Rubenstein Kennedy, born July 1917 in United States. Jack and his brothers, Sam and Earl, were known by the name Rubenstein until that name was legally changed by each of them in approximately 1947 or 1948.

Ruby’s father, Joseph, was born in Sokolov, Bedlinz Province, Poland on February 2, 1871. He served in the Russian Army Artillery from 1893 to 1898. He married Fannie (Hurek) Rubenstein in 1901. Fannie was born in 1875, one of seven children of a reportedly prosperous Polish physician.

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At the time of Ruby's association with the union, the President was Jack Martin, another principle figure was an attorney, Leon Cooke. Cooke was shot by Martin in an argument in December 1939, and died as a result thereof in January 1940. Shortly thereafter, Ruby left the union.

Jack Ruby served in the United States Army Air Force from May 1943 to February 1946. He was stationed the entire time in the United States, obtained the rank of Private First Class, and had Army Serial Number 36666107.

After leaving military service, he was employed for approximately one year with Earl Products Co., a Chicago based business jointly owned with his brothers, Earl and Sam Ruby. His brothers became dissatisfied with him because he allegedly was not devoting full time to that business. As a result, they bought out his interest in 1947.

We do not have precise information as to what Jack Ruby was doing while he was also employed with Earl Products; however, he is reported to have frequented and been employed at various Chicago area night clubs in the capacity of a bouncer or other minor functionary.

In early 1947, he went to Dallas, Texas, to manage the Singapore Supper Club, a business in which his sister, Eva Grant, was engaged. He returned to Chicago sometime in the late summer or early fall of 1947. At about this same time, he became the subject of a narcotics investigation along with his brother, Hymn, and Paul Roland Jones. Both Hymn and Jack disclaimed any knowledge of Jones' activity in narcotics and were not prosecuted. Jones was prosecuted and convicted by federal authorities.

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and he is reported to have owned and kept in his apartment a set of bar bells during recent years. He neither smokes, nor drinks, and curries rarely.

He is said to have effeminate mannerisms and is alleged by some to be homosexual. However, there is no direct evidence of any homosexual behavior. Although he has never been married, he is known to have dated and at one time was known as a "Indies man." In recent years, some of the women toward whom he has shown interest have indicated that he had purported attitudes toward sex. One male witness describes an occasion when he masturbated one of his dogs and apparently derived great pleasure from it.

Ruby's friends and close associates are detailed more fully in a subsequent section. To gamblers, it can be said that, while living in Dallas, Ruby has very carefully cultivated friendships with police officers and other public officials. At the same time, he was, peripherally, if not directly connected with members of the underworld. The narcotics episode mentioned above concerning Paul Roland Jones is representative. Ruby is also rumored to have been the tip-off man between the Dallas police and the Dallas underworld, especially in regard to enforcement of the local liquor laws. Ruby is said to have been given advance notice of prospective police raids on his own club and other clubs. However, it must be emphasized that such allegations are in the rumor category. Ruby apparently did not permit prostitution to be carried on in his clubs; nonetheless, his associations with stripteasers and cheap entertainers brought him into constant contact with people of questionable reputations. Ruby operated his businesses on a cash basis, keeping no record whatsoever—a strong indication that Ruby himself was involved in illicit operations of some sort.

When it suited his own purposes, he did not hesitate to call on underworld characters for assistance. For example, shortly prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, Ruby was involved in a dispute with the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) concerning the use of amateur stripteasers in Dallas. Ruby claimed that AGVA was permitting his competitors to use amateurs but denying him that privilege. When he was unable to get satisfaction from AGVA, Ruby called Ronny Baker, a Chicago hood who was reputedly a muscle man for Jimmy Hoffa and was been released from prison in June 1963, to ask Baker to give him assistance in his dispute with AGVA. For the same purpose, Ruby also called Frank Goldstein, a San Francisco gambler, who was a friend of his sister, Eva Grant.

Ruby is not known to have been politically active. He is reported to have been a Democrat and an admirer of President Kennedy and President Roosevelt; however, the evidence on this is not sufficiently reliable to warrant a firm conclusion. Prior to World War II, he was a member of a vigilante group which physically interfered with meetings of the German-American Bund in an area of Chicago known as White City. Ruby's group was known as the Dave Miller gang, but we have no evidence to indicate whether this group was simply made up of aggressive young men who were looking for trouble and were from the Jewish neighborhood in which Ruby lived or whether it was an organized group with a strong political basis. He is not known to have engaged in

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any political activities in Dallas. At the time of his arrest, Ruby was found in possession of various radio scripts issued by H. L. Hunt, a prominent American right wing extremist. There is insufficient evidence as to how these radio scripts came into Ruby’s possession, their content and Ruby’s reaction to them to be able to pass judgment on the relationship of Ruby to any right wing groups.

In about 1959, Ruby became interested in the possibility of selling war materials to Cubans and in the possibility of opening a gambling casino in Havana. He was in contact at that time with a friend, Lewis J. McWillie. Insufficient evidence is available on that episode to evaluate Ruby’s connection with any Cuban (anti-Castro or pro-Castro) groups. Ruby is also rumored to have not in Dallas with an American Army Colonel (220) and some Cubans concerning the sale of arms. A Government informant in Chicago connected with the sale of arms to anti-Castro Cubans has reported that such Cubans were behind the Kennedy assassination and are financed by Jewish interests.

Religiously, Ruby is Jewish. He was not a regular attender at the Synagogue, although he did attend the services on high holidays. We have no information as to whether or not Ruby observed any particular Jewish customs in his home or was active in Jewish lay organizations. Nonetheless, it is established that Ruby was very sensitive to anti-Semitism and to his position in Dallas as a Jew.

On balance, it may be said that Ruby’s primary interest in life was making money. He does not seem to have had any great scruples concerning the manner in which he might do so; however, he has usually been careful to avoid prosecution by law enforcement authorities.

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4. Persons connected with cheap nightclub entertainment.
5. The Dallas Police Department.
6. The Dallas Times, with particular emphasis on entertainment
   columnist and persons employed at radio station KLIF.
7. The following geographical areas:
   a. Chicago
   b. Denver
   c. Milwaukee
   d. Minneapolis
   e. New York
   f. Los Angeles
   g. San Francisco
   h. New Orleans
   i. Gulf Coast area (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida)
8. Places frequented by Ruby in Dallas:
   a. Adolphus Hotel
   b. Colonne Hotel
   c. Egyptian Lounge
   d. Sal’s Turf Bar
   e. Milk Pan Drive-in
   f. Venus Club
   g. Carousel Club

C. The following persons, as of this writing, to be the most
   prominent source of contacts between Ruby and politically motived
   groups interested in organizing the assassination of President
   Kennedy:
1. Family members
   a. Eva Grant, born and reared in Chicago, 1909 to 1933. Lived
   COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2980—Continued
Resident of Dallas, background unknown, Negro.


3. Other Associates and Employees.

a. Barney Baker. Chicago hoodlum. Reportedly was man for Jimmy Hoffa. Requested by Ruby in mid-November of 1963 to assist him in dispute with AWA.

b. Karen Bennett Carlin. Employed by Ruby as striptease under name of Little Lynn. Borrowed $5 from Ruby on Saturday night, November 23, telephoned Ruby Sunday morning, November 24, and says she requested him to send her $25. Mrs. Horwatite Oswald (mother of Lee Oswald) believes that she knew a Carol Bennett when she (Mrs. Oswald) was employed as a waitress in Dallas. Mrs. Oswald claims that Carol Bennett was the daughter of a Dallas hoodlum who was murdered in a gangland slaying. No information as to whether or not Karen Bennett Carlin and Carol Bennett are the same person or are related.


COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2980—Continued
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 26, 1964

William McEwan Duff, Also Known As
William McEwan McDuff, "Sandy," "Scottie," "Scotty-
Information Concerning Alleged Association Between General Edwin A. Walker
And Jack L. Ruby

Investigation concerning William McEwan Duff and subsequent information which he reported has been predicated on information supplied on December 10, 1963, by Mr. Joe Loria, a Restaurant operator, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Loria advised that some 7 or 8 months previously he had seen an individual known to him only as "Scottie" — subsequently identified as Duff — with an individual believed to have been Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Loria, who had based his identification on photographs of Oswald which had appeared in Dallas newspapers, advised that he could recall only one time that he thought he had seen Oswald and "Scottie" together.

On January 24, 1964, William McEwan Duff, U. S. Army Serial Number RA 18 678 666, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, identified as "Scottie," was interviewed concerning his reported association with Oswald, an allegation which he denied. On this occasion he reported employment during the period November, 1962, to about April, 1963, in the household of General Edwin A. Walker, Dallas, Texas. Concerning Jack Ruby, Duff stated on January 24, 1964, that he had seen many photographs of Ruby in the newspapers; that he was positive he had never seen Ruby at any place, and had no information about him. He said he had never been in Ruby's night club in Dallas. On May 25, 1964, however, Duff laid claim to an association between Ruby and General Edwin A. Walker, alleging that he had seen Ruby at the Walker residence, according to information supplied by James R. Cantrell, Special Agent, Secret Service, U. S. Treasury Department, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as follows:

Commission Exhibit No. 2981

Commission Exhibit No. 2980—Continued