

iv. James Henry Dolan

Biographical Summary

(924) According to an FBI report, (1183) James Henry Dolan was born October 25, 1914, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In the 1930's, he left school and worked for a year in a California hotel. In 1938, he returned to Cedar Rapids and worked for his brother-in-law in a food business. In 1941 and 1942, Dolan was employed as a structural iron worker. He reportedly did some boxing as a youth and was associated with people in the boxing profession. He served in the U.S. Army from August 1, 1942, to December 21, 1945, and received an honorable discharge. He moved to Phoenix, Ariz., in November or December of 1950 and established his first permanent address at 4045 North Fifth Street. While in Phoenix, Dolan claimed self-employment at the Jefferson Street Gym. Dolan left Phoenix in the spring of 1951 and moved to the Denver area where, on May 1, 1951, he rented a cabin at Rosedale Ranch, Evergreen, Colo. On January 9, 1952, Dolan pled guilty in the U.S. District Court in Denver to impersonating a Federal officer. He received a 5-year suspended sentence and was placed on probation. (1184)

(925) It was subsequently disclosed that Dolan had violated his probation by "rigging" a poker game in Denver and resorting to violence. On October 3, 1953, a probation violation warrant was issued, and Dolan was arrested in Chicago on October 5, 1953, by FBI agents. At the time of his arrest, Dolan was reportedly employed for the American Television Company in Chicago. (1185)

(926) On November 2, 1953, Dolan's probation was revoked, and he was ordered to serve 5 years in prison, with a 3-year probationary sentence to follow imprisonment. He was incarcerated at the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kans., until October 1954. He was then transferred to the Federal Correctional Institution at Seago-ville, Tex., from which he was released on February 21, 1956. (1186) He was placed on probation under the supervision of a U.S. probation officer in Dallas, Tex., until September 25, 1959. (1187)

(927) Following Dolan's release from prison, he was employed for a brief period by Windy City Distributors in Chicago. In 1956, he moved to Dallas, Tex., and was employed by the Rush Rug Co., 4729 Maple Avenue, Dallas. (1188)

(928) In 1957, he was employed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Dallas and by Paymaster Co. (check protectors). From 1958 to 1961, Dolan was employed as the Dallas representative of the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA). After leaving AGVA, he was employed for a brief period as a car salesman at a used-car lot owned by Nick Cascio.* (1189) After this, Dolan was reportedly employed as a traveling salesman for an unidentified company. (1190) In 1961, Dolan's attorney in Dallas indicated Dolan was employed by an unidentified whole-sale flower concern. (1192)

(929) While Dolan was in Dallas, he resided at 101 North Edgefield and, in 1968, at 5509 Caladium. (1193) In June 1969, he was reportedly

*Cascio is described by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as a "traveling criminal" whose specialties are planning large burglaries and robberies and acting as a fence. (1190)

residing in Chicago at 423 Wrightwood. (1194) In October 1969, he was residing with his brother in Glenview, Ill. (1195)

(930) Dolan's aliases have included Jim de Lare, James Harry Dolan, Jim Dolan, Jimmy Dolan, James Bradley, and "Hamily."

(931) *Illegal Activities.*—Dolan has been described as one of the two most notorious hoodlums who resided in Dallas. (1196) An informant described him as a strong-arm man who had been employed by Trafficante.* (1197) Dolan reportedly traveled throughout southeastern and midwestern United States and had numerous underworld contacts throughout these areas. (1198)

(932) His specialties included armed robbery of bookmakers, gamblers, and houses of prostitution, confidence swindles, and shakedown rackets. (1199) Dolan had also, on occasion, professed to be a gambler. A source familiar with union activities reported that a poker game in which Dolan participated was in almost regular session at the AGVA offices. (1200)

(933) Dolan was also associated with bookmaking in Dallas. A 1962 report states that the primary bookmaking operation in Dallas was directed by John Eli Stone, Albert Meadows and Sherman Franklin. (1201) The report lists Dolan among those who were "closely associated with this group and especially with Meadows and Little," who "in addition to gambling themselves extensively, act as strong-arm men or collection men whenever asked." (1202) In 1961 it was reported that Dolan was engaged in "booking" with Johnny Ross Patrono and Bobby Chapman. (1203)

(934) On December 2, 1949, Dolan was held by Illinois police for investigation and subsequently released without charges being filed.

(1204) On July 30, 1951, Dolan surrendered to the U.S. Marshal in Denver to face charges of impersonating a Federal officer—he had been involved in impersonating Internal Revenue Service agents. Anthony Colossacco, who was described as a "known gambler, burglar, and ex-convict," was suspected of "fingering" the victim for Dolan in the impersonation ploy. (1205) (Colossacco has also been described as an associate of the Smaldone Gang, who are alleged to control gambling activities in the Denver area.) Dolan was convicted on this charge on January 9, 1952, and placed on probation. (1206)

(935) In 1952, Dolan was reportedly involved in a "rigged" poker game in Denver and had resorted to violence, threatening the life of the victim of the scheme. (1207)

(936) On July 11, 1951, Denver police arrested Raymond James Conley, Joseph R. Snell and Sidney Neveleff on charges of operating a racetrack swindle in Denver. Dolan was reportedly involved in it. (1208) On July 30, 1951, Dolan surrendered to the district attorney's office in Denver on the same charge. (1209) He was imprisoned from 1953 to February 21, 1956.

(937) In March 1959, Dolan was reportedly in Hot Springs, Ark., participating in plans to rob a bank messenger at Pearl, Miss. (1210)

(938) Dolan was employed at AGVA from 1958 to 1961. A source acquainted with the union considered it "a racketeer proposition."

*Trafficante was a leading organized crime figure operating out of Florida.

(1211) The source stated "he did not doubt Dolan may have used his position for extra income by requiring payoffs from band leaders and persons seeking entertainers." (1212)

(939) On January 16, 1961, Dolan, George Fuqua, and Betty Lee Johnson were arrested by the highway patrol near Biloxi, Miss. (1213) They were charged with violation of the Federal Firearms Act (carrying a concealed weapon), possession of stolen property and possession of burglary tools. On January 18, 1961, Dolan and Johnson pled guilty to the firearm violation and were fined. Dolan pled not guilty to possession of burglary tools and was released on bond. (1214) Dolan subsequently entered a guilty plea on October 18, 1963, and received a 5-year suspended sentence.

(940) On February 2, 1961, Dolan was apprehended in Dallas when leaving his home with George Everett Thomas, a "notorious Dallas police character." (1215) There is no indication whether charges were filed.

(941) On February 16, 1961, Dolan was arrested by the Dallas police for breaking into a pay telephone. (1216)

(942) On March 2, 1961, it was reported that three men entered the Melvin Sugarek Ranch, near Beeville, Tex., and held up a poker game, escaping with \$26,000. (1217) On February 28, 1961, Fuqua had checked into the Shamrock Motel in Dallas. A large gathering was held there after the robbery; it included Fuqua, Dolan, Charles David Boyd, Bob Fletcher, Eddie Tom Greer, Thurman Giles, Billy Ray Gimes, Garen Insley, Jerry Gordon and an Anderson. (1218) On March 7, 1961, Dolan surrendered to the Texas Rangers in connection with the robbery. (1219) In May 1961, the Beesville grand jury returned no bill of indictment against Dolan. (1220)

(943) On April 4, 1962, Dolan was observed in the company of Eddie Tom Green, who was described by Dallas police intelligence "as a person who, according to their informants, specializes in armed robberies of prostitutes, gamblers, and bootleggers and is known to associate with Dolan and known Dallas hijacker George Fuqua." (1221) On April 25, 1962, an informant advised that Dolan had just returned to Dallas. He would not state where he had been, but did say he was then in the "fire business," meaning arson. (1222) On October 10, 1962, it was reported that Dolan had participated in a robbery of a club financed by Sherman Franklin Little. (1223)

(944) On April 17, 1963, it was reported that Dolan had been arrested by the sheriff's office in Baton Rouge, La. (1224) Dolan and Glen Ernest Burnett were reportedly acting in a suspicious manner at the Holiday Inn in Baton Rouge and were suspected of being in possession of a stolen telephone truck. (1225) On April 18, 1963, it was determined that Dolan was not identified with either person believed to be in possession of the truck. (1226)

(945) On May 10, 1963, a Cadillac was stopped in New Orleans which was driven and owned by Dimitry Saik,* who operated a bar on Bourbon Street. Dolan was also in the car. (1227) On May 21, 1963,

*Saik frequented the Town and Country Restaurant owned by Joseph A. Poretto, who was an associate of Carlos Marcello.

it was reported that Dolan had a "large score" set up in the New Orleans area by a "Carlos" (last name unknown), which was to occur on May 26, 1963. Eugene Ruben McCroskey and Carl Angelo de Luna* were also to be involved.(1228)

(946) On June 1, 1963, Dolan reportedly was in Shreveport, La., to meet "Carlos" and plan the robbery, scheduled for June 3, 1963.(1229) Dolan was unable to contact De Luna and McCroskey, so the robbery was postponed again, and Dolan returned to Dallas.(1230)

(947) It was reported that Dolan attempted to gain the assistance of David Fred Hagler and Robert Paul Winters for a June 10 robbery.(1231) Dolan learned, however, that the planned robbery was known to the police, so it was again postponed.(1232)

(948) On June 24, 1963, Dolan was arrested by the New Jersey police.(1233) Dolan was charged with possession of a concealed weapon and auto theft.(1234) He was arraigned on July 23, 1963, in East Windsor Township Municipal Court and released on \$4,000 bond.(1235) Dolan pled not guilty and was indicted on August 2, 1963.(1236)

(949) On July 29, 1963, Dolan was arrested at the Executive Inn Motel's private club in Dallas for assaulting a security guard, C. F. Bentley.(1237) On July 30, 1963, Dolan was charged with aggravated assault of a police officer.(1238) On July 31, 1963, Dolan and an unidentified Dallas attorney appeared at the Dallas police station and attempted to get the charge dropped.(1239) According to an FBI airtel, the Dallas Police Department planned to press charges.(1240) (950) On September 10, 1963, Dolan was found not guilty of a disorderly conduct charge in East Windsor Township Municipal Court, New Jersey.(1241) It was reported that Dolan was free on approximately \$12,000 bail on various charges in New Jersey.(1242)

(951) On October 18, 1963, Dolan appeared in the circuit court in Gulfport, Miss., and entered a guilty plea to a charge of possession of burglary tools.(1243) He received a 5-year suspended sentence and was placed on probation for 5 years.(1244)

(952) On November 15, 1963, Dolan was observed in Dallas.(1245) On November 21, 1963, he was seen by FBI agents entering a tire shop, reportedly operated by a Dallas bookmaker, T. B. Turns, as a book-making establishment.(1246) On December 9, 1963, Dolan was arrested by the Dallas police, along with Jess Raymond Bridwell and Robert Elmer Woolverton, at the Sheraton Hotel.(1247) They were suspected of planning a jewel robbery(1248) and were found with 36 pairs of crooked dice, two unsigned cashiers checks bearing the heading of a nonexistent Billings, Mont., bank, and a list of 10,000 persons, along with their wagering limits.(1249)

(953) On December 29, 1963, Dolan was given a 1- to 3-year sentence for arson, to be served at the Kansas State Penitentiary. He was released on October 24, 1967.(1250) On July 17, 1972, Dolan failed to appear in the U.S. District Court in Atlanta, Ga., on a charge of interstate transport of stolen property.(1251)

*De Luna was a Kansas City hoodlum.

Organized Crime Connections

(954) *Connections with Santos Trafficante.*—An FBI report states:

In late 1960 or 1961, George Fuqua and James Henry Dolan went to Miami, Florida, where Dolan introduced Fuqua to Santos Trafficante, Jr., through Trafficante's associate, Milo Bell. The purpose of the contact was to ascertain if Bell and Trafficante could use Dolan and Fuqua in the "collection" business or as enforcers for Trafficante. Trafficante allegedly told these two Dallas people that he wanted a "bolito man knocked off and roughed up," as this man was holding out on his collections and owed Trafficante some money. Dolan and Fuqua were told by Trafficante that their fee for doing this would be whatever money they would take from the bolito man after roughing him up. This bolito man was pointed out to Fuqua and Dolan by Bell, who also acquainted them with the man's habits and activities. Dolan and Fuqua subsequently "knocked off" this man and got about \$7,000. About two weeks after this, at Trafficante's request, a second bolito man was pointed out and "set up" by Bell and he, too, was robbed and beaten by Dolan and Fuqua. (1252)

(955) The only other indication of any association between Dolan and Trafficante occurred in February 1961 when Dolan was arrested in Dallas for breaking into a pay telephone. At the time of his arrest, Dolan was placing a call to Marlowe Bell, who is identical to Milo Bell, and a close associate of Trafficante. (1253)

(956) *Connections with Carlos Marcello.*—In March 1963, it was learned that Dolan had been on a trip to New Orleans and Mississippi. It was said that Dolan, while in New Orleans, had spoken to Carlos (last name unknown, possibly Marcello), "a big-time New Orleans hoodlum," who told him that the FBI was checking on him and showing his picture around. (1254)

(957) As stated previously, on May 10, 1963, Dolan had been stopped by the New Orleans police in the company of Dimitry Saik, who was said to frequent the Town and Country Restaurant owned by Joseph A. Poretto, an associate of Marcello. (1255) On May 21, 1963, it was reported that Dolan had a "large score" set up in the New Orleans area by a "Carlos" (last name unknown), to take place during the week beginning on May 26, 1963. (1256) On June 1, 1963, Dolan reportedly was in Shreveport, La., to meet this "Carlos" regarding the robbery. (1257)

(958) The FBI contacted several informants who stated it was doubtful Marcello would set up a "score" for Dolan. They did state, however, that Nofio Pecora possibly might assist Dolan. (1258) Pecora was a Marcello associate who operated the Tropical Tourist Court in New Orleans. (1259) On February 1, 1963, a New Orleans informant had observed George Fuqua at Martin's Restaurant across the street from the Tropical Tourist Court. (1260) A 1964 FBI report which listed Nofio Pecora's known criminal associates included the names of Dolan and George Fuqua. (1261)

(959) *Other Connections.*—There are several indications that Dolan was associated with organized crime individuals during the early

1950's when he was in Denver, Colo. Anthony Colossacco allegedly was involved with Dolan in the impersonation case. (1262) Colassacco was an associate of the Smaldone Gang in Denver. (1263) Dolan was known to have been at least acquainted with James "The Weasel" Fratianno, (1264) a known west coast organized crime figure. Stephen Sambur, a Los Angeles gambler and hoodlum, observed Fratianno, Dolan and Colassacco conferring at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver. (1265)

Association with Jack Ruby

(960) When the FBI interviewed Dolan in 1963, he stated he had known Ruby since 1957. (1266) Dolan stated he saw a lot of Ruby when Dolan worked for AGVA. (1267) He also visited Ruby's club on "several occasions." (1268) Dolan stated he "had not been in Ruby's club in over a year and he last saw Ruby about 3 months ago at the Town and Country Restaurant in downtown Dallas." (1269)

(961) When the committee interviewed Dolan, he again admitted knowing Ruby. (1270) He could recall two specific incidents that concerned Ruby and AGVA. The first arose when Ruby wanted a performer to date a customer. While the performer did not want to do so, she refused to file a complaint. The second occurred when Ruby hit Joe Peterson, the manager of a group that performed a show called "Bottom's Up." (1271) Breck Wall ran the group and, in his Warren Commission testimony, confirmed Dolan's account of Ruby's having punched Peterson. Wall added, however, that the AGVA representative, James Dolan, sided with Ruby in the dispute. (1272) He stated, "Jack Ruby and Jim Dolan took the show over and made our kids perform the show." (1273)

(962) Dolan was also associated with R. D. Matthews, another Dallas hoodlum associate of Jack Ruby (1274) who was said to be a frequent visitor to Dolan's AGVA office. (1275) Matthews also assisted Dolan in collecting a "bonus" from a nightclub owner in Hot Springs, Ark. (1276) On May 29, 1963, Dallas police intelligence advised that Dolan had recently been in contact with R. D. Matthews, (1277) allegedly discussing the need for \$2,000 to gain the release of their associate, George Fuqua. (1278)

(963) An investigation of telephone calls made by Dolan and George Everett Thomas indicated a call was made to the American Bonding Agency in Chicago, (1279) which is operated by Irwin Weiner, a major figure in organized crime and the Teamsters. Ruby called Weiner on October 26, 1963, and Weiner has admitted previous contacts with Ruby. (1280)

Treatment by the Warren Commission

(964) Dolan was interviewed by the FBI regarding his association with Jack Ruby, (1281) but was not questioned regarding his organized crime associates or criminal activities. He also was not questioned regarding any knowledge of Ruby's connections with organized crime or the Dallas criminal element.

(965) Dolan was referred to in two other FBI interviews. In one, Jewel Brown stated that Dolan had contacted her in 1959, requesting that she work for Ruby at the Sovereign Club. (1282) Brown worked for Ruby for 7 months, but quit as a result of a disagreement regard-

ing Ruby's advances toward her.(1283) At the request of AGVA, she returned to the club and completed her contract.(1284).

(966) In the second interview, Lillian McCardell stated that Beatrice Arnell had informed her that Ruby had slapped her at the Carousel.(1285) Arnell went to the Dallas Police Department to report the assault and was told to forget it.(1286) She then went to Dolan and reportedly was told by Dolan "to forget the incident because Ruby had too much on the Dallas Police Department for such a trivial charge."(1287)

(967) As stated previously, Dolan was also referred to in Breck Wall's Warren Commission testimony.(1288)

(968) There is no indication that any Warren Commission staff member interviewed Dolan. He did not testify before the Commission and there is no indication that the Warren Commission was aware of the extent of Dolan's criminal activities.

Other Information

(969) When Dolan was in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1951, he was observed in the company of James Bradley Lee.(1289) Lee is identical with Eugene Hale Brading, a.k.a. James Braden.(1290) It was the informant's opinion that Brading and Victor Periera might have conveyed to Dolan the idea that he could operate successfully as a "con man."(1291) When FBI agents attempted to interview Brading, he refused to answer any questions regarding himself or his associates.(1292) Braden was detained for questioning in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.(1293)

(970) Interview with Dolan by House Select Committee on Assassinations staff.

Kennedy

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NAME James Henry Dolan Date 3/9/78 Time 2:30 .m.
 Address Atlanta Federal Penitentiary Place Same

Interview: Prior to our interview with Dolan, an inmate at the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, I conferred with his attorney Roger Thompson as to the nature and scope of the subject matter to be covered. Unfortunately, Dolan had not been explicitly told the identity of the persons coming to visit him and was a bit apprehensive about an interview. However, once the situation was explained to him and we had an opportunity to speak with his attorney, he was very cooperative.

Dolan was an ex-fighter (light heavyweight) who had served time prior to his obtaining a job in Dallas as the AGVA representative in approximately 1957. He stated that he had no connections in getting the job and had an attorney satisfy himself that he would not be violating the Landum-Griffin Act by accepting the position.

Basically, he was concerned with enforcing minimum standards for entertaining employees in the Dallas area which included the strip-tease performers. As a consequence of his position, he became acquainted with Jack Ruby whom he described as a poor businessman and "bully."

Interviewer *John W. Hornbeck*
 (Signature)
John W. Hornbeck
 (Typed)

Date Transcribed Rife 3/14/78

Two specific incidents caused Dolan to dislike Ruby. The first problem occurred as a result of Ruby trying to cancel the contract of a Breck Wall show called "Bottoms Up," a fairly well-known musical-style review. During the course of arbitration, voices and tempers became raised and Ruby suddenly punched Joe Peterson ("a little fairy"), supposedly on behalf of Dolan.

According to Dolan, this one-punch fight was typical of Ruby, who had a reputation for "picking his spots" and was a real "bully," especially around his club where a lot of Dallas policemen "hung out."

The second encounter involved a complaint by one of Ruby's strippers who alleged Ruby ordered her to "date" some of the customers, which is against union policy. Unfortunately, said Dolan, the girl did not file a formal complaint, so that the union was unable to take any formal action.

Ruby had a poor business sense and made some unwise decisions when he was "booking" legitimate acts and thus went into "strippers" in order to make money. In contrast to the Weinstains who ran a good operation, Ruby's Club did not have a great reputation, although Dolan did not have any information re gambling or prostitution.

As to AGVA problems, Dolan was not aware that Ruby would "go over his head" or even knew union leaders. Although Ruby frequently talked about his days in Chicago and implied an association with people from his neighborhood who had

gained a reputation as part of the ^{criminal} ~~carnival~~ element.

Dolan could recall no specific problem involving the use of amateur strippers as the problem was tightly controlled by the union and each club was permitted one show per week, using non-union talent provided that the winner was given a future union contract.

Dolan had no contract with Eva Grant and thought that the Vegas Club did not use "strippers."

Ruby As to Ruby's slaying of Oswald, Dolan believed that Ruby had an ego drive to impugn people, was an extreme "police buff," had grandiose schemes, wanted to "be a hero" and thought he could "get by" with killing Oswald since he had made good police contacts. In sum, Ruby was a "sick man." Hearsay was that Ruby took "uppers" as he was extremely aggressive. Another common story was that Ruby had been run out of Chicago by the mob, although Dolan had not heard that Ruby was mob-connected in Dallas. Socially, Ruby liked to associate with anyone who was a "figure."

Dolan acknowledged that he was very familiar with the gambling "scene" in Dallas which he described as mostly "free-lance" with no mob control. He knew that Civello was at Appalachia in 1957 but had no real organization of which Dolan was aware. Ruby was not a part of the gambling picture in Dallas and Dolan could not conceive of Ruby being connected to the mob, as he was too erratic and closely associated with policemen all the time.

We went over the list of names of Ruby associates and Dolan commented upon some of them. Certain names like Baker, Weiner and Dorfman he recognized as Chicago union officials but whom he did not know personally.

Mc Willie was friendly with Ruby and was a "man about town" although usually he was hurting for money. His only real "connection" was with Benny Benion in the 1940's. Dolan understood that Ruby had lent McWillie money and that the trip to Cuba in 1959 was to collect the sums advanced.

R. D. Matthews was another well-known gambler, probably known to Ruby, since he frequented the "joints" of Dallas.

Joe Campisi was a familiar name in Dallas as a restaurateur but Dolan had no information as to his gambling or book-making.

H. L. Hunt was known as a gambler who had gotten "taken" in some card games but Dolan had no specific information. He also knew Kirkwood, Bonds, and Jack Todd but could not relate any particular association with Ruby.

Jim Braden, or Brading, was unfamiliar to Dolan until I mentioned Phoenix and James Brady Lee, in connection with some boxing promotion. Dolan stated that he would be happy to identify a photo but he could not be sure that Lee was the person also known as Braden.

We had to leave as the pre-dinner "lock-up" ritual was

being observed but Dolan and his counsel indicated that he would try and refresh his memory and would contact us if he had additional information. I stated that we would provide a letter indicating that Dolan had been cooperative if necessary.

KENNEDY

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULEIdentifying Information:

Name James Henry Dolan Date 3/9/78 2:30 PM
 Address Atlanta Federal Penitentiary Place Same
 City/State Atlanta, Georgia Telephone _____
 Date of Birth _____ M or S _____
 Social Security _____ Spouse _____
 Children _____

Physical Description:

Height _____ Color Eyes _____ Hair _____
 Wei _____ Special Characteristics _____
 Ethnic Group _____

Personal History:

- a. Present Employment: Inmate , was an AGUA representative
Address Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia
Telephone _____
- b. Criminal Record
1. Arrests _____
 2. Convictions _____

Additional Personal Information:

- a. Relative(s): Name Knew Ruby, etc.
 Address _____
- b. Area frequented: Atlanta, Dallas
- c. Remarks: _____

Investigator John W. HornbeckDate Typed 3/13/78. Rife

Form #4-B