

viii. Robert Ray McKeown

Biographical Summary

(1105) Robert Ray McKeown was born on January 28, 1913. (1674) No details concerning his childhood or life before 1950 were known at the time of the committee's investigation.

(1106) In the early 1950's, McKeown, who stated he was a mechanical engineer by profession, resided in Houston, Tex., where he owned a large machine shop. (1675) During the mid-1950's, McKeown and one Van Zeivander traveled through Latin America introducing a novel coffee cleaning machine that Van Zeivander had designed. The success of this venture prompted McKeown to move to Santiago, Cuba, where he established a manufacturing plant, warehouse, and office to increase distribution of the machine. In 1957, however, McKeown lost the business when President Batista deported him for not providing kickbacks. (1676)

(1107) McKeown next resided temporarily with his daughter, Jane Margaret Britt, in Miami, Fla., before again traveling the Caribbean countries in an attempt to regain possession of his Cuban business. (1677) When Federal agents arrested him in 1958 for conspiring to smuggle guns to Castro, for which McKeown received a 2-year suspended sentence and a 5-year probation, McKeown owned a home in the Shady Lake section near Pasadena, Tex. (1678) In a 1976 interview, McKeown stated that when arrested, he was vice president of the Texas Western Drilling Co. of Oklahoma City. (1679)

(1108) Shortly after this arrest and prior to his sentencing, McKeown and a Jarrett formed a partnership and opened the J & M Drive-In on Red Bluff Road near Taylor Lake and Clear Lake, in the vicinity of Kemah and Seabrook, Tex. This business was sold a few years after its purchase when Jarrett died. (1680)

(1109) During his probationary period, which extended to December 1963, McKeown continued to live in the Houston, Tex., vicinity, staying with his sister, Laverne, at 9138 Wayfarer Street, Houston. (1681) In an FBI interview in January 1964, McKeown stated he resided in Bay Cliff, Tex., and that the Houston Slush Pump Co., 2112 Quitman Street, Houston, employed him as a salesman. (1682) McKeown had a brother, Harry, who was also residing in Houston in 1978. (1683)

(1110) Since 1966, McKeown has lived in Miami, Fla. (1684) He was formerly employed by the API Co. as head of quality control, but stopped work 5 years ago after an operation on his lungs. (1685) In poor health McKeown has been living with his daughter.

Treatment by the Warren Commission

(1111) The FBI conducted the investigation of McKeown for the Warren Commission. He initially became a target of investigation when Jack Ruby stated in an interview with the FBI on December 21, 1963, that "at a time when Castro was popular in the United States," he read of a person in the vicinity of Houston who had run guns to Castro. (1686) Ruby mentioned that he attempted to contact this person by telephone about the possibility of selling some jeeps or similar equipment to persons interested in their sale to Cuba. Ruby claimed nothing further developed from his efforts.

(1112) The Houston FBI office advised on January 17, 1964, that Ruby most likely was referring to Robert Ray McKeown. (1687) When the FBI located McKeown and interviewed him on January 24, 1964, he stated that a person identifying himself as Rubenstein from Dallas had called him regarding assistance in obtaining the release of three persons from Cuba and that a few weeks later a person who would not identify himself personally visited him regarding the sale of jeeps to Castro. McKeown subsequently determined this individual was Jack Ruby. (1688) This FBI interview also focused on McKeown's gunrunning activities and his associations with Fidel Castro and Carlos Prio Socarras.

(1113) The FBI did not conduct any further interviews of McKeown, nor did it ever confront Ruby with the contention that Ruby visited McKeown personally. The FBI did provide the Warren Commission with a report revealing that McKeown was under FBI investigation in connection with the activities of Carlos Prio Socarras and that McKeown had been charged, together with various other persons, with conspiracy to smuggle guns and related equipment to Cuba. (1689) The Warren Commission did not, however, interview McKeown or take his testimony. Further, the Commission did not question Ruby about McKeown either in an interview or in a hearing. Considering McKeown's association with Prio and Castro, the potential Cuban connection McKeown could have provided Ruby, and the contradictions between Ruby's interview and McKeown's interview, it can be argued that both the FBI and the Warren Commission failed to investigate this matter adequately.

(1114) McKeown also stated that Lee Harvey Oswald contacted him in the fall of 1963 regarding the sale of rifles. The Warren Commission could not have investigated this, however, since the story did not publicly surface until 1975.

Legal Activities

(1115) McKeown ostensibly received various amounts of income from the numerous jobs enumerated earlier. No financial records concerning this income were, however, available. (1690)

(1116) In his committee hearing, McKeown stated that Scott Malone, a journalist, provided him with \$100 in connection with McKeown's appearance on the British Broadcasting Co.'s production, "The Assassination of President Kennedy . . . What Do We Know Now That We Didn't Know Then." (1691) McKeown also stated that he was presently under contract to write a book with Mark Lane which was to include McKeown's statements regarding the Ruby and Oswald contacts. McKeown said a \$50,000 and a \$10,000 figure had been discussed in connection with this contract. (1692)

(1117) As already alluded to, McKeown cultured a close friendship with Carlos Prio Socarras. When McKeown entered a partnership to open the J and M Drive-In in 1958, Prio funded the venture with a loan. (1693) The Houston Post, September 20, 1959, also quoted McKeown as saying that Prio once promised him a one-half interest in the Seria Biltmore, a Havana hotel. (1694)

(1118) McKeown also developed a close friendship with Castro. When Castro visited Houston in April 1959, McKeown met with him

at the Houston airport. A photograph in the Houston Chronicle recorded the event, and an article accompanying the photograph quoted Castro as saying that when McKeown could move to Cuba, he would be given a post in the government or some franchise.(1695) (McKeown could not then legally leave the United States because of his probation.)

(1119) McKeown's close association with Castro prompted many people to ask him for assistance in affairs pertaining to Cuba and Castro. For instance, McKeown stated that he contacted Castro after the United States broke diplomatic relations to obtain the release of three persons being detained in Cuba who were close friends of McKeown's brother.(1696) He also maintained that a Jack Porter, who he says was a campaign manager for Eisenhower, contacted him around 1959 about approaching Castro.(1697) Other examples of such contacts exist.(1698)

(1120) In a discussion during his committee hearing in which there was a reference to Texas oil men, McKeown mentioned that he knew a Mr. Murchison.(1699) Besides the political connections already reviewed, McKeown did not acknowledge any other significant contacts involving legal activities. He also stated in his committee hearing that he was not aware of any contacts between himself and the CIA, or any other foreign or domestic intelligence agencies.(1700)

Illegal Activities

(1121) As mentioned earlier, in a letter from Hoover to Rankin on April 17, 1964, the FBI informed the Warren Commission that McKeown was one of the persons "in an extensive investigation conducted by the Bureau since 1952 concerning the activities of Carlos Prio Socarras."(1701) The FBI said that Prio, along with others including McKeown, was engaged in assisting Castro in his revolutionary pursuit against Batista.

(1122) McKeown first became involved with Prio after Batista deported him (McKeown) from Cuba. He stated in a 1976 interview that Prio had contacted him through a person named Mario (last name unknown) regarding repossession of his business. He met Prio at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston where Prio told him how to locate Castro.(1702)

(1123) After the initial contacts, McKeown soon became involved in gunrunning ventures aimed at overthrowing the Batista regime. He first began supplying arms through operations based in Miami and Tampa, but later switched to Houston, Tex., because of law enforcement pressure.(1703) The FBI learned that the July 26 Movement was planning a raid on Cuba from Texas. In connection with this raid, armaments shipments were sent to McKeown.(1704) Other FBI files also documented McKeown's involvement in similar illegal activities, (1705) particularly with Mario Villamia, a Miami citizen.

(1124) On February 18, 1958, the San Antonio FBI office provided information that Robert Ray McKeown had purchased a yacht called the *Buddy Dee*. Customs officials seized this vessel a few days later

for smuggling guns while it was cruising to Houston from Patterson, La. Those on board included Manuel Arques and Ruby Archer.(1706) On February 25, 1958, in connection with the seizure, Federal agents arrested McKeown and charged him with conspiracy to smuggle guns and related equipment to Cuba for the benefit and use of Castro.(1707) McKeown's codefendants in this action included Carlos Prio, Jorge Sotus, Manuel Arques, Mario Villiami and Evelyn Archer.(1708) On October 24, 1958, the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, convicted and sentenced McKeown to 60 days in jail, fined him \$500, and imposed a 5-year probation period, to terminate December 11, 1963.(1709)

(1125) After his conviction, it does not appear that McKeown continued to engage in illegal activities. In his committee hearing, he did mention that around 1968 a man named Torrento approached him with \$100,000 to kill Castro; he refused the offer.(1710) McKeown also stated he was aware of a girl named Marceau Albinez who was involved in a plot to kill Castro which never fully developed.(1711)

(1126) Regarding sources of income for the gunrunning operations, McKeown stated in an interview that he received money from his Cuban contacts in the office of an attorney who was counsel for Haiti and that the money was always bound in Pan American Bank Building wrappers. McKeown also stated that some U.S. Senators, whom he could not recall, assisted in supplying the arms.(1712)

(1127) In his testimony, McKeown said he had met and was familiar with the following persons connected with revolutionary Cuban activities: (1) Antonio de Varona; (2) Joseph Merola; (3) William Morgan; and (4) Mario Valamois.(1713) He said he knew of the following individuals but had not met them: (1) Frank Sturgis, (2) Pedro Diaz Lanz, and (3) Dominik Barton.(1714)

Connections With Organized Crime

(1128) McKeown did not seem to have any significant connection to organized crime. In an interview, he did state, however, that the "mob" supplied arms for gunrunning activities, but he could not provide any supportive evidence.(1715) McKeown also stated in his testimony that there were several individuals who had wanted the casinos opened. One called Matthews asked McKeown to visit Cuba and brief Castro on the benefits Castro would derive from opening them. McKeown could not comply because of his probation.(1716)

(1129) While being questioned, McKeown said he never met and never heard of the following organized crime figures who were associated with Cuba: (1) Lewis McWillie, (2) Dino Cellini, (3) Loran Hall, (4) Sergio Arcacha Smith, (5) R. D. Matthews, (6) Joseph Civello, (7) Jack Todd, and (8) Jim Braden.

(1130) McKeown said he had heard of the following individuals, but did not know them and had probably never met them: (1) Santos Trafficante, (2) Carlos Marcello, (3) Vincent Marcello, (4) Michael McLaney, (5) Sam Giancana, (6) Meyer Lansky, (7) David Ferrie, (8) Guy Banister, (9) Clay Shaw, (10) George de Mohrenschildt, (11) James Robert Dolan, (12) Sam Campisi, (13) Joseph Campisi, (14) Candy Barr, and (15) John Roselli.(1717)

Relationship to Ruby

(1131) Both Ruby and McKeown have related different accounts concerning the Ruby-McKeown contact briefly described earlier. Ruby had never specifically mentioned McKeown but spoke only of an individual in the vicinity of Houston who had run guns to Castro.

(1132) In an attempt to ascertain the identity of this person, Assistant District Attorney William Alexander, Dallas, told the FBI on January 14, 1964, that a source informed him that Ruby had previously contacted a "Davis," an ex-convict believed to be living in Beaumont, Tex. Alexander said he thought the Houston FBI office handled an investigation of Davis which resulted in a conviction for gunrunning activities. (1718)

(1133) On January 17, 1964, the Houston office advised that the "Davis" could not be identified in Houston or Beaumont, Tex. It did state, however, that Ruby probably was referring to a Robert Ray McKeown, who had been convicted of smuggling arms to Cuba in October 1958. An agent of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit of the IRS, who entered the evidence in the McKeown case, also stated that he could not recall a "Davis" in the McKeown case and failed to locate his name after searching his files. (1719) The investigation prompted the FBI to contact Robert Ray McKeown.

(1134) To illustrate most effectively the various accounts of the Ruby-McKeown association, this material first relates Ruby's version and then chronologically details McKeown's numerous statements.

(1135) *Ruby's version.*—During an interview with the FBI on December 21, 1963, Ruby commented that during "a time when Castro was popular in the United States," he had read of a person from the Houston area who had been involved in running guns to Castro. Ruby said that he attempted to contact this person by telephone in the hope of making some money by selling jeeps to persons interested in their importation to Cuba. Ruby stated that nothing more happened. (1720)

(1136) *McKeown's version.*—McKeown had related his versions numerous times since first describing the events to the FBI in January 1964. These various accounts, summarized below, contain inconsistencies which are discussed later.

(1137) —FBI Report, January 28, 1964, Ruby file, Bureau No. HO 44-939, S.A. Daniel W. Fults, Jr.

As a result of the Ruby allegation, the FBI contacted McKeown and asked him to relate any association he had with Ruby. McKeown stated that about 1 week after Castro assumed control of Cuba, Anthony "Boots" Ayo, a patrolman for the Harris County sheriff's office, informed him that someone from Dallas, Tex., had been calling the Harris County sheriff's office in an effort to locate him. Ayo told McKeown that he didn't know the caller's name or the nature of his business. McKeown advised Ayo to give the caller the telephone number of the J and M Drive-In, McKeown's place of business.

McKeown next stated that about 1 hour later a person called, identified himself as Jack Rubenstein from Dallas,

Tex., affirmed McKeown's connection with Castro, and solicited McKeown's assistance in obtaining the release of three people Castro had detained in Cuba. Rubenstein offered McKeown \$5,000 per person, stating that someone in Las Vegas would provide the money. McKeown said he would accept the offer on the condition that he first received some money. Rubenstein replied by saying he would think about it and call again.

About 3 weeks after this call, McKeown stated that a man visited the J and M and offered him \$25,000 for a letter of introduction to Cuba. The visitor, who did not identify himself, stated that he had access to a large number of jeeps in Shreveport, La., which he wished to sell to Cuba. McKeown said that he would provide the letter upon a \$5,000 cash down-payment. McKeown said that the man "never returned nor did he ever see him again."

McKeown next told the FBI that based on the numerous press photographs following the Oswald murder, the visitor strongly resembled Jack Ruby. McKeown remarked, however, that "he is not certain that the above-described telephone caller from Dallas or the man who personally appeared at the J and M Drive-In was identical with the Jack Ruby who killed LHO."

McKeown also stated that he knew no one by the name of Davis who was convicted for running guns to Cuba. (1721)

(1138) —CBS News Inquiry, "The American Assassins," part I, p. 19, 1975.

"The American Assassins" special principally related the Oswald-McKeown connection and only mentioned that Jack Ruby had come to see McKeown in 1959, offering him \$25,000 for a letter of introduction to Fidel Castro. The transcript then noted that Ruby "never came back" to obtain the letter. (1722)

(1139) —Interview of Robert Ray McKeown by Gaeton Fonzi, HSCA staff, August 27, 1976, Miami, Fla.

In this interview McKeown stated that a deputy sheriff came to the J and M Drive-In and informed him that someone from Dallas was attempting to telephone him. McKeown then told Ayo to provide the caller with his number. About 30 minutes later McKeown received a call from a person who said his name was Rubenstein and he was from Dallas. After commenting that he thought McKeown's name was Davis, the caller stated that he knew five people being detained in Cuba and wanted to know if McKeown could obtain their release. Rubenstein then terminated the call after saying he would visit McKeown to review details.

Soon after this call a person personally contacted McKeown and told him he had access to some jeeps in Shreveport, La., and some slot machines in New Mexico. This person told McKeown he desired to sell the equipment to Castro and con-

sequently wanted a letter of introduction. McKeown replied by saying this would cost \$5,000 up front. The visitor mentioned that he knew some members of the Mafia in Cuba and had visited the country once while on vacation. The visitor also mentioned that Goldberg was the individual who possessed the jeeps in Louisiana. McKeown thought this visit occurred in January 1959, and displayed to the committee investigator a newspaper clipping dated January 3, 1959, and headlined, "Gunrunner Hails Castro Victory." This may have been the impetus for the Rubenstein visit.

During this interview, McKeown also commented that this visitor came to see him three times, a statement he claimed he had told the Warren Commission. Further, McKeown stated he knew it was Ruby because the person identified himself as "Rubenstein from Dallas." McKeown then stated that he never gave any letter or assistance to Ruby because he didn't receive any money. (1732)

(1140) —Interview of Robert Ray McKeown by the British Broadcasting Corp., December 1977 (broadcast January 1978).

McKeown stated that a person identifying himself as Jack Rubenstein called him from Dallas regarding his association with Castro and his assistance in releasing some people from Cuba. McKeown said he could not discuss the matter because of his upcoming trial (McKeown was sentenced in October 1958).

McKeown next stated that the following day a person who claimed he was from Dallas and who McKeown said was Ruby visited him and mentioned that he wanted to visit Cuba on vacation and wanted a letter of introduction to Castro for which he would pay \$25,000. Ruby also mentioned that he had some jeeps and some slot machines which he wished to sell to Castro. Further, Ruby stated he had never been to Cuba. Ruby then left for Houston and said he would return for the letter. McKeown told him that he would provide the letter for \$12,500 up front and \$12,500 later, with the entire transaction contingent on his meeting Castro. McKeown said that Ruby did return the next day, that they talked and visited some Cuban friends of McKeown's, but that Ruby did not provide any cash. After returning again the following day, Ruby still failed to produce any money. McKeown concluded by saying he never provided a letter and that Ruby never returned. (1724)

(1141) —Immunized testimony of Robert Ray McKeown before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, April 12, 1978.

In this testimony, McKeown said a person identifying himself as Jack Rubenstein (1725) called him and said he wanted a letter of introduction to assist in acquiring the return of several people from jail. (1726) Rubenstein said that he would soon visit him to discuss the matter and also mentioned that he thought McKeown's name was Davis. (1727)

A few days later a man visited McKeown and said he was the one who had called him. Rubenstein said he wanted a letter of introduction to Castro for which he would pay \$25,000. McKeown responded by agreeing to provide the letter if Rubenstein would furnish \$10,000 up front. (1728) McKeown also mentioned that the man said he had access to various jeeps, slot machines, and similar items. (1729) McKeown maintained that Rubenstein revisited him three or four times and stated that he did not tell the FBI on January 28, 1964, that the man never came to see him again, (1730) which the FBI document reflects. (1731) McKeown never received any money and therefore never provided any letter.

McKeown also mentioned that he believes he told the FBI about the Ruby visit sometime before the assassination and that he visited the FBI the day after the assassination to inform them about Ruby. No records concerning personal FBI contact with McKeown exist beside the January 1964 interview. (1732)

(1142) As mentioned above, neither the Warren Commission nor the FBI reinterviewed McKeown or confronted Ruby with McKeown's contentions of multiple visits. The FBI did interview Anthony J. "Boots" Ayo, who corroborated McKeown's statement that Ayo contacted him regarding someone calling from Dallas. (1733)

(1143) No further investigation was apparently conducted.

(1144) *Inconsistencies*.—Besides the obvious differences between Ruby's and McKeown's recollection of their mutual association, important substantive inconsistencies permeate McKeown's accounts. Some of the central points that disappear or are altered in McKeown's various statements are: (1) How and when McKeown determined the person who visited him was Jack Ruby; (2) The number of people Ruby wished to remove from Cuba; (3) When these Ruby contacts occurred; (4) How many times Ruby visited McKeown in person; (5) The amount of time between the phone call and the personal visit or visits; (6) Whether McKeown ever heard Ruby ask about a Davis; and (7) When McKeown first spoke to the FBI about these contacts.

Relationship to Oswald

(1145) McKeown first publicly acknowledged a contact between himself and Lee Harvey Oswald on the CBS News special, "The American Assassins," aired November 1975. As with the alleged Ruby contact, McKeown's statements about Oswald summarized below, contain inconsistencies.

(1146) —CBS News Inquiry, "The American Assassins," November 1975.

A few weeks before the assassination, McKeown stated that two men visited his house around 11 o'clock one Saturday morning. A small, blond-headed man identified himself as Lee Oswald and said that he, McKeown, was the person he sought. Oswald then said he wanted some bazookas and machineguns. After McKeown refused to help, Oswald and the second man, a tall Latin named Hernandez, left, only to return in about 5 minutes. This time Oswald asked McKeown to acquire "four powerful maybe .300 Savage automatics with a telescopic

sight on them." Oswald told McKeown he would pay \$1,000 for each rifle. McKeown reiterated that he would not get involved.

McKeown also said a friend of his, Sam Neill, witnessed this encounter. Neill corroborated this story on the CBS special and said he had "no doubt" that the person was Lee Harvey Oswald. McKeown likewise said it was "certainly him."

In response to a question, McKeown said he believed that in his 1964 interview, the FBI had asked him whether he had ever had any knowledge or contact with Oswald. McKeown said he was scared and probably responded by saying he had never seen him. Neill likewise was afraid to become involved. (1734)

(1147) —Interview of Robert Ray McKeown by HSCA investigator Gaeton Fonzi, August 27, 1976.

McKeown told Fonzi that on a Saturday morning at his home in Bay Cliff, Tex., in September or August 1963, two men visited his house. One man identified himself as Lee Oswald; the other man was called Hernandez. McKeown said that a friend of his, Sam Neill, was also present.

After introducing themselves, McKeown said that Oswald wanted McKeown to furnish arms for a revolution in San Salvador. McKeown refused to cooperate, and the men departed, only to return in a few minutes. This time Oswald asked McKeown to provide four high-powered automatic rifles with telescopic lens, specifically .300 Savage automatics. Oswald said he was willing to pay up to \$10,000.

McKeown stated he realized this man was the Lee Harvey Oswald who allegedly shot President Kennedy upon witnessing the murder of Oswald. McKeown also said that Sam Neill called him immediately after this event and told him that he also recognized Oswald as the man who had visited the house. (1735)

(1148) —Interview of Robert Ray McKeown by the British Broadcasting Corp., December 1977 or January 1978.

During this interview, McKeown stated that approximately 2 months before the assassination, two men visited his home. McKeown said that Sam Neill was present and that his wife was upstairs changing.

One man identified himself as Lee Oswald and asked McKeown to acquire some weapons to assist them in the overthrow of the El Salvador government. Oswald and the other man, named Hernandez, departed when McKeown refused to help.

After a few minutes, the man (later identified as Oswald) returned and told McKeown he would pay him \$1,000 each for four automatic rifles with telescopic lens. McKeown again refused.

McKeown also stated that Sam Neill called him after Ruby shot Oswald and told him that Oswald was the man who had visited them. (1736)

(1149) —Immunized testimony of Robert Ray McKeown, April 12, 1978.

McKeown stated that one morning sometime before the assassination, two strangers visited his house. One man identified himself as Lee Oswald and asked McKeown to supply some armaments for a revolution in El Salvador. After McKeown refused Oswald and the second man, called Hernandez, (1737) left. McKeown also said that his wife was upstairs and that a friend of his, Sam Neill, was present. (1738)

After a few minutes the two men returned and Oswald told McKeown he would pay him \$10,000 for four .300 Savage automatics with telescopic lens. After McKeown again refused, they departed. (1739)

McKeown also stated Sam Neill called him after the shooting of Oswald and told him that the man who shot Oswald was the same man who visited the house. (1740)

In his testimony, McKeown stated he believed that just after the assassination he told his probation officer, a man named Fields, of the contact with Oswald. (1741) McKeown also stated that during his 1964 interview, the FBI did not ask him anything about Oswald, and he did not volunteer any information. (1742) The FBI report does not agree. (1743) McKeown had absolutely no explanation for why he withheld the information from the FBI, or why he told the FBI about Ruby and not Oswald. McKeown also stated that he could not recall telling Dan Rather on the CBS News Inquiry that Oswald only offered him \$1,000 per rifle; he stated he told Dan Rather \$10,000. (1744) McKeown did reiterate, however, that he was positive that Oswald and Ruby had visited him. (1745)

(1150) *Warren Commission response.* When interviewed by the FBI in 1964 concerning the Ruby contacts, McKeown said that to his knowledge he "had" never seen or met Lee Harvey Oswald. (1746) Further, McKeown did not publicly acknowledge this contact until 1975. Consequently, neither the Warren Commission nor the FBI had the opportunity to investigate it.

(1151) *Inconsistencies.* Like his statement concerning the Ruby visit, numerous inconsistencies exist in McKeown's recollections of the alleged Oswald contact: (1) Price of the rifles; (2) mention of the revolution in El Salvador; (3) when the visit occurred; (4) whether the FBI asked McKeown about any knowledge or contact with Oswald; and (5) why McKeown would have told the FBI about the Ruby contact and not about the Oswald contact.

(1152) Executive session testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1978

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U.S. House of Representatives,
Subcommittee on the Assassina-
tion of John F. Kennedy of
the Select Committee on
Assassinations,
Washington, D.C.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 8:15 a.m.
in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Richard-
son Preyer (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Preyer, Dodd, Fithian and
Sawyer.

Also present: E. Berning, R. Morrison, G. Gonzi, J.
Wolf, M. Flanagan, A. Purdy, J. Hornbeck, I.C. Mathews, G.
Cornell, W. Cross, H. Leap, M. Wills, D. Hardway, R. Genzman
and C. Berk.

Mr. Preyer. The Committee will come to order.

The Chair recognizes the Clerk of the Committee to
read into the record those members who are officially
designated to be on the Committee this morning.

The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, you, Mr. Thone, Mr. Sawyer
and Mr. Dodd are regular members; Mr. Fithian will be
substituting for Mrs. Burke.

1 Mr. Preyer. Pursuant to yesterday's order, this will
2 be a closed meeting. If the witness, Mr. McKeown and his
3 attorney would come forward at this time, I would ask the
4 attorney for Mr. McKeown if he would state his name for
5 the record, please.

6 Mr. Appel. Mr. Chairman, my name is Kevin Appel, a
7 member of the Virginia Bar. I have been asked to represent
8 Mr. McKeown by Mark Lane, who is Mr. McKeown's attorney.

9 Mr. Preyer. Very well. Is the witness prepared to be
10 sworn to testify at this time.

11 Mr. Appel. I would like to make a statement, if I
12 may.

13 Mr. Preyer. You are recognized at this time.

14 Mr. Appel. Thank you.

15 Mr. Lane, who is Mr. McKeown's attorney is unable to
16 appear at this time. This fact has been made known to Chief
17 Counsel's office by Mr. Lane's staff several times over the
18 course of this past week. Mr. Lane has repeated a request
19 that Mr. McKeown's appearance before the Committee be
20 rescheduled.

21 The Committee has, however, refused to reschedule the
22 appearance of this witness. In doing so, it deprives him of
23 his right to counsel of his choice. Mr. McKeown is willing
24 to testify but does not want to do so without the counsel
25 of choice.

1 Mr. Lane is familiar with the witness. He is familiar
2 with the facts that he will be asked to relate in his
3 testimony and Mr. McKeown feels that his rights will not
4 be adequately protected without Mr. Lane's presence.

5 I have been called in at the last minute. I am not
6 familiar with the witness or with the matters that he will
7 be talking about.

8 It is our feeling that his right against self-incrimina-
9 tion will not be protected.

10 I will ask the Committee if, at all possible, to please
11 reschedule the appearance of this witness. Mr. Lane has
12 assured me that he could appear at almost any time. He
13 could not make it today; he had another commitment that he
14 could not get out of. He is willing to come from Los Angeles
15 at any time that the Committee wants and Mr. McKeown will
16 testify, with Mr. Lane's presence, at any time.

17 Mr. Preyer. I will recognize counsel for the staff for
18 any comments he may have on that.

19 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Mr. Chairman, the witness was subpoenaed on February
21 14, 1978 to appear on March 14th of this year. At that
22 time, he was fully interviewed by our staff and, I might
23 add, cooperated fully with the questioning.

24 Subsequently, the hearing was continued until today.

25 Mr. Lane has attempted to change the hearing date to

1 April 17th. This request was first made on March 27th.

2 Since March 27th, there have been frequent communications
3 between Mr. Lane and this staff wherein it was indicated that
4 attempts would be made to change the appearance date, but
5 that Mr. Lane should be prepared to appear with his client
6 or make appropriate arrangements to the contrary.

7 At no time was Mr. Lane told that this hearing would
8 be changed and he has, at all times, been told that the
9 hearing was scheduled for the 12th.

10 In addition, Mr. Chairman, the Committee is prepared,
11 the staff is prepared to recommend that the witness be
12 immunized and the appropriate orders are at hand. Therefore,
13 it is our contention that the witness cannot incriminate
14 himself in any way and his attorney, Mr. Appel, will be
15 present to deal with any objections that we feel he is
16 perfectly competent to take care of.

17 Therefore, we feel that there can be no objection to
18 his client's testifying at this time and it is the recommen-
19 dation of counsel that a continuance not be granted.

20 Mr. Preyer. I think the objection is well taken.
21 This is not exactly like a court proceeding. For one thing,
22 this committee has a deadline by which time we have to
23 finish this proceeding. It is not like a court which just
24 goes on year after year.

25 Mr. Appel. If I may make another comment, please, also

1 recently Mr. McKeown has received a threatening phone call
2 which has made him very apprehensive. I am not familiar
3 enough with the facts to counsel him about what he says.
4 He is nervous about what he says.

5 Mr. Lane has more familiarity with the witness and
6 with what he will say and the witness would be much more
7 at ease with Mr. Lane present.

8 As I say, Mr. Lane is willing to reschedule for any
9 time that he can appear. Today was just a very bad day.
10 He has very pressing business that could not be changed, so
11 I again ask if at all possible that we change the scheduled
12 hearing.

13 Mr. Preyer. I will say to Mr. McKeown that he has
14 nothing to fear from this Committee. This is an Executive
15 Session. His testimony will not be known to anyone. It
16 is not as if he is being charged with any kind of a criminal
17 charge, or anything of that sort. He is not. We are simply
18 seeking information from him and we are prepared to immunize
19 him so that there could be no possible criminal fall-out.

20 So I do not see that there is any danger to Mr. McKeown,
21 to his rights at this time, because this has been known for
22 weeks and the hearing was set at this time. Our schedule is
23 so tight, I think we would have to go forward.

24 Mr. Fithian?

25 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, I request that counsel --

1 I request to ask counsel. I understand that, in the original
2 appearance request to appear before the Committee that there
3 was an earlier date and, for convenience of counsel, it was
4 shifted until today.

5 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Fithian, the counsel for Mr. McKeown,
6 Mr. Lane, contacted Chairman Stokes by letter on March 10th
7 to request an open hearing and expense money. This was for
8 a hearing scheduled for March 14th.

9 The Committee considered these requests on March 13th,
10 the day before the hearing was scheduled and it was for
11 that reason, because of the scheduling of the March 13th
12 hearing, to consider those requests, that the hearing was
13 postponed until April 12th.

14 Mr. Fithian. So it has been postponed once for a one-
15 month period?

16 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

17 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, it would seem to me that,
18 while attorney schedules are busy I am sure, that having
19 already postponed this hearing for one month that the
20 Committee would be ill-advised to make an additional post-
21 ponement.

22 Mr. Preyer. Thank you, Mr. Fithian.

23 The Chair will deny the motion for a continuance at this
24 time and will ask the witness if he would stand and be
25 sworn at this time.

1 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence that you are
2 about to give the Subcommittee will be the truth, the whole
3 truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

4 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

5 Mr. Preyer. Thank you, Mr. McKeown.

6 I believe the witness has been given a copy of the Rules
7 of this Committee. At this time, I will give a brief state-
8 ment concerning the subject of the investigation.

9 House Resolution 222 mandates the Committee to conduct
10 a full and complete investigation and study of the circum-
11 stances surrounding the assassination and death of John
12 F. Kennedy, including the existing laws of the United States
13 concerning the protection of the President, and investigatory
14 jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments are
15 adequate in their provisions of enforcement, whether there
16 was full disclosure of evidence and information among
17 agencies and departments of the United States government,
18 and whether any evidence or information not in the possession
19 of the agency or department would have been of assistance
20 in investigating the assassination and why such information
21 was not provided or collected by that agency or department;
22 and to make recommendations to the House if the Select
23 Committee deems it appropriate, of amendment of existing
24 legislation or the enactment of new legislation.
25

The Chair recognizes Mr. Purdy to begin the questioning

1 of the witness.

2 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Mr. Chairman, the first line of inquiry will be related
4 to Mr. McKeown's connections and contacts with Jack Ruby.

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1 TESTIMONY OF ROBERT RAY MC KEOWN

2 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, please state your full name?

3 Mr. McKeown. Robert Ray McKeown.

4 Mr. Purdy. Please state your date of birth and place
5 of birth.

6 Mr. McKeown. January 28, 1911, Houston, Texas.

7 Mr. Purdy. What is your present address?

8 Mr. McKeown. 1203 Southwest 30th Court, Miami,
9 Florida.

10 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, when did you first meet Jack
11 Ruby?

12 Mr. McKeown. I refuse to answer on the grounds that it
13 may incriminate me.

14 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I request now at this time
15 that the Chair direct the order of immunity to the witness.

16 Mr. Preyer. The Chair will ask counsel to give the
17 witness a copy of the order of immunity, which I understand
18 you have obtained.

19 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 The Clerk. This will be marked Exhibit 92.

21 (The document referred to
22 was marked JFK Exhibit No.
23 92 and will be found in the
24 files of the Subcommittee.)

25 (Pause)

006736

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
)
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS)

Misc. No. 78-6095

FILED

MAR 28 1978

ORDER
CONFERRING IMMUNITY UPON AND
COMPELLING TESTIMONY FROM ROBERT RAY McKEOWN

JAMES E. DAVEY, CLERK

The United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations having made written application, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 6002 and 6005, for an order conferring immunity upon Robert Ray McKeown and compelling him to testify and provide other information before the Subcommittee on the assassination of John F. Kennedy of the Select Committee on Assassinations, and the court finding that all procedures specified by § 6005 have been duly followed, it is hereby, this 28th day of March 1978,

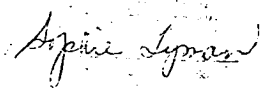
ORDERED, that Robert Ray McKeown in accordance with the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 6002 and 6005, shall not be excused from testifying or providing other information before the Subcommittee on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy of the Select Committee on Assassinations on the grounds that the testimony or other information sought may tend to incriminate him.

ORDERED FURTHER, that Robert Ray McKeown appear when subpoenaed by said Subcommittee and testify and provide such other information that is sought with respect to matters under inquiry by said Subcommittee.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no testimony or other information compelled under this order (or any information directly or indirectly derived from such testimony or other information) may be used against Robert Ray McKeown in any criminal case, except a prosecution for perjury, giving a false statement or otherwise failing to comply with this ORDER.


United States District Judge

Dated: *March 28, 1978*



1 Mr. Appel. I assume -- I am not familiar with grants
2 of immunity. I assume that the statutory provisions have
3 been followed in this order and that there was proper notice
4 and the Attorney General notified?

5 Mr. Preyer. Counsel?

6 Mr. Purdy. All proper steps, including notification
7 of the Justice Department, were complied with.

8 Mr. Preyer. Thank you.

9 The Chair now directs the witness to answer the question
10 in light of the immunity that has been conferred on him.

11 Mr. McKeown. Would you repeat the question?

12 Mr. Purdy. Yes, Mr. McKeown.

13 When did you first meet Jack Ruby?

14 Mr. McKeown. Well, can I tell it in my own words, how
15 I came about to meet him?

16 Mr. Purdy. Please do, Mr. McKeown. If we have any
17 questions, we can follow up.

18 Mr. McKeown. Well, at the time, I was running a lounge
19 in Texas and the Sheriff's Department came to my place and
20 told me that there was somebody trying to get ahold of me
21 from Dallas, Texas and would it be all right if the Sheriff's
22 Department would give him my number there. So I said, hell,
23 I do not know anybody from Dallas, Texas, so I said yes, it is
24 all right, go ahead and give him the number.

25 So I would venture to say that, maybe twenty, thirty

1 minutes -- I do not know exactly how long, but the phone
2 rang and I answered it and it was a gentleman on the phone
3 who said my name is Jack Rubinstein -- he did not say Ruby.

4 He says, I would sure like to come down there and
5 have a talk with you. I said, what is this all about? He
6 said, well, I understand that you have connections that
7 would benefit me, and I would like to come down.

8 And I said, well, I guess it is all right. Come on
9 down.

10 So I would venture to say -- this has been quite awhile
11 ago, I guess you can understand that. I would venture to say
12 maybe two days that this gentleman walked in and he was a
13 pretty well-dressed guy, had a hat on and everything, and
14 he introduced himself to me and told me his name was Rubin-
15 stein. He says, I am the one who talked to you on the
16 phone.

17 He said, is there any way that we can talk?

18 I said yes. If you want to talk, what do you want to
19 talk about?

20 So he told me, he says, I would like -- I may be getting
21 ahead of my story; it has been a long time. Of course, we
22 talked a little bit about this and that and he said, I
23 understand that you are a very good friend of Castro.
24 I said, I do not know, that has been sometime back. I am
25 out of that mess now, and I do not want to get too much

1 involved in it any more.

2 He says, I wonder if you would give me a letter of
3 introduction to Castro?

4 I says, I do not know. I do not know you. I asked
5 him, are you Jewish, and he said yes.

6 I said, well, I know you are not Spanish. So anyway,
7 it would certainly be worth your while if you would give
8 me this letter, a nice letter telling them that I am a
9 friend of yours and I am a good friend and have been knowing
10 you a long time.

11 I said, well, that would be a damned lie. I just met
12 you thirty minutes ago. I do not know you.

13 So he says, I will give you \$25,000 if you will write
14 me this letter where you will acknowledge that I am a friend
15 of yours and have done business with you and things of that
16 sort. Do you understand?

17 So I said, well, Jesus Christ. \$25,000 is a lot of
18 money. I said, where are you going to get that kind of money.

19 He said, I have connections; I can get it. As a
20 matter of fact, I thought he was full of baloney.

21 Anyway, I did write the letter and I says, I will tell
22 you what. I will give you this letter, but you give me
23 \$10,000 to show you that this letter will get you to see
24 Castro and then meanwhile, I will call Castro and tell him
25 you are coming. But you give me \$10,000 now and I will give

1 you the letter.

2 He says, well, I do not have that right on me right
3 now. I do not have that much money, but I will be back
4 either this afternoon or in the morning, and he wanted to
5 read the letter; I would not let him read it.

6 Sure enough, he did come back the next day -- not the
7 next day, but two or three different times he came back,
8 but he never did get the letter. I never did give him the
9 letter, because he never did give me any money.

10 But in the meantime, we would talk about things and
11 he commenced telling me that he had a whole lot of jeeps,
12 a whole lot of slot machines and he had access to this and
13 all of this. He had good connections.

14 I said that is beside the point. I do not think that
15 Castro is going to have gambling over there to begin with.
16 But he kept coming back, you know, and we would talk and
17 drink a beer together.

18 He impressed me -- I do not know exactly how to say it
19 because ladies are present, because he impressed me as a
20 big bunch of b.s. in my opinion. That is just my opinion.

21 He wanted to act like he was a big shot, but it did not
22 impress me any. But the only thing I can figure is that he
23 was trying to find out from me my activities and things
24 of that sort, how well I knew Castro. He wanted to find out
25 where I lived, how I got involved and all of this and all of

1 that. But I did not tell him.

2 He left about the fourth day he came down. He came
3 down about four times and he left and I never heard from him
4 since.

5 Mr. Purdy. I realize that it has been a long time
6 but I would like to ask you a few follow-up questions about
7 the call and the series of visits.

8 Could you pinpoint for us what year the phonecall was?

9 Mr. McKeown. Well, I imagine that it was around '61,
10 but I am not positive. I know it was not very cold. I
11 imagine around August, or something like that. I really do
12 not know, to be frank with you. I had it all this wrote
13 down but my house burned up and burned everything I had up,
14 everything.

15 As a matter of fact, I was lucky to get out of the
16 house and I had an investigator investigate how come my
17 house was burned up, and they told me that somebody set it
18 on fire. I lost everything. I got out of there with a pair
19 of shorts.

20 Mr. Purdy. Do you have any time reference for when the
21 call came? Was it a long time after Castro took over, or
22 a short time? Do you remember that?

23 Mr. McKeown. More or less a short time, because it
24 was all in the papers. I should have brought that with me.
25 I brought it down here, but I have all of the papers, the

1 newspaper clippings and everything, but I left it in the
2 room. You know, you can tell from the date about what time
3 that all happened.

4 Mr. Purdy. Could we obtain copies of the papers from
5 you after the hearing?

6 Mr. McKeown. Sir?

7 Mr. Purdy. Could we obtain copies of those papers after
8 the hearing?

9 Mr. McKeown. Yes, they are at the hotel. You know,
10 the papers probably have the date on them. But it was
11 after that, you see.

12 That is the reason,, I imagine, that he contacted me
13 because he read all of this paper business, you know.

14 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember what it was in the news-
15 papers that he read about you?

16 Mr. McKeown. Well, I was working, I was associated
17 with Carlos Prio. I was getting guns into Castro.

18 Mr. Purdy. So there was publicity about that?

19 Mr. McKeown. So I got caught, you understand, and then
20 the publicity came out.

21 Mr. Purdy. When you were arrested for running guns,
22 that was in 1958, is that correct?

23 Mr. McKeown. I think so, '58 or '59. I was not
24 arrested, I gave myself up.

25 Mr. Purdy. You gave yourself up, the records indicate,

1 on February 25th, 1958, is that correct?

2 Mr. McKeown. Somewhere around there, yes, sir.

3 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall talking with the FBI about
4 these facts on January 28th, 1964?

5 Mr. McKeown. What?

6 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall being interviewed by the FBI
7 in January, 1964?

8 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

9 Mr. Purdy. At that time you indicated that the
10 telephone call from a man you said who was Jack Rubinstein
11 came approximately one week after Castro assumed power.
12 Is that your present recollection?

13 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

14 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall that Castro came to power
15 January 1, 1959?

16 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

17 Mr. Purdy. That would put your phonecall approximately
18 a week after that, early in January, 1959. Is that your
19 present recollection?

20 Mr. McKeown. It was right after Castro took power,
21 maybe a week or ten days or something. I really do not
22 know.

23 Mr. Purdy. This morning you said that the man who
24 called you said that you might be able to do something for
25 his benefit. Did he add any other details as to what you

1 might be able to do?

2 Mr. McKeown. He said he would like to sell Castro a
3 lot of jeeps and slot machines. That is what he said, and
4 he wanted to meet Castro, he wanted to go over there and
5 meet him.

6 Mr. Purdy. Limiting this just to the phone call, not
7 to the visit, did he discuss the jeeps and slot machines
8 during the phone call?

9 Mr. McKeown. No.

10 Mr. Purdy. What did he discuss during the phone call?

11 Mr. McKeown. Like I told you, he just said that he
12 would like to come down and talk to me and I told him that
13 was all right with me if he wanted to come down.

14 Mr. Purdy. In the telephone call, did he request your
15 assistance in obtaining the release of three people from
16 Cuba?

17 Mr. McKeown. He said he had some friends over there
18 that he would like to help get out, if I could help him get
19 them out.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did he say who they were?

21 Mr. McKeown. Did you have any idea who he was talking
22 about?

23 Mr. McKeown. No.

24 Mr. Purdy. You say you had known Castro very well, is
25 that correct?

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

2 Mr. Purdy. Approximately a week after Castro assumed
3 power, were many people imprisoned?

4 Mr. McKeown. Imprisoned in Cuba or here?

5 Mr. Purdy. Imprisoned in Cuba. Did he imprison a
6 number of people when he took power?

7 Mr. McKeown. You know as much about it as I do. You
8 read the papers where he did, yes.

9 Mr. Purdy. Do you have a present recollection as to
10 whether he imprisoned people shortly after taking power
11 or later, months later?

12 Mr. McKeown. Well, I presume he imprisoned them
13 practically right away.

14 Mr. Purdy. Do you know what types of people he
15 imprisoned after taking power? Were they political figures,
16 were they gamblers, were they Cubans, Americans?

17 Mr. Appel. Is this line of questioning pertinent?

18 Mr. McKeown. Why go through all of this? I am here
19 to testify about Oswald and Jack Ruby and all of that
20 Castro business-- I have all of that behind me and I want
21 to leave it behind me.

22 Mr. Appel. I have to object.

23 Mr. Purdy. This line of questioning is intended to
24 gain any information possible about the types of people that
25 Jack Ruby may have been trying to obtain the release of

1 from Cuban jails on behalf of some other interests, as well
2 as to pinpoint more accurately the timeframe when Jack Ruby
3 would have been making those inquiries, because it is
4 unclear whether or not people were imprisoned shortly after
5 the Castro takeover, or later on.

6 For that reason, Counsel contends that this line of
7 questioning is relevant, Mr. Chairman.

8 Mr. Preyer. I think it is pertinent to seek to devel-
9 op information relating to who might have been imprisoned.
10 If the witness knows the answer to this question, the Chair
11 thinks it would be pertinent to answer.

12 Mr. Appel. Would you repeat the question?

13 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, let me rephrase the question.

14 Do you have any information about the general types of
15 people imprisoned or specific individuals imprisoned after
16 Castro took power?

17 Mr. McKeown. Do I know any of them?

18 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

19 Mr. McKeown. No. I did not know any of them personally.
20 I heard of them.

21 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall the names of anybody you
22 heard was in prison in Cuba?

23 Mr. McKeown. There was a friend who came from Costa
24 Rica and I understood that he was in jail. His name was
25 Hernandez.

1 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did Mr. Rubinstein, in the
2 phonecall, offer you any money for obtaining the release
3 of individuals?

4 Mr. McKeown. No, not in the phone call.

5 Mr. Purdy. How many individuals did he ask that you
6 obtain the release of?

7 Mr. McKeown. Three. He said he had three friends over
8 there.

9 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Rubinstein indicate that he was
10 working for anybody else when he was trying to obtain the
11 release of these people?

12 Mr. McKeown. He emphasized, when I asked him about this
13 money, you know, I told him that is a hell of a lot of
14 money, but he said, I have good connections so money does
15 not mean anything.

16 Mr. Purdy. This was money in regard to obtaining the
17 release of people or the letter?

18 Mr. McKeown. To give him the letter. If I would
19 give him the letter of introduction to Castro, he offered
20 me that money, but I never did get it. He never did get the
21 letter.

22 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell the FBI on January 28, 1964
23 that Mr. Rubinstein, in the phonecall, offered you \$5,000
24 for the release of each of three prisoners?

25 Mr. McKeown. Well, he said something on the phone, he

1 said, I got some friends over in Cuba, but as I recall now,
2 he might have offered me some money on the phone, but I do
3 not believe he did. It seems as though the only time he
4 offered me money was to get the letter.

5 He might have said something, but I did not talk to him
6 very long on the phone. The only thing he wanted me to do,
7 to get from me, was it all right for him to come down there
8 from Dallas to talk to me. That was the main thing that he
9 wanted to talk to me about.

10 Mr. Purdy. Approximately how much time passed after
11 the phonecall when he came to visit you?

12 Mr. McKeown. A couple or three days.

13 Mr. Purdy. He came to visit you a few days after the
14 phone call?

15 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

16 Mr. Purdy. You stated earlier this morning that the
17 man who came to see you identified himself as Jack Rubin-
18 stein, is that correct?

19 Mr. McKeown. Rubinstein.

20 Mr. Purdy. In your interview with the FBI on January
21 28, 1964, did you tell him that the man who came to visit
22 you did not identify himself?

23 Mr. McKeown. No, not as I recall. Did not identify
24 himself?

25 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

1 Mr. McKeown. I do not recall what I said to the FBI.
2 I just told them that he came to see me.

3 Mr. Purdy. Is it your present recollection that the man
4 who came to see you, identified himself as Jack Rubinstein?

5 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

6 Mr. Purdy. Could you please give you a physical des-
7 cription of the man who came to visit you?

8 Mr. McKeown. Well, he was a little bit stout and he
9 had a little patch on his nose at the time, a little round
10 patch. I asked him what happened, he said he squeezed a
11 blackhead and it got infected. He had a black hat on and
12 he was well-dressed. Kind of a stocky sort of fellow, not
13 tall. I would venture to say he weighed 165, 180 pounds.
14 I really do not know. Just average. Well-dressed.

15 He wore a hat, I knowthat.

16 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did you tell the FBI on
17 January 28, 1964 that the reason that you knew the man who
18 came to see you was Jack Rubinstein was because you recognized
19 him from photographs that you saw at the time of the
20 assassination?

21 Mr. McKeown. I want to tell you something. I think I
22 went to talk to the FBI before the assassination and then
23 after the assassination, both.

24 I just told the FBI that Jack Rubinstein, like I am
25 telling you, called me on the phone and he came down there

1 to see me and he wanted this letter.

2 Mr. Purdy. Did you talk to the FBI about Jack Rubin-
3 stein before the assassination?

4 Mr. McKeown. It seems as though I did, yes.

5 Mr. Purdy. Approximately how long before the assassina-
6 tion did you talk with the FBI?

7 Mr. McKeown. Right after Castro took over, you see?
8 I think Castro took over in '58, did he not?

9 Mr. Purdy. He took over January 21, 1959.

10 Mr. McKeown. '59. It was a little bit after that
11 that he came to see me.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did you talk to the FBI about Jack Rubin-
13 stein before the assassination?

14 Mr. McKeown. Well, it seems as though I did. You
15 see, I was on probation. I was on five-year probation and
16 I was scared, because I did not want to get in no trouble.
17 So I believe I went and told them about this guy coming to
18 see me, up in the Post Office Building in Houston. I am
19 pretty sure I did. They told me that that was very good
20 information.

21 But, you see, right after the President was assassinated --
22 as a matter of fact, I was working for the Houston Slush
23 Pump Company. I was a salesman, a sales representative.

24 Well, this lady, she owned this company and her and I
25 was going to eat dinner, to eat lunch, and the bookkeeper --

1 is it all right to tell you in my own words how this
2 happened? We wanted to get some chicken and we were going
3 to get some Mexican food at a Mexican restaurant, so he
4 asked us to bring some chicken back for him.

5 So I went into this cafe to order the chicken and then
6 tell them I would pick it up on the way back and that is
7 when I heard that the President had been shot. So I come
8 on back to the car and I said, turn the radio on. The
9 President has been shot.

10 So she turned the radio on and we didn't go nowhere.
11 We went back to the office and listened to the broadcasts
12 on the radio.

13 The next day, the FBI was out and I went up there and
14 talked to them about Jack Ruby.

15 Mr. Purdy. Is that the first time that you talked to
16 the FBI about Jack Rubinstein?

17 Mr. McKeown. I think it was; then again, maybe it was
18 not. It has been a long time. I have been through a lot of
19 hell since then.

20 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, where were you when Lee Harvey
21 Oswald was shot?

22 Mr. McKeown. I was watching my television in St. Leon,
23 Texas.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did you recognize the name of the individual
25 who shot Lee Harvey Oswald?

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

2 Mr. Purdy. Did you recognize his name as Jack Ruby?
3 Did you assume that was Jack Rubinstein?

4 Mr. McKeown. I recognized him as the man who had come
5 to see me.

6 Mr. Purdy. You recognized his photograph?

7 Mr. McKeown. On the television.

8 Mr. Purdy. After Mr. Oswald was shot, did you tell
9 anyone that you had known Jack Rubinstein?

10 Mr. McKeown. I did not have to tell them. You know,
11 things like that get around. This particular fellow who
12 was living there with me -- I had married this lady, she was
13 a schoolteacher and she did not know that I was in all of
14 this mess. I was on probation at the time.

15 So I was trying to hold it away from her, but of course,
16 you know them things get out. But, anyway, Sam Neal was
17 there and he left so I told Pauline, I said, I am going to
18 turn the television on. I seen it when he killed him,

19 And then Sam called right after that and we went down
20 to somewhere, I do not know where. He called me up and
21 say, hey, that is the son-of-a-bitch who was at your house,
22 that is the guy who was at your house talking about Oswald.

23 And I said, it sure is.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell anyone, after the shooting of
25 Oswald, that you knew Jack Rubinstein?

1 Mr. McKeown. I did not know Jack Rubinstein. I did
2 not know him, like I don't know you. I am talking to you
3 now, but I don't know you. The same with Jack Rubinstein.
4 I did not know him. The only thing he came to me -- I had
5 never seen the man in my life before; I had never heard of
6 him.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell anybody that you had met him
8 prior to the time that you talked to the FBI?

9 Mr. McKeown. That I met Jack Ruby? Yes, I told a
10 few people that he came to see me, after this happened.

11 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell anybody besides Sam Neal that
12 you had met Lee Harvey Oswald after the assassination?

13 Mr. McKeown. Sam Neal was there when Lee Harvey
14 Oswald came out of the house.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell anybody else that you had
16 met Lee Harvey Oswald after the assassination?

17 Mr. McKeown. I guess so. I told a few people.

18 Mr. Purdy. You stated earlier that Mr. Rubinstein who
19 visited you said he was interested in transporting jeeps
20 and slot machines to Cuba?

21 Mr. McKeown. Right. That was his subject. More or
22 less, he wanted this letter more than anything else.

23 Mr. Purdy. Did he say that he had possession of jeeps
24 and slot machines?

25 Mr. McKeown. Right. He said he had them out in Nevada

1 in the mountains somewhere, out in a cave. That is what he
2 told me.

3 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Rubinstein say that he knew any
4 Mafia or organized crime figures that were associated with
5 Cuba?

6 Mr. McKeown. He said he knew the Mafia. He did not
7 say anything about associating with Cuba.

8 Mr. Purdy. Did he tell you any of those individuals?

9 Mr. McKeown. No, he did not tell me any names, no.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did he say that he was working for those
11 Mafia figures in those transactions?

12 Mr. McKeown. No, he said he had connections. When I
13 asked him about the money he said you do not need to worry
14 about the money, I have good connections. Money does not
15 mean nothing.

16 Mr. Purdy. Did he mention any connections with Miami?

17 Mr. McKeown. He wanted to know if I knew anybody in
18 Miami. He just wanted to know how well I was acquainted
19 in Miami, I said I go there quite often. I know a few
20 Cubans.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did he mention the Clover Club or the Ponce
22 Room in Miami?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

24 Mr. Purdy. Why did he mention those to you?

25 Mr. McKeown. He asked me, are you familiar with the

1 Ponce Club. That was behind the Clover. In them days, that
2 is where the Latins congregated, in the Ponce Club, do you
3 understand? And he asked me if I had ever been in there.
4 I said, yes, I had been in there.

5 That is about all there was to it. He just wanted to
6 know if I knew where it was.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did he say that he had been there?

8 Mr. McKeown. Well, he did not exactly say that he had
9 been there. He just wanted to know if I had been there.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did you get the impression that he had
11 been there?

12 Mr. McKeown. I got the impression that he knew what
13 he was talking about. He described the place pretty good.

14 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell him that you knew people
15 connected with the Ponce Room?

16 Mr. McKeown. No.

17 Mr. Purdy. Did he tell you that he knew individuals
18 connected with the Ponce Club?

19 Mr. McKeown. No.

20 Mr. Purdy. When Mr. Rubinstein contacted you concern-
21 ing the release of individuals from Cuban prisons, did he
22 initially think that your name was Davis?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

24 Mr. Purdy. What did he think that your first name was?

25 Mr. McKeown. I do not know, but he got me mixed up

1 with a fellow named Davis over in Beaumont.

2 Hell, I did not know anybody named Davis.

3 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, you stated earlier that Mr.
4 Rubinstein contacted you because of news accounts of your
5 connections with Cuba, is that correct?

6 Mr. McKeown. That is the only way I know. He called
7 the Sheriff's Department. I was living about 35 miles or
8 so. I was in the county, I was not in the city of Houston.
9 I was in a little place called Seabrook. I had bought a
10 house down there and then I had bought this acre of land
11 and I had built a little shopping center there. The money
12 was furnished to build this shopping center, and I think
13 I was waiting for the trial.

14 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Rubinstein indicate that he had
15 talked to anyone who knew you prior to his call to you?

16 Mr. McKeown. The only way I can answer that is to
17 tell you that he told me, he said, you are well-known. You
18 are well-known all over the state of Texas. I have seen your
19 picture in the paper in Mexico City.

20 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, can you explain how it was
21 that Jack Rubinstein read about you by your name of McKeown
22 and yet came to you and thought you were named Davis?

23 Mr. McKeown. I cannot understand that, no.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did you ask him why he thought that you
25 were named Davis?

1 Mr. McKeown. I have used a few names, but I never did
2 use Davis.

3 Mr. Purdy. What were some of the other names you
4 used?

5 Mr. McKeown. I used McAllister. I used Henry, things
6 like that.

7 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did Mr. Rubinstein say that
8 he had seen your name and picture in Mexico City?

9 Mr. McKeown. Right. I said, well, that is news to
10 me. I did not know that it was down there.

11 Mr. Purdy Did he indicate to you what the storey was
12 in reference to?

13 Mr. McKeown. When they confiscated all these arms
14 that I was caught with.

15 Mr. Purdy. What did Mr. Rubinstein say to you that
16 indicated that he had mistaken you with a Davis from Beau-
17 mont, Texas?

18 Mr. McKeown. He told me that he thought that I was
19 the one who was in Beaumont, Texas but now that he knew
20 that I was not the same man.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or had you ever heard, of a
22 Davis from Beaumont, Texas?

23 Mr. McKeown. No. I went to Beaumont, Texas a couple
24 of times but I went over there to buy blankets. I bought
25 a thousand blankets.

1 Mr. Purdy. Who did you buy a thousand blankets from?

2 Mr. McKeown. From a Ward Surplus, just a store there.

3 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or had you heard of, any
4 person named Davis connected with arms sales?

5 Mr. McKeown. No.

6 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I think it would be appropri-
7 ate at this time for members of the Committee to ask any
8 questions you might have related to Mr. McKeown's connection
9 with Jack Ruby. Following that, I would pursue a line of
10 questioning concerning his knowledge of some of Jack Ruby's
11 other associates.

12 Mr. Preyer. Would you prefer that we proceed with
13 the questioning?

14 Mr. Fithian. Whatever the Chair prefers. I may have
15 one question to clarify.

16 Mr. Preyer. All right.

17 Mr. Fithian. Mr. McKeown, were the only contacts that
18 you had with Jack Rubinstein that sequence of visits that
19 he made to Texas? Was that the only time you personally
20 contacted or were contacted by Jack Rubinstein when he came
21 down to see you in Texas?

22 Mr. McKeown. That is the only time that I have ever
23 seen him, when he came to my club. He came there four or
24 five times.

25 Mr. Fithian. After that sequence?

1 Mr. McKeown. I never saw him before.

2 Mr. Fithian. He did not call you on the phone, you
3 had no other contact?

4 Mr. McKeown. He just dropped completely out of sight.

5 Mr. Fithian. No letters from him, no phone calls?

6 Mr. McKeown. No.

7 Mr. Fithian. Thank you.

8 Mr. Preyer. I would suggest to counsel that we might
9 proceed at this time.

10 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Mr. McKeown, you said that there were a number of visits
12 that Mr. Rubinstein came to you, is that correct?

13 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

14 Mr. Purdy. Approximately how many visits?

15 Mr. McKeown. I would venture maybe four, at least
16 four.

17 Mr. Purdy. What period of time elapsed between the
18 first and the final visit?

19 Mr. McKeown. He came every day, you know what I mean?
20 The first time he came from the phone call, and then he
21 came. I do not know whether it was the next day. I know
22 it was dark, around 8:00 or 9:00 when he called me on the
23 phone, and I do not know whether it was the next day or
24 the following day that he came.

25 I did not know him when he walked in. I did not know

1 him from Adam. Then he introduced himself to me.

2 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, how far is Seabrook, Texas
3 from Dallas, Texas? Do you know?

4 Mr. McKeown. I would say about 300 miles.

5 Mr. Purdy. About 300 miles.

6 Mr. McKeown. Approximately, about 300.

7 Mr. Purdy. Was Mr. Rubinstein staying in Seabrook
8 over this period of four days?

9 Mr. McKeown. No, he told me he was staying in town,
10 in Houston.

11 Mr. Purdy. Did he say where he was staying?

12 Mr. McKeown. No.

13 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Rubinstein mention any people whom
14 you both knew?

15 Mr. McKeown. Not that I recall. This is my own
16 opinion about Jack Rubinstein. The only thing that I can
17 figure -- what is your name?

18 Mr. Purdy. Purdy.

19 Mr. McKeown. The only thing that I can figure, Mr.
20 Purdy, is that he was trying to go and tell somebody else
21 that he knew me real good. Do you understand? He kept
22 asking me about my boyhood, my connections with Prio and how
23 many times I had been to Cuba, all of this and all of that,
24 and did I go under a nickname or anything like that.

25 And you know, like I say, the only thing that I can

1 figure about the whole damn thing is that he was trying
2 to find out and go and tell people that he knew me real
3 good, do you understand?

4 He did not. I did not know him.

5 Mr. Purdy. Did he indicate to you that he had been
6 to Cuba?

7 Mr. McKeown. No, he indicated that he wanted to go
8 to Cuba. He did not say anything about him being there.

9 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, during what period of time did
10 you live or work in Cuba?

11 Mr. McKeown. Well, I had a business in Cuba. It was
12 in Santiago, then I would go into Havana. It was a legitimate
13 business, you know?

14 Batista kept after me to pay off because I was doing
15 a pretty good business. I had invented a coffee cleaning
16 machine. I was going to build over there.

17 I had built the prototype in Houston, then I took it
18 on over and then we were going to open up a place in Cuba
19 to manufacture. Then Batista kept on after me to pay off,
20 pay off -- not him, do not misunderstand me. He did not
21 come himself, Batista didn't, but he sent his militia.

22 So I told them to hell with it, I was going to pay him
23 nothing. I am a United States citizen. I am not paying you
24 nothing.

25 So it went on there for about four, five or six months.

1 Then four militias came out there and they put me on an
2 airplane and told me to get out of Cuba and I got out.

3 Mr. Purdy. What was the time period that you left
4 Cuba?

5 Mr. McKeown. What time was it?

6 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

7 Mr. McKeown. The daytime.

8 Mr. Purdy. What was the date and the year?

9 Mr. McKeown. It was around '57. I do not know what
10 date it was.

11 Mr. Purdy. Did you return to live or work in Cuba
12 after Castro took power?

13 Mr. McKeown. No.

14 Mr. Purdy. Was that because of your probation?

15 Mr. McKeown. Yes. I tried to.

16 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown?

17 Mr. McKeown. He tried to get me to go, he came to
18 Houston. Castro came to Houston and he told me, come on, get
19 on the airplane. I said no way, but I did go up and had
20 a hearing with Judge Ingraham and I had my probation officer
21 who was of the name Fields and he recommended to the Judge
22 that I not go to Cuba.

23 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, you stated today that Jack
24 Rubinstein came to see you four times in 1959. Is that
25 correct?

1 Mr. McKeown. I think so. Right after Castro took over.

2 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did you tell the FBI on January
3 28, 1964 that Jack Rubinstein came to see you only one time?

4 Mr. McKeown. No, because I know that it came two or
5 three times.

6 Mr. Purdy. Does it refresh your recollection to know
7 that the report by Special Agent Daniel Foltz of January
8 28, 1964 indicates that you told him that Jack Rubinstein
9 came to visit you only one time?

10 Mr. McKeown. I do not know why I would tell him that,
11 because he came two, three times. Maybe I was scared because
12 I was on probation, maybe I told him only once. I do not
13 know,

14 I am telling you the truth because I swore I would tell
15 the truth, and he came to see me three or four times.

16 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, is your memory better now than
17 when you had the FBI interview in 1964?

18 Mr. McKeown. What?

19 Mr. Purdy. Is your memory better now today than when
20 you had the FBI interview in 1964?

21 Mr. McKeown. I do not know.

22 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, as everything you told the FBI
23 in 1964 the truth?

24 Mr. McKeown. To the best of my recollection. The only
25 thing I was trying to do was trying to help the government

1 out. That was what I was trying to do. If he was involved
2 in anything, I was just trying to help them out. I just
3 wanted to tell them the truth.

4 He asked to come see me, the man who murdered Lee
5 Harvey Oswald.

6 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell the FBI on January 28, 1964
7 that the man who came to see you never returned, nor did
8 you ever again see him after the first visit?

9 Mr. McKeown. No, not after the first visit, because
10 he came three or four times, like I told you.

11 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, were you in Dallas or New
12 Orleans during 1963?

13 Mr. McKeown. Where?

14 Mr. Purdy. Dallas, Texas or New Orleans, Louisiana
15 during 1963.

16 Mr. McKeown. No.

17 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did you know, or know of,
18 Mr. R. D. Mathews?

19 Mr. McKeown. Who?

20 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Russell Douglas Mathews.

21 Mr. McKeown. Never heard of him.

22 Mr. Purdy. Did Jack Ruby discuss him?

23 Mr. McKeown. No.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or have you heard of, Mr.
25 Joseph Civello?

1 Mr. McKeown. Joseph who?
2 Mr. Purdy. Civello.
3 Mr. McKeown. Not as I recall.
4 Mr. Purdy. Did you know James Robert Todd?
5 Mr. McKeown. What did he do?
6 Mr. Purdy. He lived and worked in Dallas, Texas.
7 Mr. McKeown. No.
8 Mr. Purdy. Did you know James Henry Dolan?
9 Mr. McKeown. What did he do?
10 Mr. Purdy. He worked for the American Guild of Variety
11 Artists in Dallas and he was a gambler.
12 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not know him. I heard of
13 him, but I did not know him.
14 Mr. Purdy. Did Jack Ruby discuss him?
15 Mr. McKeown. No. He did not discuss any names. He
16 just said he had connections that could get ahold of money.
17 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or have you heard, of Mr.
18 Jim Brady?
19 Mr. McKeown. What did he do?
20 Mr. Purdy. He also went by the name Eugene Hale Brady.
21 Mr. McKeown. Was he a pilot?
22 Mr. Purdy. No.
23 Mr. McKeown. No, I do not know him.
24 Mr. Purdy. Do you know, or have you heard of, Messers.
25 Sam or Joseph Campesi?

1 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of them.

2 Mr. Purdy. You never met them?

3 Mr. McKeown. No.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did you know Candy Barr?

5 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of her.

6 Mr. Purdy. You never met her?

7 Mr. McKeown. No.

8 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall how you heard of Candy Barr?

9 Mr. McKeown. Well, I had a friend and she was living
10 down around El Campo, Texas. I do not recall the name of
11 the town, just a small place, and he was a friend of hers
12 and he told me that she was down there. That is all I know.

13 Mr. Purdy. How did you hear of the Campesis.

14 Mr. McKeown. What?

15 Mr. Purdy. How did you hear of Sam or Joseph Campesi?

16 Mr. McKeown. Through Prio.

17 Mr. Purdy. What did you say about that?

18 Mr. McKeown. He said they were good people, they were
19 on our side.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did he say that he was working with him?

21 Mr. McKeown. Well, I presumed that he was working with
22 him, I do not know. I was more or less a lone wolf. I did
23 not implicate myself with all them people because I did what
24 he told me to do and he furnished the money.

25 Mr. Purdy. Are you talking about Mr. Prio?

1 Mr. McKeown. Prio, yes.

2 Mr. Purdy. - Do you know whether or not they were also
3 working for or with Mr. Prio?

4 Mr. McKeown. I presume, but I do not know for sure.

5 Mr. Purdy. Do you know any other Americans who were
6 working for Mr. Prio?

7 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

8 Mr. Purdy. Who were they?

9 (Pause)

10 Mr. McKeown. A very good friend of mine. We did a
11 lot of travelling together. His name was Manola Artuse.
12 I am sorry to tell you this. There was another one named
13 Mario, but I cannot recall his last name. He married a woman
14 from Puerto Rico and I understand that he is in Cuba now.
15 Whether he is nor not, I have not seen him since him and I
16 came here and met Prio.

17 Mr. Purdy. Do you know of anybody else who knows him?

18 Mr. McKeown. Who?

19 Mr. Purdy. Mario?

20 Mr. McKeown. Manola.

21 Mr. Purdy. Does the name Mario Valamios sound familiar
22 to you?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

24 Mr. Purdy. Was that him?

25 Mr. McKeown. It might have been.

1 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall anybody else who was working
2 with Mr. Prio at that time?

3 Mr. McKeown. Oh, hell, yes. I do not recall their
4 names. A Spanish name is easy to forget, and I just knew
5 them by their first name, more or less. Ralph, for instance.

6 Mr. Purdy. Pardon me?

7 Mr. McKeown. A gentleman by the name of Ralph. He was
8 more or less Prio's bodyguard and a lady named Marie Serez.
9 Manola was close to Prio, and Mario, and three or four others
10 but hell, I do not remember their names.

11 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or have you heard of, Joseph
12 Mareello?

13 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

14 Mr. Purdy. How did you know him?

15 Mr. McKeown. Through Manola.

16 Mr. Purdy. You knew him personally?

17 Mr. McKeown. Just to talk with.

18 Mr. Purdy. Did you work with him at all?

19 Mr. McKeown. No, I worked by myself.

20 Mr. Purdy. Are you aware of any particular assignments
21 that he had from Mr. Prio?

22 Mr. McKeown. Who?

23 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Marella.

24 Mr. McKeown. No. The only thing, he would come to me
25 and tell me where things would be.

1 Mr. Purdy. What kind of things?

2 Mr. McKeown. Guns.

3 Mr. Purdy. He would tell you where to get guns?

4 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

5 Mr. Purdy. Did he tell you who was supplying those
6 guns?

7 Mr. McKeown. No.

8 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or have you heard of, Mr.
9 Thomas Ely Davis III of Beaumont, Texas?

10 Mr. McKeown. I told you awhile ago I did not know
11 anybody by the name of Davis.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did you know a Mr. Carl Davis of North
13 Carolina?

14 Mr. McKeown. What?

15 Mr. Purdy. Did you know a Mr. Carl Davis of North
16 Carolina?

17 Mr. McKeown. Carl Davidson?

18 Mr. Purdy. Davis.

19 Mr. McKeown. No.

20 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I think it would be appropri-
21 ate now if the Committee would like to ask any questions about
22 Mr. McKeown's connections with Mr. Ruby. Following that, I
23 will develop a line of questioning concerning Mr. McKeown's
24 contacts with Mr. Oswald.

25 Mr. Preyer. I was not clear on your interview with the

FBI shortly after the assassination.

Mr. McKeown. The next day.

Mr. Preyer. How did they happen to interview you?

Mr. McKeown. Sir?

Mr. Preyer. How did they happen to interview you?

Mr. McKeown. How did they happen?

Mr. Preyer. Yes.

Mr. McKeown. As I said, I was working with this pump company and they came to the office. They came out there.

Mr. Preyer. What made them come to the office? Had you made some statement?

Mr. McKeown. I do not know, but they sure came out there and I lost that job. Every job I got I lost because they would come out where I was working.

Mr. Preyer. You did not go to them as far as you know? There was nothing about you in the paper that would have caused them to come and interview you?

Mr. McKeown. Not that I know of. There was nothing about me in the paper.

Mr. Preyer. Because of your friendship with Mr. Castro, did a number of people come to you and ask for favors?

Mr. McKeown. Oh, Jesus Christ, yes. One of your good friends came to me, a gentleman by the name of Butler. He was a campaign manager for Ike Eisenhower or something. He was a big wheel with the Republicans and I am a Democrat and he told

1 me -- I will tell you. This was the most mysterious thing
2 you ever heard of.

3 Mr. Preyer. I do not care to know the details of all
4 of these visits because they would not be relevant to our
5 inquiry, but you were visited by a number of people or called,
6 and Jack Ruby's call was a part of this?

7 Mr. McKeown. The people came down to see me, you see,
8 after Castro took over, for wanting me to do those people
9 favors, like sugar.

10 Mr. Preyer. These were mostly people who wanted to get
11 some business deal with Cuba?

12 Mr. McKeown. Right.

13 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Fithian, do you have any questions?

14 Mr. Fithian. I do not have any at this point, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16 Mr. Preyer. I think it might be appropriate at this
17 point, before we leave the Ruby matter, to enter the FBI
18 Report that you referred to into the record.

19 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Clerk
20 to mark the FBI report of January 28, 1964 with Mr. Robert
21 Ray McKeown, conducted by Special Agent Daniel Foltz for
22 identification. I would like to ask the Clerk to mark it
23 JFK Exhibit No. 93.

24 (The document referred to
25 was marked JFK Exhibit No.

93 and will be found in
the files of the Subcommittee.)

Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask at this
time that JFK Exhibit 93 will be entered into the record.

Mr. Preyer. Without objection, it is entered into the
record at this time.

(The document referred to,
having been previously marked
for identification as JFK
Exhibit No. 93 for identifica-
tion was entered into the
record.)

Mr. Purdy. If the Chair wishes, I will begin the
questioning of Mr. McKeown's contact with Mr. Oswald.

Mr. Preyer. Please proceed.

Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, when did you first meet Lee
Harvey Oswald?

Mr. McKeown. Well, I was sitting in my home in St. Leon,
Texas, and I would venture to say that it was around 9:00 or
10:00 in the morning and I seen this car drive up, it had a
big picture window. I seen this car drive up and these two
people got out and they came and knocked on the door and
my wife was in her negligee and she ran upstairs, you know,
and Sam was there. We were getting ready to go get some
oysters or something, I do not know.

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He remarked he is not certain that the above-described telephone caller from Dallas or the man who personally appeared at the J and M Drive-In was identical with the JACK RUEY who killed LEE HARVEY OSWALD. To his knowledge, he has never seen or met LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

MC KEOWN stated that he knew of no one by the name of "Davis" who was convicted for gun running activity with Cuba.

1

January 28, 1964
Date

ROBERT RAY MC KEOWN, born January 28, 1913, residence Bay Cliff, Texas, unlisted telephone number Bay Cliff 9561492, upon interview at the Houston Division of the FBI furnished the following information:

004514

He is presently employed as a salesman for the Houston Slush Pump Company, 2112 Quitman Street, Houston, and he formerly resided with his sister, MRS. FRANK DENNY, 9138 Wayfarer Street, Houston. His wife makes her residence in Miami, Florida. On February 25, 1958, he was arrested and charged with conspiracy to smuggle guns and related equipment to Cuba for the benefit and use of FIDEL CASTRO and his forces. On October 24, 1958, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas, he was sentenced for these activities to 60 days to serve and fined \$500 on one count, and was given a two year sentence suspended for five years on good behavior on a second count. The period of his probation expired December 11, 1963. At the time of his arrest, conviction and sentencing, considerable publicity concerning him and his activities appeared in the press. His photograph appeared in the newspapers on a number of occasions. He knows FIDEL CASTRO personally, and when CASTRO visited Houston, Texas, briefly in April, 1959, MC KEOWN went to the Houston Airport, visited with CASTRO, and had his photograph taken with CASTRO. This photograph was widely publicized. CASTRO tried to persuade him to stay on the airplane and proceed to Cuba with him (CASTRO). However, because he was then on probation, he told CASTRO it would not be possible. CASTRO was somewhat irritated at this, and suggested that MC KEOWN disregard the probation and go anyway. CASTRO stated he would give MC KEOWN a Government position in Cuba or perhaps he might give him some franchises or concessions there. MC KEOWN responded that he fully intended to comply with his probation to the letter, and stated he would come to Cuba when he could do so in a completely legal manner.

During 1958, while MC KEOWN was out on bond and prior to his sentencing, he and a MR. JARRETT entered a partnership and opened up the J and M Drive-In on Red Bluff Road near Taylor Lake and Clear Lake, in the vicinity of

On 1/24/64 at Houston, Texas File # HO 44-939
by SA DANIEL W. FULTS, JR. : mem Date dictated 1/28/64

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Kemah and Seabrook, Texas. MC KEOWN obtained his share of the funds for this venture by borrowing from CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, former President of Cuba with whom he had a close friendship. About two years ago, MR. JARRETT died, and the business was sold.

FIDEL CASTRO took over the leadership of Cuba on about January 1, 1959, following the revolution which he had led. About one week after that, while he was on duty at the J and M Drive-In, Harris County, Texas, Deputy Sheriff ANTHONY "BOOTS" AYO appeared and said that some person had been frantically calling the Harris County Sheriff's Office in an effort to locate MC KEOWN. The name of the caller was not known to AYO, but he was calling from Dallas, Texas, and on the last call had said it was a life and death matter. MC KEOWN advised AYO to provide the caller with the telephone number of the J and M Drive-In. In about one hour's time, (8:00 p.m. or 8:30 p.m.) a person called MC KEOWN on the telephone and said his name was "Rubenstein". The caller said he was calling from Dallas, Texas, and indicated he was aware that MC KEOWN had influence in Cuba and particularly with CASTRO. The caller stated he wanted to get three individuals out of Cuba who were being held by CASTRO. He stated that if MC KEOWN could achieve their release he would be paid \$5,000 for each person. The caller added that a person in Las Vegas, Nevada, would put up the money. MC KEOWN replied that he most certainly was interested in making some money, and assured the caller he could obtain the release of any person being detained by CASTRO; however, MC KEOWN specifically advised the caller he would do nothing toward this end until he was paid \$5,000.00 in cash at the outset. The caller stated he would clear this with the man in Las Vegas, and would later recontact MC KEOWN. Nothing further was ever heard from this individual by MC KEOWN.

About three weeks following this telephone call, a man personally appeared at the J and M Drive-In and spoke with MC KEOWN. This person did not identify himself to MC KEOWN, nor did MC KEOWN ask his name. The man said he had a proposition whereby MC KEOWN could make \$25,000. When he indicated genuine interest in the man's proposition, they went to the rear of the Drive-In where patrons sit to

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drink beer and where they could talk more privately. The man stated he had an option on a great number of jeeps which were in Shreveport, Louisiana, and he desired to sell them to CASTRO at a very profitable figure. He wanted MC KEOWN to provide him with a letter of introduction to CASTRO, which letter would clearly indicate that the bearer was responsible and reliable. MC KEOWN said he would gladly provide such a letter of introduction for a fee of \$25,000, but before he undertook to do anything he would have to have in hand at least \$5,000.00 in cash. The man indicated he wanted the letter right away, whereupon MC KEOWN asked if he had the necessary \$5,000 in his pocket. The man said that he did not, but that he would go and get the money and return. According to MC KEOWN, the man never returned nor did he ever again see him.

MC KEOWN stated that from the numerous photographs he has seen in the press and in magazines of JACK RUEY, the man with whom he talked concerning the letter of introduction to CASTRO resembles RUEY. The man gave the impression of being or trying to be a "big shot", and his manner and attitude was rather haughty. While his recollection of this man is somewhat hazy at this time, he vividly recalls the man had a small patch on his nose. MC KEOWN recalled he had asked the fellow what the patch was for, and he was advised that he had attempted to take out a blackhead and a small infection developed. To the best of his recollection, this man was probably 45 to 50 years of age, 5' 8" to 5' 10" in height, 200 pounds, stocky build, well dressed. He recalled the man had a tie clasp which matched his cuff links. He had no idea how the fellow traveled to the J and M Drive-In, and he never ascertained the man's name. MC KEOWN advised that he feels strongly that this individual was in fact JACK RUEY, the man whose photograph he has seen many times recently in the press.

MC KEOWN commented that because of the publicity accorded him in connection with his gun smuggling activities, he was literally besieged with requests for favors, requests for interceding with CASTRO, et cetera, following CASTRO's successful effort in Cuba. He stated his inability to leave the United States during his probationary period prevented him from fulfilling some of these requests which would have provided fabulous fees.

1 This fellow knocked on the door. As I opened the
2 door he says, well, golly, I finally found you. You are
3 McKeown, are you not? And I said yes.

4 And he said well, I have looked for you quite awhile
5 but I am sure that you are McKeown.

6 So I invited him in. He had another gentleman with
7 him and he was more or less in his shirtsleeves, you know,
8 he was not dressed up or anything, but the other fellow was
9 dressed up.

10 He says, I understand that you can supply any amount of
11 arms.

12 I said, who told you that?

13 He says, well, I am pretty sure that you can do it.
14 He says, we are thinking about having a revolution, in El
15 Salvador -- that is where he said,

16 I said, El Salvador? He said yes.

17 I said, well, I want to tell you right now here that I
18 am on probation and I said I am not about to get mixed up in
19 no damned arms of any kind, not anymore. I said I am in
20 enough trouble as it is.

21 So I told him, I would not give him nothing.

22 So he kept on talking, you know, and said that I could
23 make all of this money and everything and I said well, I was
24 not interested in money. I am married now, I am working, I
25 am trying to do right and I do not want to get mixed up in

1 anything like that.

2 I was trying to get him out of the house, you know what
3 I mean, because I did not want my wife -- because she did
4 not know all of this. I guess that sounds fantastic. She
5 did not know that I was mixed up in all of this mess. I was
6 trying to get him the hell out of the house. But he intro-
7 duced me to this fellow he was with, but he did not say
8 hardly anything, just acknowledge us, recognized.

9 I finally got them out of the house, so they went to
10 the car and I closed the door, went back in and I said, I
11 told Sam, I said, ain't that a hell of a mess?

12 And he says, Mac, don't mess with them. I says I am
13 not going to mess with them.

14 So he came back and knocked at the door again. As a
15 matter of fact, when he first came to the door, he told me
16 was Lee Oswald. He did not say Lee Harvey Oswald, he said
17 I'm Lee Oswald, and he said, I finally found you.

18 I finally got them out of the house and they went. It
19 was a big house right on the water and they had their car
20 parked out there. The last time I looked at them they were
21 almost to the car, so I went in the house and closed the door
22 and they came back and knocked on the door, just him, and I
23 stepped out then.

24 I went outside of the house and he told me, he said,
25 Mac, would you do me a favor? And it will not involve you in

1 any way. He says I can give you \$10,000 if you can get me
2 four rifles. He says he would prefer 300 Savage automatics
3 with a telescope sight, and I kind of thought a little bit,
4 you know? And I said, what do you want with four rifles.
5 You can't do nothing with a revolution with four rifles.

6 So he says, well, if you get them for me, I would sure
7 appreciate it. He says, I will give you \$10,000 if you can
8 get those four rifles.

9 So I thought about it, you know, I said no, no way
10 I said, just like I told you, I am not getting involved in no
11 kind of arms. Hell, if you want five rifles, you can go down
12 to Sears Roebuck and buy them. You can get rifles in any
13 hardware store. That is what I told them. Why do you have
14 to come to me to get them?

15 So he kind of got a little peeved. He seemed like a
16 smart guy, smart aleck. That is my opinion.

17 So I told him there was no reason for you and me talking
18 anymore. I am not going to fool with any arms whatsoever,
19 none whatsoever.

20 I went back into the house. That is all there was to
21 it.

22 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did Mr. Oswald introduce you
23 to the person he was with?

24 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

25 Mr. Purdy. What did he say his name was?

1 Mr. McKeown. Hernandez,

2 Mr. Purdy. Is that the only name he said?

3 Mr. McKeown. Hernandez.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Hernandez speak English?

5 Mr. McKeown. He did not speak much of anything. He
6 just said he was glad to know me and had heard a lot about
7 me. I said that is all in the past.

8 Well, he, as a matter of fact, he did not hardly open
9 his mouth after that.

10 Mr. Purdy. Could you please describe the person whom
11 you said identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald?

12 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

13 He was about your size, maybe a little smaller, and he
14 was in shirtsleeves. He did not have a coat on. Kind of
15 light complected. He was just an ordinary looking guy. He
16 was not big, he was not what you would call small, just
17 about your height, I guess, or maybe a little shorter.

18 Mr. Purdy. Was he light or dark complexioned?

19 Mr. McKeown. He was kind of light. He looked like
20 he had been in the sun a little bit, kind of light, kind of
21 like your color, a little bit.

22 Mr. Purdy. Approximately what height would you say that
23 he was?

24 Mr. McKeown. I imagine that he was maybe five foot six,
25 you know? I really do not know how tall he was. He was just

1 an ordinary fellow.

2 Mr. Purdy. Was he taller or shorter than Mr. Hernandez?

3 Mr. McKeown. Hernandez was taller.

4 Mr. Purdy. Approximately how tall was Mr. Hernandez?

5 Mr. McKeown. My height.

6 Mr. Purdy. How tall are you?

7 Mr. McKeown. Five eleven.

8 Mr. Purdy. Could you describe Mr. Hernandez?

9 Mr. McKeown. Yes, he was Latin.

10 Mr. Purdy. I am sorry, I cannot hear you.

11 Mr. McKeown. He was dark complected, but not real dark.

12 You could tell that he was a foreigner.

13 Mr. Purdy. Can you describe the clothes he was wearing?

14 Mr. McKeown. He had a blue suit on, well-dressed.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did he have any identifying scars?

16 Mr. McKeown. I did not notice.

17 Mr. Purdy. Did either man wear a hat?

18 Mr. McKeown. No, neither one.

19 Mr. Purdy. Did either one have a characteristic walk?

20 Mr. McKeown. Well, I did not notice.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Oswald speak with any kind of an
22 accent?

23 Mr. McKeown. No.

24 Mr. Purdy. Was this man the same man whom you said was
25 in a Cuban prison? You stated earlier that you knew of a

1 Mr. Hernandez who was in a Cuban prison. Was this the same
2 man?

3 Mr. McKeown. No.

4 Mr. Purdy. How do you know it was a different man?

5 Mr. McKeown. Because I knew the man. The man who was
6 in prison was from Costa Rica. He was not a Cuban.

7 Mr. Purdy. What was his first name?

8 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. I know, but I forget.

9 Mr. Purdy. You testified that the man offered you
10 \$10,000 for four rifles, is that correct?

11 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did you appear on a CBS special in 1975?

13 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

14 Mr. Purdy. Did you state publicly at that time that
15 the man who identified himself as Mr. Oswald said that he
16 would pay you \$1,000 per rifle?

17 Mr. McKeown. No. I told Dan Rather that he offered
18 me \$10,000.

19 Mr. Purdy. Does it refresh your recollection to know
20 that you said the man told you, "Now we will be able to pay
21 you \$1,000 each. That would be \$4,000 you could pick up
22 right quick."

23 Mr. McKeown. Well, he did say something about well, you
24 can pick up this money right quick. He emphasized that he
25 had it in his pocket. I did not see it.

1 Mr. Purdy. Is it your present recollectiton that you
2 were offered \$10,000 for four rifles?

3 Mr. McKeown. That is what he told me.

4 Mr. Purdy. Therefore, you were mistaken if you said
5 on the CBS Special that it was \$1,000 for each rifle. Is
6 that correct?

7 Mr. McKeown. I do not recall telling him it was
8 \$1,000.

9 You see, we were down at this house where I used to
10 live. This lady and I were divorced. I did not want to go
11 down there, but Dan Rather -- we went down there. As luck
12 would have it, she was not home.

13 That is where it took place, more or less on the patio
14 in front of the house. I showed him right where the men came
15 and where his car was parked and everything.

16 Mr. Purdy. If you did say it was \$4,000, you were
17 mistaken?

18 Mr. McKeown. I was mistaken, if I told him \$4,000.
19 He said why did you not take that, you could get those guns
20 for \$200 or \$300.

21 I said, hell, I did not want to get involved with no
22 guns. I was on probation. And I said, I just did not want
23 to get those guns for them. Let them get them themselves.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Oswald indicate from what source
25 he intended to get the money to pay you?

1 Mr. McKeown. No. He emphasized that he had it in his
2 pocket, but I did not see it.

3 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Oswald indicate to you that he was
4 working for somebody else?

5 Mr. McKeown. No.

6 Mr. Purdy. Did he indicate that he was working with
7 a particular group in the attempt to work with a revolution
8 in Salvador?

9 Mr. McKeown. He emphasized that he was trying to get
10 these arms to have a revolution in San Salvador.

11 Mr. Purdy. Did he say he was working with anybody else
12 in that effort besides Mr. Hernandez?

13 Mr. McKeown. He did not say but I presumed he was. He
14 could not do it by himself.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Oswald indicate that he had been
16 to Salvador?

17 Mr. McKeown. No. He just said that he was going to
18 start a revolution in Salvador. I presumed that he had been
19 there. I do not know. He did not say.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did he say why he wanted to cause a revolu-
21 tion in Salvador?

22 Mr. McKeown. Yes, he did say that. He said it was
23 such a small country that it would be easy to do. I think
24 he was just a bunch of baloney. He did not impress me very
25 well.

1 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, could you be a little more
2 specific as to when this visit by Mr. Oswald and Mr. Hernandez
3 occurred? Earlier today you said it occurred a few weeks
4 before the assassination. Is that your present recollection?

5 Mr. McKeown. Who did I say that to?

6 Mr. Purdy. On the CBS Special you said that.

7 Mr. McKeown. Well, I know that my wife was a school
8 teacher, you see, and it was on a Saturday morning. I know
9 that because she was home. And I believe it was around
10 October, the latter part of September or the early part of
11 October.

12 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall being visited by Messers.
13 Hornbeck and Fonzi on February 14th of this year?

14 Mr. McKeown. When they came to my house?

15 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

16 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

17 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell them at that time that the
18 visit by Mr. Oswald occurred in September or August of '63?

19 Mr. McKeown. I might have. You see, school started
20 down there in September so that it must have been the latter
21 part of September or the early part of October. Maybe it
22 was August, but it could not have been that because she was
23 teaching school and she was home on Saturday mornings and
24 Sam Neal, he was an electrician and he was off on Saturdays
25 so it was bound to have been Saturday morning.

1 Mr. Purdy. Were there any events that occurred apart
2 from this meeting that helped you fix the time or day when
3 this meeting occurred?

4 Mr. McKeown. When he came to my house?

5 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

6 Mr. McKeown. I can tell you this, that I know it was
7 in the morning because we were sitting there and Sam was
8 staying with me. This was a tremendous big house. His wife
9 was getting a divorce and I told him to come stay with me
10 until they got it straightened out and he was living there.
11 We were sitting there drinking coffee.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did the visit occur after Labor Day?

13 Mr. McKeown. After Labor Day?

14 Mr. Purdy. Yes, early September.

15 Mr. McKeown. I think school started on September 16th.
16 I know it was after school started. Hell, it was bound to
17 be the latter part of September or the early part of October.

18 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall approximately the ages of
19 Mr. Oswald and Mr. Hernandez? How old would you say they
20 were?

21 Mr. McKeown. Well, you know, just like you. I presume
22 that you might be about 38, 39. I figured he was about that
23 same age. You know, he was in late 30's or early 40's or
24 in between there somewhere. I do not know how old he was.

25 Mr. Purdy. Approximately how old was Mr. Oswald?

1 Mr. McKeown. That is who I am talking about.

2 Mr. Purdy. Approximately how old was Mr. Hernandez?

3 Mr. McKeown. I imagine he was in his 40's. He was a
4 distinguished looking gentleman.

5 Mr. Purdy. Did he appear older than Oswald?

6 Mr. McKeown. A little bit. You could say he was
7 well-shaven, you know, clean-shaven. You could tell that he
8 had a heavy beard.

9 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Oswald defer to Mr. Hernandez in any
10 way?

11 Mr. McKeown. No, he just introduced him to me.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Hernandez introduce you as Carlos
13 or Victor Hernandez?

14 Mr. McKeown. I think it was Victor, yes, but I am not
15 sure.

16 Mr. Purdy. Was the man named Hernandez the man in the
17 Cuban prison Carlos or Victor?

18 Mr. McKeown. It could have been.

19 Mr. Purdy. You say it could have been?

20 Mr. McKeown. It could have been Carlos. He was not
21 a Cuban; he was a Costa Rican.

22 Mr. Purdy. You said before that you knew the man in
23 prison so you believe you knew Carlos Hernandez.

24 Mr. McKeown. It was not the same person.

25 Mr. Purdy. Have you ever seen Mr. Hernandez and Mr.

1 Oswald prior to this meeting?

2 Mr. McKeown. No.

3 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever seen them again after the
4 meeting?

5 Mr. McKeown. No. I have seen them on television.

6 Mr. Purdy. When did you first mention this visit to
7 anyone after the assassination?

8 Mr. McKeown. You mean after the assassination?

9 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

10 Mr. McKeown. Well, you mean who I told that he had
11 been there?

12 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

13 Mr. McKeown. I said, that's the dirty little bastard
14 who was at my house.

15 Mr. Purdy. Who did you tell?

16 Mr. McKeown. I guess Sam Neal. You see, he was down
17 at this place and he called me on the phone and he told me,
18 he was watching the TV, too, and he calls me and he says
19 Mac, are you watching the TV and I said yes. He said, that's
20 the bastard who was at your house that got killed, that Ruby
21 killed.

22 I said, I know. Now, ain't that something? That is
23 what I said. How about that.

24 So I presumed that Sam told a lot of people and I told a
25 few people. I said, that is the dirty little bastard who came

1 to see me that is supposed to have killed Kennedy.

2 Mr. Purdy. Who else did you tell?

3 Mr. McKeown. My God, man, I do not know who all I
4 told. I told a few people. I was scared because I was on
5 probation and I did not want to let people know I was
6 implicated, knowing a person like that.

7 Mr. Purdy. You said you told quite a few people. Can
8 you name one or two that you told?

9 Mr. McKeown. I told my wife. Of course, she found it
10 out, and I told people that I was working with. I told my
11 brother.

12 Mr. Purdy. What is your brother's name?

13 Mr. McKeown. Ira. He is dead now. Three niggers
14 killed him.

15 Mr. Purdy.. Can you tell us the names of anyone you
16 worked with whom you told about this visit?

17 Mr. McKeown. Yes. I told -- I used to go out in the
18 oil fields. I sold out in the oil fields. I travelled the
19 oil fields and I knew all of the tool pushers and things like
20 that, and I told -- you see, I cannot remember names -- one
21 big oil man there, I told him about it. He is a real big
22 oil man. I cannot think of his name. I told him about it and
23 I told a couple of his henchmen.

24 You know, I told a few people.

25 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember the name of any of the tool

1 pushers you told about this visit?

2 Mr. McKeown. No, I do not remember the names. If I
3 see them I would know that that was them. It has been a long
4 time ago.

5 Mr. Purdy. Do you still have contact with any of
6 them?

7 Mr. McKeown. No, I do not. I am living in Miami,
8 now. I have lived in Miami since 1966.

9 Mr. Purdy. Do you know anyone who would remember who
10 the big oil man was whom you told about this visit?

11 Mr. McKeown. I used to know him.

12 Mr. Purdy. Is your wife still living?

13 Mr. McKeown. Which one?

14 Mr. Purdy. The one whom you told about this visit?

15 Mr. McKeown. Pauline, the schoolteacher?

16 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

17 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

18 Mr. Purdy. Is there any other living person whose name
19 you could give us that you told about this visit?

20 Mr. McKeown. Sam Neal. He was there when he came.

21 Mr. Purdy. Anybody besides Sam Neal.

22 Mr. McKeown. I told my brother and I told my sister.

23 Mr. Purdy. What is your sister's name?

24 Mr. McKeown. Laverne.

25 Mr. Purdy. Do you have more than one brother?

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes. One of them is dead and the other
2 one is living. He lives in Houston.

3 Mr. Purdy. What is his name?

4 Mr. McKeown. Harry.

5 Mr. Purdy. You told him about the visit?

6 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

7 Mr. Purdy. When Mr. Neal called you and told you that
8 Mr. Oswald was the man who visited your house, had you already
9 recognized that fact before he called you?

10 Mr. McKeown. Yes. I had seen it, and then he called
11 me. Well, as a matter of fact, it was still on the TV and I
12 said yeah, Sam, that is the little bastard who was here.

13 Mr. Purdy. Did you mention the visit of Mr. Oswald
14 and Mer. Hernandez to anyone before the assassination?

15 Mr. McKeown. No. I did not pay any attention to it.
16 If I had known it, I would have notified somebody. It would
17 be like you coming to see me. I did not think anything about
18 it. They were just a couple of radicals.

19 Mr. Purdy. After the assassination of the President, you
20 said that you recognized the alleged assassin as a person who
21 had come to your house trying to buy four rifles and after
22 the shooting of that person, Mr. Oswald, you said that you
23 recognized the person who killed them as a person who tried
24 to make contact with Fidel Castro. Is that correct?

25 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

1 Mr. Purdy. Did you consider going to the authorities
2 with this information?

3 Mr. McKeown. I think that I went to them.

4 Mr. Purdy. What authority did you go to?

5 Mr. McKeown. I think it was up in the Federal Building
6 up in Houston. I went to my probation officer -- I was
7 still on probation. What is that fellow's name? I cannot
8 remember names. He used to be a professional baseball player,
9 played with the St. Louis Cardinals, and he was the head of
10 the probation in Houston. Fields worked under him. And
11 then he transferred me over. He was a well-known ballplayer.

12 I told Gus Mantuso -- you know, you have heard of him.
13 He was a ballplayer. And I told Frankie. He is a City
14 Councilman in Houston, Texas now and I told Lawrence Mancuso.

15 Mr. Purdy. How long after the assassination did you
16 tell your probation officer about your knowing Jack Ruby and
17 Lee Harvey Oswald?

18 Mr. McKeown. How long after the assassination?

19 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

20 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. I think Fields came down
21 and I told him, that is the guy who came to see me over there
22 at that place. I had sold that place then. And he says, are
23 you sure that is the guy? I said, I know it. I am positive
24 that that was the fellow who came to see me.

25 Mr. Purdy. You told the probation officer that you

1 knew Jack Ruby and Lee Oswald?

2 Mr. McKeown. I did not know Lee Oswald.

3 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell him that you had met both
4 people?

5 Mr. McKeown. I think so. I think I told him that he
6 is the one that had come to see me.

7 Mr. Purdy. Is that a short time after the assassina-
8 tion that you told him?

9 Mr. McKeown. I think so.

10 Mr. Purdy. You were interviewed by the FBI January
11 28, 1964. The assassination was November 22, 1963. Did you
12 tell these individuals that you had met Mr. Ruby and Mr.
13 Oswald prior to your interview with the FBI on January 28,
14 1964?

15 Mr. McKeown. I told them about Ruby. I did not tell
16 them a thing about Oswald.

17 Mr. Purdy. I am not talking about the FBI, I am talking
18 about these other people. You just testified that you told
19 them about Mr. Oswald and Mr. Ruby.

20 Did you tell these other people about them prior to
21 your meeting with the FBI?

22 Mr. McKeown. No. You mean, did I tell anybody that I
23 had met Oswald before the assassination?

24 Mr. Purdy. You testified that, following the assassina-
25 tion, you told a number of individuals that you had met Mr.

1 Oswald and Mr. Ruby.

2 Mr. McKeown. I told them that that was the man who
3 came to see me about buying the guns, yes.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell these people this information
5 prior to the time that you had your FBI interview?

6 Mr. McKeown. The FBI came out to the office where I
7 was working right after the assassination. I do not know
8 whether it was one day, two days or three days. I do not know.
9 I know they came out.

10 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember who it was?

11 Mr. McKeown. No.

12 Mr. Purdy. Was it Mr. Foltz?

13 Mr. McKeown. It could have been. That sounds familiar.
14 He was a very nice man. I know he treated me awfully nice
15 and I went up to his office, up in the Federal building. I
16 stayed up there a long time.

17 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall meeting with him January 28,
18 1964?

19 Mr. McKeown. In his office.

20 Mr. Purdy. That was some time after the assassination.

21 Mr. McKeown. I think so, yes.

22 Mr. Purdy. You just stated that you were in contact with
23 the FBI a short time after the assassination, possibly a
24 couple of days.

25 Mr. McKeown. I am going to tell you I was in contact

1 when they contacted me. When did they contact me?

2 Mr. Purdy. They contacted you January 28, 1964.

3 Mr. McKeown. They came to the office, they came where
4 I was working and they showed me their credentials and
5 they said they would like to talk to me.

6 Mr. Purdy. Prior to the time that you talked to the
7 FBI agents, did you tell some of these other people that you
8 had met Mr. Ruby and Mr. Oswald?

9 Mr. McKeown. After the assassination, yes. After I
10 had seen him on TV.

11 Mr. Purdy. But before the FBI interview?

12 Mr. McKeown. Yes, I imagine. I told them right after-
13 wards. When Oswald was killed, naturally I told a few people
14 that that was the guy who came to see me. By any means I
15 was not proud of it, but you know what I mean. You know how
16 things like that are, hell, you want to tell somebody, that's
17 the dirty little bastard who came to see me.

18 Mr. Purdy. During the FBI interview, were you asked
19 about Lee Harvey Oswald?

20 Mr. McKeown. No. That is what I could never under-
21 stand. Mostly he was talking to me about Ruby. If he said
22 something about Oswald, I do not recall.

23 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell him about Oswald?

24 Mr. McKeown. No, not as I recall.

25 Mr. Purdy. Did he ask you about Oswald one way or the

1 other?

2 Mr. McKeown. Not as I recall. Most of it was about
3 Ruby.

4 Mr. Purdy. You stated earlier today that you told the
5 truth to the FBI, is that correct?

6 Mr. McKeown. I told the truth?

7 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

8 Mr. McKeown. Yes, I told the truth. I am telling the
9 truth now.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell FBI Agent Foltz on January
11 28, 1964, that to your knowledge you had never seen or met
12 Lee Harvey Oswald?

13 Mr. McKeown. Before he came to my door?

14 Mr. Purdy. Ever. At the time of the interview in
15 January, 1964, did you tell the FBI agent that you had never,
16 at any time, seen or met Lee Harvey Oswald?

17 Mr. McKeown. No. They did not ask me.

18 Mr. Purdy. Does it refresh your recollection to know
19 that the FBI agent reported that you told him that, to your
20 knowledge, you had never seen or met Lee Harvey Oswald?

21 Mr. McKeown. Well, I do not know whether I did or not,
22 to be frank with you. I was scared to death because I was
23 on probation and I was afraid that if I let people know that
24 I was involved with something like that they might revoke my
25 probation, because one time I was down here in Miami and I was

innocent. I was up at the top of the Columbus Hotel having dinner and I was not supposed to associate with anybody, no Cubans. Well Prio, Manola, two or three others, and you know, we talked a little bit. The next day the probation officer was at my door and he pointed his finger at me, you know.

I told them that they just happened to be there when I came in. I made it my business not to fool with them anymore.

Mr. Purdy. Do you remember the name of the probation officer?

Mr. McKeown. The one in Miami?

Mr. Purdy. The one you were speaking about.

Mr. McKeown. Robinson.

Mr. Purdy. Do you remember his first name?

Mr. McKeown. No. I know his name was Robinson. He helped me a lot.

Mr. Purdy. It is your present recollection that you denied knowing Oswald to the FBI, is that correct?

Mr. McKeown. I cannot recall whether I did or not. I am almost sure, if he had asked me, I would have told him he was the one who came to see me.

Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, if you denied to the FBI that you knew Oswald, is that incorrect?

Mr. McKeown. It could be. I might have been wrong at

1 that time. You have got to take this in consideration that
2 I was pretty damn scared at that time. I am pretty nervous
3 right now.

4 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, you were sentenced October
5 24, 1958, is that correct? This was the sentence that
6 followed up your arrest on February 25, 1958 that we referred
7 to earlier.

8 The records indicate that you were sentenced on October
9 24, 1958, is that correct?

10 Mr. McKeown. I do not recall the date, but I know the
11 sentence.

12 Mr. Purdy. At that time, you were sentenced to a two-
13 year suspended sentence and five years probation, is that
14 correct?

15 Mr. McKeown. Right.

16 Mr. Purdy. When did that five years probation begin?
17 Did it begin the day you were sentenced?

18 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. I know I spent some time
19 in jail. They gave me 90 days in jail. Judge Ingraham, and
20 I think it was 59 days or maybe 60 days, he let me out on
21 account that it was Christmas.

22 Mr. Purdy. Is it your present recollection ---

23 Mr. McKeown. Then I know I was on probation. Whether
24 my probation was the day he sentenced me or the day I got out
25 of jail, I do not remember.

1 Mr. Purdy. It was not later than the day that you got
2 out of jail that the probation began, is that correct?

3 Mr. Appel. I must object. I do not think this is relevant
4 to the task of the Committee.

5 Mr. Dodd. Let us suspend for one minute.

6 (Pause)

7 The Chair would advise counsel that the line of question-
8 ing is designed to establish the credibility of the witness
9 in regard to certain statements. Therefore, I am going to
10 overrule the objection of counsel. I am going to instruct
11 the witness to respond to the question of counsel.

12 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, our records indicate that you
13 were convicted on October 24, 1958 and sentenced to 50 days
14 and a \$500 fine on one count and to a two-year suspended
15 sentence and five years probation on a second count.

16 Is that correct?

17 Mr. McKeown. I am sure it is.

18 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown --

19 Mr. McKeown. Let me emphasize something else here now.
20 since you are getting into the jail business. That is the
21 first time that I was ever in trouble and I got into that
22 innocently and all I was trying to do is get my business back
23 and I want you to know that.

24 Mr. Purdy. Thank you.

25 Mr. McKeown, when did your probation end?

1 Mr. McKeown. Five years after it started. I do not
2 know the exact date, but I was sure glad to get off of it.

3 Mr. Purdy. Did your probation end December 11, 1963?

4 Mr. McKeown. It could have been. I know I asked him
5 I said, don't you give me something, some kind of a letter
6 or something that I am off of this probation? He said no,
7 he said you just don't have to report no more.

8 Mr. Purdy. Therefore, Mr. McKeown, if your probation
9 ended December 11, 1963, why were you hesitant to discuss
10 your meeting with Mr. Oswald on January 28, 1964, which was
11 over a month after your probation had ended?

12 You stated earlier that you were afraid to tell about
13 Mr. Oswald because of your probation?

14 Mr. McKeown. I was presuming I was still on probation.
15 I was convicted -- have you got it down there when I was
16 convicted? Was it in 1959, or when was it?

17 Mr. Purdy. It was October 24, 1958.

18 Mr. McKeown. I know when I was living in that house I
19 was on probation. I know that, because I had to make out a
20 report every month and I know that Mr. Fields came down to
21 my house.

22 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, the records indicate that you
23 were not on probation when you were interviewed by the FBI
24 on January 28, 1964. Why did you not tell the FBI at that
25 time that you had met Mr. Oswald?

1 Mr. McKeown. Well, the only thing I can say is the
2 reason because I did not tell him is because he did not ask
3 me. As a matter of fact, I cannot recall -- and this gentle-
4 man that I went to see, this FBI man, the only thing that I
5 can remember is we discussed the whole thing about Ruby.
6 how he called me, how the Sheriff came and got me and asked
7 me if he could call me and all of that. He was more or
8 less interested in Ruby. Why he came to see me, that is the
9 only thing.

10 Mr. Purdy. The FBI report indicates that you denied
11 to the FBI agent that you knew Mr. Oswald.

12 Mr. McKeown. Well, I did not know him.

13 Mr. Purdy. Well, the FBI report indicates that you
14 had never seen or met Mr. Oswald.

15 Mr. McKeown. Well, if I told him that, I sure made a
16 mistake. Because Kennedy was assassinated before that, was
17 he not?

18 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

19 Mr. McKeown. I was bound to see Oswald when he came
20 to my door.

21 Mr. Purdy. If you denied having seen or met Mr. Oswald
22 it was not true?

23 Mr. McKeown. It must not have been, if I told him that,
24 but I cannot recall telling him that, to be frank with you.

25 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, can you think of any reason why

1 you would have denied having seen or met Mr. Oswald at that
2 time?

3 Mr. McKeown. No. As a matter of fact, I was all for
4 trying to clear it up, trying to see if he really did kill
5 Kennedy, which I do not think he did.

6 Mr. Purdy. Do you have knowledge of, or did you parti-
7 cipate, in any other meetings which involved Mr. Oswald?

8 Mr. McKeown. No, just the time that he came to my
9 house.

10 Mr. Purdy. Have you had contacts with anyone who has
11 had meetings with Mr. Oswald?

12 Mr. McKeown. No.

13 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or have you heard, of Mr.
14 David Ferrie?

15 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him, yes.

16 Mr. Purdy. How did you hear of him?

17 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. I know I have heard of
18 him.

19 Mr. Purdy. You know you have heard of him but you do
20 not know how?

21 Mr. McKeown. I think he was a homosexual and he was
22 living in New Orleans and somehow or another this Garrison
23 who was investigating him or something, and he asked me if I
24 knew him. That is the only thing I know. I did not know --
25 what the hell. I did not know him.

1 Mr. Purdy. You do not know anyone who knew him?
2 Mr. McKeown. No, I do not know anybody who knew him.
3 Mr. Purdy. Did you know of Mr. Guy Bannister?
4 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him, but I did not know
5 him.
6 Mr. Purdy. Did you know anybody who knew him?
7 Mr. McKeown. No.
8 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or know of, Mr. Clay Shaw?
9 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him.
10 Mr. Purdy. Did you know anyone who knew him?
11 Mr. McKeown. Garrison.
12 Mr. Purdy. Did you know Mr. Sergio Acocho Smith?
13 Mr. McKeown. No.
14 Mr. Purdy. Did you know of him?
15 Mr. McKeown. Never heard of him.
16 Mr. Purdy. Did you know Mr. George deMohrenshield?
17 Mr. McKeown. He is the fellow who died in Miami a
18 while back, is he not?
19 Mr. Purdy. Yes.
20 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him.
21 Mr. Purdy. How did you hear of him?
22 Mr. McKeown. Through the newspapers.
23 Mr. Purdy. Did you know anyone who knew him?
24 Mr. McKeown. No.
25 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, have you had any contacts with

1 the Central Intelligence Agency or any other intelligence
2 service, either domestic or foreign?

3 Mr. McKeown. I do not quite understand what you mean.

4 Mr. Purdy. Have you had any direct connections with
5 the Central Intelligence Agency?

6 Mr. McKeown. Not knowingly, no.

7 Mr. Purdy. Have you had any connections which you later
8 found out had been with the Central Intelligence Agency?

9 Mr. McKeown. That have been with it and are not there
10 now?

11 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

12 Mr. McKeown. Yes. I later found out, but I did not
13 know -- I did not have no dealings with them whatsoever.

14 Mr. Purdy. Can you explain the nature of those
15 contacts?

16 Mr. McKeown. I just met him and he told me that he
17 used to be with CIA.

18 Mr. Purdy. Who was it?

19 Mr. McKeown. This gentleman knows him, right back here.

20 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall the name?

21 Mr. McKeown. His name is Ross Crosier.

22 Mr. Purdy. What were the nature of your contacts with
23 him?

24 Mr. McKeown. He was a friend, not what you would call
25 an intimate friend. I just met him. Well, I met him at a

1 club.

2 Mr. Purdy. Do you have any knowledge of any of his
3 activities?

4 Mr. McKeown. Yes. The only thing what he told me, he
5 recognized me. I did not know him from Adam, and he
6 commenced telling me about Castro, he was over there in the
7 mountains with Castro.

8 So he says. Whether he was, I do not know. The only
9 thing I am telling you is what he told me. He said that
10 Castro had it in for him pretty well and he did not want to
11 go to Cuba.

12 Whether he was with CIA, I do not know. He told me
13 he was.

14 Mr. Purdy. He told you that he was at the time you
15 met him or later?

16 Mr. McKeown. Maybe a day or two later.

17 Mr. Purdy. Did you have any contacts with any other
18 foreign or domestic intelligence agencies?

19 Mr. McKeown. Not as I know of.

20 Mr. Purdy. Do you know anybody who has?

21 Mr. McKeown. No.

22 Mr. Purdy. Do you know if Mr. Prio had any direct or
23 indirect contacts with the Central Intelligence Agency?

24 Mr. McKeown. No.

25 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I believe that it would be

1 appropriate at this time for members of the Committee to ask
2 any questions that they wish pertaining to Mr. McKeown's
3 connections with Mr. Oswald?

4 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Sawyer?

5 Mr. Sawyer. Yes. I just have one or two concerning
6 these four rifles. The .300 Savage scope rifles.

7 Why would anyone want to buy rifles through some under-
8 ground source, let us say, as opposed to just going to a
9 store and buying them?

10 Mr. McKeown. Like I told the gentleman there, I do not
11 know. Like I told him, hell, you can go down to Sears and
12 get them kind of rifles.

13 I do not know why he came to me.

14 Mr. Sawyer. What did he say when you said that?

15 Mr. McKeown. He said yes, but we want to get them
16 through you. And I said, you are not going to get them
17 through me. I did not want anymore part of any kind of
18 rifles. I would not be caught with a rifle.

19 Mr. Sawyer. Rifles are not required to be registered
20 in Texas, are they?

21 Mr. McKeown. They sure are. Rifles. I take that
22 back. Guns.

23 Mr. Sawyer. I know in a number of states handguns are
24 required to be registered. I do not know if any state
25 requires the registration of rifles.

1 Mr. McKeown. To be frank with you, I think you can
2 just go down to the hardware store and buy a deer rifle,
3 shotgun, whatever. Maybe the law has changed. I used to
4 buy them, you know, to go hunting.

5 Mr. Sawyer. I think you have to be a resident of the
6 state now, really, since the Oswald situation, but that was
7 not the law then.

8 Mr. McKeown. The law, I know, to be a fact, if you go
9 and buy a handgun, you have got to go to get a permit from
10 a Judge and you have to take that permit back to this place
11 where you are going to buy this gun and let them see it.

12 Mr. Sawyer. The thing that is puzzling me still is
13 why someone would be willing to pay \$1,000 for a scope
14 rifle when he could buy one at a store at that time for
15 probably not more than \$300.

16 Mr. McKeown. That is exactly what I told him. That
17 is what puzzled me, why he would come to me. I do not
18 know. I cannot answer that question.

19 Mr. Sawyer. He gave no answer when you asked that
20 question?

21 Mr. McKeown. No. He says no, we want to get them
22 through you. He says because we know you can get them for
23 us.

24 I said, you came to the wrong man, I am not going to
25 get involved, and thank God I did not get them.

1 Since all of this has come up, boy I am sure glad I did not
2 get them.

3 Mr. Sawyer. Again, I am fairly familiar with rifles
4 and, at that time, I would imagine that you could get a
5 fairly good quality scope rifle somewhere in the neighbor-
6 hood of \$300 or less with a scope.

7 Mr. McKeown. Sure you could.

8 Mr. Sawyer. Without any requirement that you either
9 identify yourself or that there be any registration process
10 of any kind.

11 Mr. McKeown. That was my opinion.

12 Mr. Sawyer. It just does not make sense to me. I
13 could understand why he might come to you to get some sub-
14 machine guns or bazookas or something that are illegal
15 weapons.

16 Mr. McKeown. That is what he first mentioned when he
17 first got there, machine guns and bazookas.

18 Mr. Sawyer. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

19 Mr. Dodd. Mr. McKeown, I would just like to proceed
20 with you on what is confusing to me, anyway. In your
21 interview with the FBI where you were specifically, as I
22 understand it, asked whether you knew or had ever met Lee
23 Harvey Oswald, in that interview with the FBI after the
24 Kennedy Assassination.

25 Could you state once again for the record what your

1 reasons were at that time of telling the FBI that you did
2 not know or had ever met Lee Harvey Oswald?

3 Mr. McKeown. Now, wait a minute. I think the question
4 was put to me about Oswald through the FBI, I think he put
5 it, "Are you not a friend of Oswald's," or something of
6 that sort, and I said I do not even know Oswald.

7 Mr. Dodd. What was your rationale, your reasoning at
8 that time, for stating that in fact, with an interview
9 with Dan Rather where you are rather explicit?

10 Mr. McKeown. The reason I said it was. I was telling
11 the truth. I did not know him. Just because he came to my
12 door, no reason I should know him. I do not know him from
13 Adam,

14 Mr. Dodd. Just a minute ago when counsel asked you
15 whether you knew several individuals, for instance, Mr.
16 deMohrenshield, your answer was only in the newspaper. If
17 you had ever met Mr. deMohrenshield, I assume your answer
18 would have been different. Is that a fair assessment?

19 Mr. McKeown. Sure.

20 Mr. Dodd. You had actually met Mr. Oswald?

21 Mr. McKeown. When he came to the door.

22 Mr. Dodd. Your statement was that you did not know
23 him.

24 Mr. McKeown. I did not know him. I am talking to you
25 right now. I do not know you, right?

1 Mr. Dodd. I think you understand what I am getting
2 at. Now you are being interviewed by the FBI who raises
3 the name of an individual who was the alleged assassin of
4 the President of the United States and you offer the FBI
5 nothing more than a statement that you do not know him,
6 even though you are aware of the fact that this same
7 individual had come to your door four years before, less
8 than four years before, and according to your own state-
9 ment had proposed to purchase from you weapons specifically
10 four Savage rifles, telescopic type rifles, and your state-
11 ment to the FBI said you did not know the man.

12 Mr. McKeown. Well, I did not know him. I did not
13 know him. The only thing I knew is that he came there.

14 Mr. Dodd. How long did that meeting occur?

15 Mr. McKeown. When he came to my house?

16 Mr. Dodd. When he came to your house.

17 Mr. McKeown. Not over 20 minutes, 15 to 30 minutes.

18 Mr. Dodd. Do you recall what he had on that day?

19 Mr. McKeown. He did not have a coat on, I know that,
20 but the other gentleman did. He had a tie on, too.

21 Mr. Dodd. Oswald had a tie?

22 Mr. McKeown. No.

23 Mr. Dodd. The other gentleman?

24 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

25 Mr. Dodd. Did he have a sweater on the color of his

1 shirt?

2 Mr. McKeown. He might have had a sweater on, but I
3 actually believe he was in his shirtsleeves.

4 Mr. Dodd. The other man, Mr. Hernandez?

5 Mr. McKeown. He was dressed.

6 Mr. Dodd. Coat and tie?

7 Mr. McKeown. Coat and tie. Very nicely dressed. He
8 was driving the car.

9 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Hernandez was driving the car?

10 Mr. McKeown. Right.

11 Mr. Dodd. What time of day was it?

12 Mr. McKeown. About 10:00 o'clock in the morning.
13 9:30, 10:00, something like that.

14 Mr. Dodd. Let us suspend for just one second.

15 (Pause)

16 Mr. McKeown, at that meeting that you had with Mr.
17 Oswald and Mr. Hernandez, to the best of your recollection,
18 was that a situation where both Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Oswald
19 were transpiring business, or was Mr. Hernandez merely
20 someone who was driving in the car along with him and it
21 was Mr. Oswald principally who was doing the business?

22 Mr. McKeown. It was Mr. Oswald who was doing all the
23 talking.

24 Mr. Dodd. Were you under the impression that both of
25 them were involved in the transaction together? I am asking

1 for your recollection. I realize --

2 Mr. McKeown. I presume it was.

3 Mr. Dodd. In business together, working together?

4 Mr. McKeown. I presumed. I want to tell you something
5 else. Maybe you should know this too.

6 (Pause)

7 I know Mr. Fonzi here. He has treated me awfully nice
8 and I know that he did not tell nobody about me having to
9 come up here and I know damn well I did not tell anybody
10 except my daughter -- I take that back; I told Ross -- that
11 about two weeks ago, maybe between 8:00, 9:00 o'clock at
12 night, the phone rang and I answered the phone and somebody
13 on the phone said this is McKeown? I said yes. He says
14 when you go to testify at that committee, just remember
15 there was no Latin involved, period, and hung up.

16 Now, if that is any good to you -- as a matter of fact,
17 I would like to see this thing come to a head. I would
18 like for you all to catch the bastard who did kill Kennedy
19 and if there is anything that I can do to help you, I will.

20 Mr. Dodd. Was the accent of the voice on the phone a
21 Latin accent?

22 Mr. McKeown. No, American. But you know, a lot of
23 Latins speak pretty good English.

24 Mr. Dodd. Let me, for the record, say I said my ques-
25 tion to you, rather than the Oswald meeting in '59, was the

1 Ruby meeting, the Oswald meeting, in '63, to clear up the
2 record?

3 I have no further questions.

4 Mr. McKeown. I know the Oswald meeting was before the
5 assassination.

6 Mr. Dodd. I realize that. That was my mistake.

7 I will direct counsel to proceed with the final ques-
8 tioning.

9 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 A follow-up question on the meeting with Mr. Ruby.
11 Did Mr. Ruby mention two or three Jewish individuals in
12 connection with wanting the letter of introduction?

13 Mr. McKeown. No.

14 Mr. Purdy. Did he mention a Mr. Goldberg or a Mr.
15 Zaroff.

16 Mr. McKeown. Not as I recall. He just mentioned that
17 he had contacts with people with money.

18 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, we are interested in some of
19 your dealings --

20 Mr. McKeown. Another thing he asked me, have you
21 never heard of me? And I said, I do not know you from Adam.
22 I never heard of you.

23 Mr. Purdy. Did he say why you would have heard of
24 him?

25 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. He said he was running a

1 night club in Dallas. He said, have you ever been to Dallas?

2 I said yes, I have been to Dallas. He said, did you ever
3 go in my club?

4 I said, not as I recall.

5 Mr. Purdy. Did he say what the name of his club was?

6 Mr. McKeown. The Carousel, I believe it was. It was
7 a nightclub.

8 Mr. Purdy. As I was beginning to say, we are interes-
9 ted with some of your dealings with Mr. Castro. I want to
10 follow up a reference you made earlier to a mysterious deal
11 you were involved with with a man named Mr. Butler whom you
12 thought was connected with Ike Eisenhower. Could you
13 elaborate on that for us?

14 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

15 Well, this gentleman came out to my place. Not Mr.
16 Butler, somebody else. I do not recall his name.

17 Mr. Purdy. Was his name Porter?

18 Mr. McKeown. Yes, it damn sure was. Jack Porter.

19 Mr. Purdy. Please explain the story.

20 Mr. McKeown. Anyway, he told me that it was a very
21 mysterious thing. He told me, he says, do you have any
22 work clothes like khakis, khaki pants and things?

23 I said well, I can get some. What is the occasion?

24 He said we want you to go to the top floor of the Gulf
25 Building in Houston. We want you to get off two floors before

1 you get to the top and walk up and dress like a working
2 person.

3 So I did. I went and when I got up there, Ike Eisen-
4 hower, like the picture there, his picture was all over
5 and the American flag was all over and he asked me if I
6 knew anybody who was going to be on Castro's Cabinet and
7 if I could use my influence to get a quota of sugar.

8 I told him I was on probation. I could not go to Cuba.
9 And he said well, we can get you to Cuba.

10 I said what is it? I think he was a campaign manager
11 for Ike Eisenhower or something. I really do not know who
12 he was, but I know he was up in some kind of a campaign and
13 this fellow Porter was there.

14 And that was about all there was to it. He just wanted
15 me to use my influence to get a whole lot of sugar.

16 Mr. Purdy. Was this before or after your well-publicized
17 encounter with Fidel Castro in the United States in the
18 spring of 1959?

19 Mr. McKeown. This was after I had been arrested.

20 Mr. Purdy. Right. After you were arrested you had a
21 meeting with Fidel Castro when he came to the United States?

22 Mr. McKeown. Right. He came to Houston.

23 Mr. Purdy. That was after you had been arrested?

24 Mr. McKeown. I was on probation.

25 Mr. Purdy. When was this incident about the sugar

1 quota? Was it after you met with Castro in the United
2 States?

3 Mr. McKeown. I think so, yes.

4 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember how much time had passed
5 since you had seen Castro?

6 Mr. McKeown. Maybe about a week or so, something like
7 that. I really do not know.

8 Mr. Purdy. Was it your impression that they came to
9 you because of the publicity surrounding your meeting with
10 Castro?

11 Mr. McKeown. That is exactly what I thought. There
12 would be no other reason.

13 Mr. Purdy. Did you contact anyone to try to follow
14 up this proposed deal?

15 Mr. McKeown. No.

16 Mr. Purdy. Was it your impression that the meeting with
17 Jack Ruby was before or after your meeting with Castro?

18 Mr. McKeown. I think it was after.

19 Mr. Purdy. Was it your impression that he had seen the
20 publicity about your meeting with Castro?

21 Mr. McKeown. That is the reason. The only thing I can
22 presume, that is the reason why he came to me, because of all
23 the publicity.
24

25 Mr. Purdy. About how long after that did he come to see
you?

1 Mr. McKeown. I do not know.

2 Mr. Purdy. Did a lot of people call you after your
3 picture was in the paper?

4 Mr. McKeown. Oh, Jesus. Oh, my God, yes.

5 Mr. Purdy. You say hundreds?

6 Mr. McKeown. I would not say hundreds. I would say
7 up in the twenties. Everybody was after me to do them
8 favors, you know.

9 Mr. Purdy. A lot of people had different proposals?

10 Mr. McKeown. Yes. A big bunch of crap.

11 Mr. Purdy. During your meeting with Castro he offered
12 you a position in Cuba and asked you to come to Cuba, is
13 that correct?

14 Mr. McKeown. Right.

15 Mr. Purdy. What contact did you have with Castro after
16 that time?

17 Mr. McKeown. You mean since he took power?

18 Mr. Purdy. I mean after you saw Castro in the United
19 States, what contact did you have with him?

20 Mr. McKeown. One time.

21 Mr. Purdy. What was the nature of, and when was that,
22 contact?

23 Mr. McKeown. Well, some friends of my brother were
24 fishing and the Cubans confiscated their boat and brought
25 them into Cuba. And my brother came to me and told me that

1 these three guys were real good friends of his and they were
2 very innocent, they were not doing anything but just drifted
3 off into the waters of Cuba, unbeknownst to them, and they
4 were fishing. So he asked me if I could help get them out
5 of Cuba, so I did.

6 Mr. Purdy. Who did you talk to?

7 Mr. McKeown. Castro.

8 Mr. Purdy. Who did you talk to before you got through
9 to Castro?

10 Mr. McKeown. It took me about two days to get through
11 to him.

12 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember anyone you spoke with?

13 Mr. McKeown. No. Operators mostly.

14 Mr. Purdy. When was that communication with Castro on
15 behalf of your brother?

16 Mr. McKeown. It was quite awhile after he was in power.
17 I do not know what year. It has been quite some time ago,
18 quite awhile ago.

19 Mr. Purdy. The United States broke diplomatic relations
20 with Cuba on January 1, 1961. Was your contact with Casro
21 before that time?

22 Mr. McKeown. After that time.

23 Mr. Purdy. After we broke diplomatic relations.

24 Mr. McKeown. On the phone, but not personally.

25 I just did it as a favor to try to get them guys out of Cuba.

1 But I have not done anything like that. I have been
2 offered quite a number of times to help get people out of
3 Cuba, but I never did do it.

4 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember anybody who asked you to
5 help get people out of Cuba?

6 Mr. McKeown. Quite a few.

7 Mr. Purdy. Could you tell us some of those individuals?

8 Mr. McKeown. They were all Cubans.

9 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember any of their names?

10 Mr. McKeown. DelGado was one. They offered me money
11 to get their father or their brother or somebody out of
12 Cuba. I never did do that. I did not want to get involved.

13 Mr. Purdy. You said a man by the name of DelGado
14 called you and asked you to get somebody out of prison?

15 Mr. McKeown. I was working where he was working.

16 Mr. Purdy. You were working with him?

17 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

18 Mr. Purdy. What was his first name?

19 Mr. McKeown. I do not know.

20 Mr. Purdy. Where did you work with him?

21 Mr. McKeown. I was an inspector. It was a subsidiary
22 of Aerodex. I cannot remember the name of it. It was in
23 Miami. Aerodex. You have heard of Aerodex, have you not?

24 Mr. Purdy. No.

25 Mr. McKeown. It is a big company in Miami that repairs

1 airplane engines, jets and things like that. And it was
2 a subsidiary of that.

3 Mr. Purdy. Does your working with Aerodex help refresh
4 your recollection about when the call to Castro was?

5 Mr. McKeown. No. It was before I came down here.

6 Mr. Purdy. Can you give us a better idea of what year
7 or what month the call was?

8 Mr. McKeown. I would say maybe '65, you know. I came
9 to Miami in '66 and went to work for them.

10 Mr. Purdy. You called Castro after the assassination?

11 Mr. McKeown. Oh, yes, long after that.

12 Mr. Purdy. After the assassination you called him
13 on behalf of your brother?

14 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did you discuss anything else with Castro?

16 Mr. McKeown. No.

17 Mr. Purdy. All you did was call you and ask you to get
18 your brother out of prison?

19 Mr. McKeown. If he would do it.

20 Mr. Purdy. He said he would?

21 Mr. McKeown. Not my brother. My brother was not in
22 prison. My brother's friends.

23 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall who your brother's friends
24 were?

25 Mr. McKeown. No. I do not have to answer that, do I?

1 They were very respectable people. They were oil people.
2 My brother was in the oil tool and rental business and he
3 knew a lot of people.

4 Mr. Purdy. You stated today that your only contact
5 with Castro since seeing him in the United States in the
6 spring of 1959 was a phonecall to him after the assassination?

7 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

8 Mr. Purdy. Did you receive any messages from him or
9 send any to him?

10 Mr. McKeown. I could not go over there and this fellow
11 came back and told me that Castro was expecting me to come
12 over there, but I never did go. As a matter of fact, I have
13 not been in Cuba since he took power.

14 Mr. Purdy. Did you send that person to see him?

15 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not exactly send him. He was
16 going over there.

17 Mr. Purdy. Did he want to use your name with Castro?

18 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

19 Mr. Purdy. For what purpose?

20 Mr. McKeown. Something about exchanging some money.

21 Mr. Purdy. He wanted to exchange money for the money
22 that was in use during Batista to the kind in use during
23 Castro?

24 Mr. McKeown. Right.

25 Mr. Purdy. What was the man's name?

1 Mr. McKeown. I do not remember.

2 Mr. Purdy. Do you know anyone who would know his
3 name?

4 Mr. McKeown. I will tell you who he was. He was kind
5 of a bodyguard for this big oil man I was talking to you
6 about that is there in Houston. He is a well-known man, but
7 I cannot recall his name. I have not been in Houston in 12
8 years.

9 Mr. Purdy. Could that be Mr. Merchison?

10 Mr. McKeown. No. I know him, no.

11 Mr. Purdy. How about Mr. Androtti?

12 Mr. McKeown. Androtti?

13 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

14 Mr. McKeown. I know the name Androtti, but he lives
15 in Miami.

16 Mr. Purdy. Could it have been Mr. Byers?

17 Mr. McKeown. No. I think his first name is Frank.

18 Mr. Purdy. You were discussing the individual who was
19 going to use your name with Castro to exchange currency?

20 Mr. McKeown. Right.

21 Mr. Purdy. What was the message you sent to Castro?

22 Mr. McKeown. You see, he had this money and it was
23 Batista's money, you see. It was a whole lot of money.

24 I was under the impression -- I was not too mad at
25 Castro at that time, because he had just took over, you know?

1 I thought he did the right thing.

2 Now, I don't, but anyway. I thought it would be
3 beneficial to him for him to get this money that he could
4 get for 25 cents on the dollar, but he refused it. He told
5 this guy, he said, let Batista eat that money.

6 Mr. Purdy. When was this that this man went to see
7 Castro?

8 Mr. McKeown. It was a little bit after Castro came
9 to Houston. We came down to Miami, me and this fellow, and
10 we checked in over at the hotel on Biscayne and we stayed
11 there together for a couple of days and then he left to go
12 over to Cuba and then he came back and told me what he said,
13 that he would not do it, no way.

14 Mr. Purdy. Did Castro send any message or greetings
15 to you?

16 Mr. McKeown. No. Oh, yes, he did. He told this
17 gentlemen, he said when McKeown comes here we are going to
18 have the biggest party that Havana has ever seen, which may
19 be a lie, I do not know.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did you want the currency exchange to go
21 through?

22 Mr. McKeown. I thought it would benefit him.

23 Mr. Purdy. Who?

24 Mr. McKeown. Castro.

25 Mr. Purdy. Why would it benefit him?

1 Mr. McKeown. He could get all of that money for 25
2 cents on the dollar.

3 Mr. Purdy. Was this before or after Castro changed the
4 currency?

5 Mr. McKeown. Before.

6 Mr. Purdy. How long after?

7 Mr. McKeown. Right after.

8 Mr. Purdy. Right after the meeting with Castro?

9 Mr. McKeown. I did not say the very day, but right
10 after that happened. There was so much of that money float-
11 ing around.

12 Mr. Purdy. Could it have been as late as August, 1959?

13 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. Maybe a month or two
14 months after.

15 Mr. Purdy. The meeting with Castro was in April in
16 1959 and you think it was, at most, a month or two after
17 that that this man went to see Castro?

18 Mr. McKeown. It must have been, yes.

19 Mr. Purdy. You do not recall that man's full name?

20 Mr. McKeown. No, I do not. I just seen him that little
21 time. I was there in Houston at that time. I do not even
22 remember where I was living at at that time.

23 I was running that business that I had over there.
24 This particular man came down here to see me to do this and
25 we went to Miami.

1 Mr. Purdy. Prior to your appearance here today has
2 anyone connected with the Cuban government contacted you?

3 Mr. McKeown. No.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did you receive a call from anyone connec-
5 ted with the Cuban delegation to the United Nations about
6 your contacts with Castro prior to this appearance?

7 Mr. McKeown. Well, Mark Lane met this man and this
8 gentleman was under the impression that I was dead and he
9 told me that if I could come to Cuba that Castro was very
10 generous and he would like to show his appreciation.

11 Mr. Purdy. How recently was this call?

12 Mr. McKeown. It has not been too long ago.

13 Mr. Purdy. Within the last year.

14 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

15 Mr. Purdy. Within the last month?

16 Mr. McKeown. No. About a couple of months.

17 Mr. Purdy. Was any mention made by that official of
18 the Cuban government of your testimony before this Committee?

19 Mr. McKeown. No, this Committee did not even come into
20 it.

21 Mr. Purdy. Was any mention made of your contacts,
22 previous contacts, with Mr. Ruby or Mr. Oswald?

23 Mr. McKeown. What do you mean?

24 Mr. Purdy. Did the person who called you mention --

25 Mr. McKeown. No. It did not have anything to do with

1 it. They just wanted to know, glad to know, that I was
2 still living.

3 Mr. Purdy. After Castro took power in Cuba, did you
4 have information about anyone involved in attempts to
5 overthrow him?

6 Mr. McKeown. Sure.

7 Mr. Purdy. What were some of the groups that were
8 interested in overthrowing Castro that you have personal
9 knowledge of?

10 Mr. McKeown. Prio.

11 Mr. Purdy. How long after Castro took power did Prio
12 turn against him?

13 Mr. McKeown. When he left -- you know, he went over
14 there and he put two and two together, I will express it
15 that way. He found out that Castro was a Communist and he
16 did not want no part of that so he got out of there and then
17 he came to Miami. That is where he lived until he died.

18 Mr. Purdy. Was Mr. Prio involved in any plots to
19 assassinate Mr. Castro?

20 Mr. McKeown. No, not that I know of, but I imagine --
21 no, not that I know of, no.

22 Mr. Purdy. Do you know if anyone who was involved
23 considered assassinating Castro?

24 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

25 Mr. Purdy. Who?

1 Mr. McKeown. A woman.

2 Mr. Purdy. What was her name?

3 Mr. McKeown. Marceau Albinez. But she double-crossed
4 a guy who was going to kill Castro and I think he got killed.
5 He was an American.

6 Mr. Purdy. How did you learn of this?

7 Mr. McKeown. Through Prio.

8 Mr. Purdy. He told you that she had been in a plot to
9 kill Castro?

10 Mr. McKeown. But, you see, she was to blame for me
11 getting caught, really. She was in with Prio and I used to
12 go to her house and everything, and she wanted very much
13 to overthrow Batista, and then she fell in love with -- not
14 an Ambassador, what do you call them? Consul -- and then
15 she turned and worked against Castro.

16 Mr. Purdy. What was the name of the man she was
17 involved with in the plot?

18 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. He was a councilman there
19 in Miami for the Cuban government.

20 Mr. Purdy. Do you know how they were going to kill
21 Castro?

22 Mr. McKeown. Yes. With a rifle.

23 Mr. Purdy. Do you know who was going to do it?

24 Mr. McKeown. I do not know him personally. I know
25 he was an American.

1 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever know the man's name?

2 Mr. McKeown. No. I do not remember. Maybe his name
3 was Morgan, but I am not sure.

4 Mr. Purdy. Could his name have been William Morgan?

5 Mr. McKeown. I do not know whether it was William
6 Morgan or not.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did you know a William Morgan?

8 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him.

9 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever meet him?

10 Mr. McKeown. Once.

11 Mr. Purdy. When did you meet him?

12 Mr. McKeown. In a lawyer's office.

13 Mr. Purdy. What were the circumstances surrounding
14 your meeting him?

15 Mr. McKeown. That has nothing to do with this assassina-
16 tion.

17 Mr. Purdy. What was the date of that meeting?

18 Mr. McKeown. I really do not know. It has been quite
19 awhile ago.

20 Mr. Purdy. Was it before your arrest?

21 Mr. McKeown. I think so.

22 Mr. Purdy. You have said Miss Albinez was at least part
23 of the reason that you got arrested.

24 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

25 Mr. Purdy. Which was February, 1958, so you believe it

1 was probably before February, 1958?

2 Mr. McKeown. I will tell you the whole story about
3 it. This fellow came from Costa Rica, the one I told you
4 about. Well, he knew that Marceau was in with us, with
5 the overthrow of Batista. So that it was cold. So he
6 went to her to borrow her husband's overcoat because it was
7 cold down in Texas and she had him followed.

8 Now, that is the story. That is the reason they caught
9 us.

10 Mr. Purdy. In your testimony today you talked about
11 the currency exchange ideas occurring shortly after your
12 meeting with Castro in April, 1959. Earlier today, you
13 said that the meeting with Mr. Ruby occurred shortly after
14 Castro took power in January, 1959.

15 After we talked about the currency exchange idea, you
16 said that you saw Ruby after you met Castro.

17 Did you meet Castro before or after you had met Ruby?

18 Mr. McKeown. The only time I met Castro since this
19 thing was when he came to Houston.

20 Mr. Appel. Could I request a recess?

21 Mr. Dodd. The Committee will stand in recess.

22 (A brief recess was taken.)

23 Mr. Dodd. The Committee will come to order. Counsel
24 may proceed.

25 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Mr. McKeown, you were discussing the plot that Mr. Prio
2 told you about. You had said that the plot had occurred
3 prior to your arrest, which was in February, 1958. Is that
4 correct?

5 Mr. McKeown. No.

6 Mr. Purdy. Could you tell us when the plot took place?

7 Mr. McKeown. There were so many plots, which plot are
8 you talking about?

9 Mr. Purdy. The plot with the woman, Miss Albinez.
10 You said that Mr. Prio told you about a plot that was
11 involved with her. When was that?

12 Mr. McKeown. Right after he took over. As a matter
13 of fact, he was going into Havana. They were supposed to
14 kill him when he went into Havana.

15 Mr. Purdy. That would have been January '59?

16 Mr. McKeown. Right.

17 Mr. Purdy. You stated earlier that Mr. Prio became
18 disillusioned with Mr. Castro shortly after he took power,
19 is that correct?

20 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

21 Mr. Purdy. Was Mr. Prio behind the plot which occurred
22 when he was going into Havana?

23 Mr. McKeown. Not that I know of.

24 Mr. Purdy. He just learned about it from the woman?

25 Mr. McKeown. He learned about it.

1 Mr. Purdy. Do you have information about any other
2 plots to kill Fidel Castro?

3 Mr. McKeown. Just what I read in the papers.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did you learn from anyone else about plots
5 to kill Fidel Castro besides the newspapers?

6 Mr. McKeown. No.

7 Well, yes. There were some people who came to me and
8 offered me quite a sum of money and told me that we believe
9 that you are the only one who can really get close to
10 Castro. And they wanted me to kill him.

11 Mr. Purdy. When was that?

12 Mr. McKeown. It has been some time ago.

13 Mr. Purdy. Before or after the assassination of
14 President Kennedy?

15 Mr. McKeown. After he took power.

16 Mr. Purdy. Was it before or after the assassination
17 of President Kennedy?

18 Mr. McKeown. It was after.

19 Mr. Purdy. After the Kennedy assassination?

20 Mr. McKeown. Oh, yes.

21 Mr. Purdy. Can you give us an idea of how long after
22 the Kennedy assassination the plot was?

23 Mr. McKeown. I came here -- not here, but Miami, in
24 '66, and I guess it was about '68, because I had worked --
25 and you want to know who ^{offered me the money?}

1 Mr. Purdy. Yes.

2 Mr. McKeown. Have you ever heard of a Cuban named
3 Torrento?

4 Mr. Purdy. Torrento?

5 Mr. McKeown. They killed him.

6 Mr. Purdy. Pardon me?

7 Mr. McKeown. They killed him.

8 Mr. Purdy. The same person who offered you money
9 killed Torrento?

10 Mr. McKeown. Torrento is the one who offered me money.

11 Mr. Purdy. Who killed him?

12 Mr. McKeown. Hell, I do not know who killed him. They
13 killed him in his living room, shot him through the window.

14 Mr. Purdy. Were they people working for Castro?

15 Mr. McKeown. I do not know.

16 Mr. Purdy. You said people came to you to offer you
17 money to kill Castro? Who else came to see you besides
18 Torrento?

19 Mr. McKeown. Nobody.

20 Mr. Purdy. What you are saying is that only one person
21 came.

22 Mr. McKeown. Torrento. He was in a movement there in
23 Miami. As a matter of fact, all of the Cubans that worked
24 around Miami, they were supposed to give the day's wages to
25 Torrento to, you know, he was guaranteeing that he was going

1 to overthrow Castro and he got killed.

2 Mr. Purdy. How much money did he offer you?

3 Mr. McKeown. \$100,000.

4 Mr. Purdy. Where did he get the money from?

5 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. Where the hell do they
6 all get the money from? That is what I would like to know.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did he mention anybody else who was involved
8 in the plot?

9 Mr. McKeown. No.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did he mention whether or not you would have
11 to personally kill Castro?

12 Mr. McKeown. He emphasized that. He said, you are the
13 only one who could get to him.

14 Mr. Purdy. This was in the mid to late 1960's?

15 Mr. McKeown. 1968.

16 Mr. Purdy. 1968?

17 Mr. McKeown. '68 or '69, somewhere in there.

18 Mr. Purdy. Did you tell anyone about Mr. Torrento's
19 offer to you?

20 Mr. McKeown. No. Well, I might have told a couple of
21 Cuban friends, but outside of that, I really did not think
22 much about it, because I was not going to do it anyway. I
23 told him the \$100,000, if you offered me \$1 million, I would
24 not do that. Anybody who killed him is going to get killed.
25 I am not quite ready to die.

1 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Prio tell you about any other plots
2 to kill Mr. Castro?

3 Mr. McKeown. No, not as I recall.

4 Mr. Purdy. He only told you about the one plot which
5 involved Miss Albinez?

6 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

7 You see, Prio was very bitter towards Castro and before
8 I went on the CBS broadcast -- do you remember that? Well,
9 I went to Prio's house, you know, to discuss it with him,
10 whether I should do that or not, because I had a lot of
11 offers from other people to write books, to do this and do
12 that, but I never did do it.

13 So I went to Prio, I went to his house and I discussed
14 it with him about these people wanting me to go on the
15 television, you know, about the assassination, you know,
16 about Oswald coming to you, particularly with the Spanish
17 man who was with him, or say Latin. I do not know whether
18 he was Cuban or what, you know. He was Latin.

19 And I told Prio about that and he said, my God, yes,
20 do everything you can to get Castro involved in it.

21 You can understand his position. He was very bitter
22 towards Castro. You see, as a matter of fact, Prio is the
23 man who practically furnished all of the money to overthrow
24 Batista and then Castro turned out like he did.

25 Mr. Purdy. Prior to Castro taking power, who did Mr.

1 Prio get that money from?

2 Mr. McKeown. I do not know where he got the money
3 from. I do not know where he got the money from.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Prio ever tell you where he got any
5 of the money from?

6 Mr. McKeown. No.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did he ever tell you he got the money from
8 any agency of the United States government?

9 Mr. McKeown. Oh, no. I know where he got the money
10 from, but that is beside the point. He had the money.

11 Mr. Purdy. Where did he get the money from?

12 Mr. McKeown. Just hearsay.

13 Mr. Purdy. Please tell us what you have heard as to
14 the sources of Mr. Prio's money.

15 Mr. McKeown. Well, you hate to talk about the dead --
16 you know, the man is dead. He was supposed to burn up \$300
17 million and he did not burn it up. He brought it to the
18 United States.

19 Mr. Purdy. You are talking about Mr. Prio?

20 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

21 Mr. Purdy. That was some money --

22 Mr. McKeown. That was some money.

23 Mr. Purdy. That was some money that he used to try
24 to overthrow Castro?

25 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

1 Mr. Purdy. Where did he get the money to try to over-
2 throw Batista?

3 Mr. McKeown. I guess he used some of that \$300 million.
4 He had a safe deposit box as big as that desk you are sitting
5 at.

6 Mr. Purdy. You are talking about after Castro took
7 over, Prio got that money, that \$300 million, and had it
8 taken to the United States?

9 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

10 Mr. Purdy. How about before that? Prior to the time --

11 Mr. McKeown. No. Not before. Not before. As a matter
12 of fact, Prio and Castro were good friends.

13 Mr. Purdy. That is what you said earlier. You said
14 Mr. Prio helped finance --

15 Mr. McKeown. He financed Castro. He trusted Castro.

16 Mr. Purdy. Where did he get the money? Where did
17 Mr. Prio get the money?

18 Mr. McKeown. He was supposed to burn this money up
19 in Cuba and he did not burn it up.

20 Mr. Purdy. Are you talking about prior to the time
21 Castro took power, when Castro and Prio were working
22 together, Prio was financing Castro. Where did Prio get
23 that money?

24 Mr. McKeown. I do not know where he got the money.
25 He probably used the money that he brought over here when he

1 came over here.

2 You see, he left Cuba -- you know, Batista overthrew
3 him right after that, but he had this money over here already.

4 Mr. Purdy. When Batista overthrew Prio, that is when
5 Prio took the money to the United States?

6 Mr. McKeown. I imagine he took it before that. Do
7 you not think so?

8 Mr. Purdy. Do you know of any other sources of money
9 that Mr. Prio used to finance Castro's overthrow of Batista?

10 Mr. McKeown. No. I do not know where he got all of
11 that money.

12 Mr. Purdy. Was Prio ever involved with any Americans
13 who were working in the casino business in Cuba?

14 Mr. McKeown. No, not that I know of, because I know
15 he was against gambling. I really do not think that he was
16 involved with the so-called Mafia under Batista that ran
17 the casinos. I do not think Castro was involved.

18 I know four or five of them came to me and wanted me
19 to try to help get back over there.

20 Mr. Purdy. Who were they?

21 Mr. McKeown. Just people who came to me who wanted
22 me to go and try to get them to open the Americana again and
23 the Sans Souci and all of that.

24 Mr. Purdy. Can you remember the names of any of the
25 individuals who asked for your assistance?

1 Mr. McKeown. No, I cannot. There were three or four
2 of them who came and asked me. They did not offer anything;
3 they just wanted to know if I could help them out, to get
4 him to change his mind about the casinos.

5 Mr. Purdy. When was that?

6 Mr. McKeown. Maybe a couple of months after he took
7 over.

8 Mr. Purdy. Some time in 1959?

9 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

10 Mr. Purdy. Do you know of anyone who went to Cuba to
11 try to change Castro's mind?

12 Mr. McKeown. No.

13 Mr. Purdy. Do you know of anyone who came to Cuba to
14 try to have people released from prison?

15 Mr. McKeown. No.

16 Mr. Purdy. Did you know of Jack Ruby's visit to Cuba
17 in 1959?

18 Mr. McKeown. I heard about it, but I did not know about
19 it when I met him.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did you hear about it before the assassina-
21 tion?

22 Mr. McKeown. No, I just heard about it recently.
23 A gentleman came to me. He is with the British Broadcasting
24 Company. I do not know his name -- Scott Malone. He told
25 me, he says, the only thing Ruby did to you was to use you

1 to get contact with Castro.

2 So Scott Malone tells me he definitely went to Cuba
3 after he talked to me.

4 Mr. Purdy. To your personal knowledge, you do not
5 have any information that contradicts that?

6 Mr. McKeown. No. But he seems to have that pretty
7 well known. He says, I know that he went to Cuba.

8 Mr. Purdy. Were they Americans who asked you to inter-
9 cede with Castro to open up the casinos?

10 Mr. McKeown. One of them was Italian.

11 Mr. Purdy. What was his name?

12 Mr. McKeown. I do not remember.

13 Mr. Purdy. Were they all from the United States?

14 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

15 Mr. Purdy. Have they all been in Cuba?

16 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

17 Mr. Purdy. Have they ever been forced to leave Cuba?

18 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

19 Mr. Purdy. Had they ever been imprisoned by Castro?

20 Mr. McKeown. No.

21 Mr. Purdy. Do you know, or have you know, a Sante
22 Traficante.

23 Mr. McKeown. I know of him.

24 Mr. Purdy. Was he one of those individuals?

25 Mr. McKeown. No.

1 Mr. Purdy. Did he ever send word to you to try to
2 get Castro to open up the casinos?

3 Mr. McKeown. Well, I do not know if it was him or not.
4 Two or three of them came to me and said, if you can go
5 over there and sit down and talk to Castro and explain to
6 him how beneficial it would be to the country to open the
7 gambling again, maybe you could do it.

8 Mr. Purdy. Did those two or three people come at the
9 same time?

10 Mr. McKeown. No. Each one was different.

11 Mr. Purdy. Was there an occasion when more than one
12 of them came to see you?

13 Mr. McKeown. On the phone. They talked to me on the
14 phone.

15 Mr. Purdy. They all talked to you on the phone?

16 Mr. McKeown. Most of them.

17 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember any of them that came to
18 see you?

19 Mr. McKeown. No.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did some people come and see you?

21 Mr. McKeown. There were so many people who came to
22 see me I cannot remember all of them.

23 Mr. Purdy. Have you ever met Sante Trafficante?

24 Mr. McKeown. No.

25 Mr. Purdy. Did he ever send a message to you for you

1 to communicate with Castro or with anybody in the Cuban
2 government?

3 Mr. McKeown. No.

4 Mr. Purdy. Did anyone give you a message on his
5 behalf?

6 Mr. McKeown. No.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or do you know of, Carlos
8 or Vincent Marcello from New Orleans?

9 Mr. McKeown. No.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever know of them?

11 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of them, it seems like, the
12 Marcellas. I did not know him.

13 Mr. Purdy. Do you know, or did you know of, Sam
14 Giancano?

15 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him.

16 Mr. Purdy. You never met him?

17 Mr. McKeown. No.

18 Mr. Purdy. You never had any direct or indirect
19 communication with him?

20 Mr. McKeown. No, and I am glad I did not.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or do you know of, Mr. Meyer
22 Lansky?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes. I never had any dealings with him.

24 Mr. Purdy. You just met him?

25 Mr. McKeown. I have never met him.

1 Mr. Purdy. Do you know, or did you know of, Mr. Michael
2 McLane?

3 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him.

4 Mr. Purdy. You never met him?

5 Mr. McKeown. Never met him.

6 Mr. Purdy. Have you ever had any dealings with him?

7 Mr. McKeown. No. To be frank with you about the whole
8 thing, I stayed shy of them people. Right today, as Mr.
9 Fonzi here can tell you, I live with my daughter and I do
10 not get around. I do not go out at night, I don't do nothing.
11 I don't want to get involved with all that and I am trying
12 to live right and that is the whole thing, and I just wish
13 to hell I never got mixed up in this kind of business.

14 Mr. Purdy. At one time in the late 1950's, as you
15 said, you were arrested in 1958 in connection with armaments,
16 actually arms. What was the source of the arms that you had
17 been arrested for having?

18 Mr. McKeown. What kind of arms?

19 Mr. Purdy. Where did you get them from?

20 Mr. McKeown. Oh, I do not know.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Prio help you get the arms?

22 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

23 Mr. Purdy. Did anyone else help you get the arms?

24 Mr. McKeown. Well, the only thing I know about the arms
25 was where they told me they would be.

1 Mr. Purdy. Who told you where they would be?

2 Mr. McKeown. Prio.

3 Mr. Purdy. Was Prio the only one who told you where
4 to get the arms?

5 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

6 Mr. Purdy. Do you know where he got them from?

7 Mr. McKeown. No.

8 Mr. Purdy. Do you know any of the individuals who
9 physically turned over the arms to you?

10 Mr. McKeown. No, just the people in the warehouse.

11 Mr. Purdy. Where was the warehouse where you obtained
12 the arms?

13 Mr. McKeown. Walls Transfer, Mayflower Transfer
14 Company. But, of course, them people was innocent. They
15 did not know what was in those boxes or trucks or whatever.

16 Mr. Purdy. Was there any other place where you would
17 pick up the arms?

18 Mr. McKeown. I picked up some in Arkansas.

19 Mr. Purdy. Where in Arkansas?

20 Mr. McKeown. Hope, Arkansas.

21 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall the Red Stone Arsenal in
22 Arkansas?

23 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of it.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did you obtain the arms from there?

25 Mr. McKeown. No, I told you, I got it in Hope, Arkansas.

1 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember who you got the arms from
2 there?

3 Mr. McKeown. A warehouse.

4 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember any people?

5 Mr. McKeown. You know, the people who were the clerks
6 and things, and I had the invoice and I got them.

7 Mr. Purdy. You previously stated that one or more
8 United States Senators helped provide you with the arms, is
9 that correct?

10 Mr. McKeown. No. I do not know of any Senators who
11 helped get the arms.

12 Mr. Purdy. Do you know any United States Senators who,
13 through other people, provided you with arms or helped you
14 get arms?

15 Mr. McKeown. Like I told you, I got all of my arms
16 through Prio.

17 Mr. Purdy. You never got any assistance through anybody
18 else in obtaining arms, is that correct?

19 Mr. McKeown. That is right.

20 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever deal in arms after your convic-
21 tion in 1958?

22 Mr. McKeown. Hell, no. No.

23 Mr. Purdy. Where did you transport the weapons which
24 you received from these various warehouses?

25 Mr. McKeown. To two or three different places, but where

1 I got caught was down in Seabrook. I went and bought a
2 boat in Louisiana.

3 Mr. Purdy. Where were you going to take the arms?

4 Mr. McKeown. Cuba.

5 Mr. Purdy. Were you going to take them directly to
6 Cuba?

7 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

8 Mr. Purdy. Were you personally going to take them?

9 Mr. McKeown. No.

10 Mr. Purdy. Who were you going to have take them to Cuba?

11 Mr. McKeown. This boy who came from Costa Rica and
12 then, with another guy by the name of Alguila. He was a
13 pilot. He had worked for the Coast Guard in Cuba and he was
14 doing the taking.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever ship the arms through Mexico
16 to Cuba?

17 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

18 Mr. Purdy. Who were your contacts in Mexico?

19 Mr. McKeown. Nobody. I just pulled in there and loaded
20 the ship up in Tampico.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did you personally ever accompany any of
22 the arms to Cuba?

23 Mr. McKeown. Never. I was there when they came in. I
24 was there when Castro landed.

25 Mr. Purdy. Who were some of the other people who

1 transported arms in the same manner that you did? Were
2 they other people working for Prio?

3 Mr. McKeown. Well, I imagine there was. I do not
4 have any proof there was. There were so many, you know,
5 that different people were trying to get arms to Castro.

6 Mr. Purdy. Do you know, or did you know of, Antonio
7 Verona?

8 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

9 Mr. Purdy. Could you please tell us how you came to
10 know him?

11 Mr. McKeown. He was a friend of Prio's. I seen him
12 the other day. You know, not to talk to, but Prio was dead
13 a year ago this past week, last week, and they had kind of
14 a service, you know, for him. Verona was there.

15 Mr. Purdy. When did you meet Verona?

16 Mr. McKeown. Quite awhile back.

17 Mr. Purdy. Did you know him when you were transporting
18 the arms?

19 Mr. McKeown. I know he was a real good friend of Prio's.
20 Do you have anything down there about a fellow by the name
21 of Cardona?

22 Mr. Purdy. Miro Cardona?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

24 Mr. Purdy. What can you tell us about him? He is a
25 good friend of Prio.

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

2 Mr. Purdy. Was Verona transporting arms for Prio?

3 Mr. McKeown. Not that I know of.

4 Mr. Purdy. Do you know, or do you know of, Frank Sturgis
5 or Frank Ferrini?

6 Mr. McKeown. I know of Frank Sturgis.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever meet him?

8 Mr. McKeown. No.

9 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever have any communications with
10 him?

11 Mr. McKeown. No, not as I can recall. I think he
12 lived down in Miami.

13 Mr. Purdy. Did he know Prio?

14 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did you know him at the time when you were
16 working for Prio?

17 Mr. McKeown. I seen him one time over at Prio's house.
18 But I did not have any dealings with him whatsoever. He was
19 there, that is all.

20 Mr. Purdy. What were the nature of his dealings with
21 Prio?

22 Mr. McKeown. I take that back. It was not at his
23 house. It was at a lawyer's in the Ainsley Building in
24 Miami where I went to pick up the money and he was there.

25 Mr. Purdy. What was the date of that?

1 Mr. McKeown. I do not know the date.

2 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember roughly the year of that?

3 Was that 1959, 1958?

4 Mr. McKeown. It was before Batista was overthrown.

5 Mr. Purdy. Before you were arrested?

6 Mr. McKeown. Oh, sure.

7 Mr. Purdy. What was the lawyer's name that you met
8 with in Miami?

9 Mr. McKeown. I did not meet with the lawyer. It was
10 Prio's lawyer.

11 Mr. Purdy. What was Prio's lawyer's name?

12 Mr. McKeown. What do you want to know that for?

13 Mr. Purdy. I am just trying to get the idea of some of
14 the people associated with Mr. Prio.

15 Mr. McKeown. His name was Dave Walters.

16 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or do you know of, Dominick
17 Bartone?

18 Mr. McKeown. I have heard of him.

19 Mr. Purdy. Did you ever meet him?

20 Mr. McKeown. No.

21 Mr. Purdy. Did you know Pedro Luis Delasanz?

22 Mr. McKeown. No.

23 Mr. Purdy. Did you know of him?

24 Mr. McKeown. I knew of him, but I did not know him
25 personally.

1 Mr. Purdy. Was he working with Mr. Prio?

2 Mr. McKeown. I think so.

3 Mr. Purdy. Do you know what he was doing for him?

4 Mr. McKeown. No.

5 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or know of, Mr. Louis McQuilley?

6 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did Jack Ruby ever talk of Mr. McQuilley?

8 Mr. McKeown. No, he did not mention him. As a matter
9 of fact, he did not mention any names.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or know of, Mr. Dino Salini?

11 Mr. McKeown. Not as I recall.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did you know, or know of, a Mr. Loren Hall?

13 Mr. McKeown. Where was he from?

14 Mr. Purdy. He was in Cuba for awhile.

15 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not know him.

16 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall the names of the casinos
17 which the individuals who approached you requested be
18 reopened by Castro?

19 Mr. McKeown. Yes, the Tropicana and the Sans Souci.
20 They were the best ones there.

21 To my recollection, those are the only ones I could
22 mention.

23 Mr. Purdy. You said previously that one of the people
24 who approached you was Italian. Do you recall the nationality
25 of any of the other people who approached you?

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes, they were Americans.

2 Mr. Purdy. They were Americans?

3 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

4 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember any of their names?

5 Mr. McKeown. It seemed to me that one of them was named
6 Matthews, but I am not sure.

7 Mr. Purdy. Could his name have been R. D. Matthews?

8 Mr. McKeown. I do not know what his initials were.

9 Mr. Purdy. Can you describe him for me?

10 Mr. McKeown. Well, he was just an ordinary man. Pretty
11 well-dressed fellow.

12 Mr. Purdy. Do you recall whether he was short or tall?

13 Mr. McKeown. Well, he was kind of medium, you know.
14 Not tall, or not really short, to my recollection.

15 Mr. Purdy. Did he have an eyepatch?

16 Mr. McKeown. If he did, I did not see it.

17 Mr. Purdy. Do you remember what casino Mr. Mathews
18 was commented with?

19 Mr. McKeown. The Tropicana. I say he was connected,
20 I don't know whether he was connected or not. He just wanted
21 me to see if I could let them be opened.

22 Mr. Purdy. You previously mentioned Mr. Dave Walters.
23 Was he involved in opening, or attempting to open, any Cuban
24 casinos?

25 Mr. McKeown. No, not as I know of. The only thing I

1 know was he was Prio's attorney.

2 Mr. Purdy. Was he involved in any attempts to get
3 people released from prison?

4 Mr. McKeown. Not that I know of. I really do not
5 know.

6 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, the people who came to see you
7 about opening the casinos, what did they want you to do,
8 exactly?

9 Mr. McKeown. They just wanted me to go and talk to
10 Castro and show him the benefits that he would derive from
11 the casinos.

12 Mr. Purdy. What benefits were they?

13 Mr. McKeown. I imagine he would get a big cut out of
14 it. I do not know what benefits you mean. It is just like
15 any government gets benefits where there is gambling, if
16 they allow it.

17 Mr. Purdy. After you said that you could not go to
18 Cuba because of your probation, did they suggest, or did you
19 suggest the possibility, of your sending a letter to Castro?

20 Mr. McKeown. Yes, but I did not do it.

21 Mr. Purdy. Why did you not send a letter?

22 Mr. McKeown. Because I did not want to.

23 Mr. Purdy. You did not need the money at that time?

24 Mr. McKeown. I always need money. Right now, I don't
25 have one dime to rub against another.

1 Mr. Purdy. Did they offer you any money to intercede
2 with Castro?

3 Mr. McKeown. They did not exactly offer me any money.
4 They just said that I would be taken care of.

5 Mr. Purdy, When you refused to help them, did they
6 offer you a specific amount of money, or did they discuss
7 it?

8 Mr. McKeown. They just said that I would be taken care
9 of if I could swing the deal to get the casinos to open
10 again.

11 Mr. Purdy. It is your testimony today that you do not
12 remember the names of the individuals who approached you
13 other than possibly one named Mathews, is that correct?

14 Mr. McKeown. That is correct.

15 Mr. Purdy. Is there anyone you know of who might know
16 who those people were?

17 Mr. McKeown. Not offhand.

18 Mr. Purdy. Was anyone present with you at any time
19 that they met with you?

20 Mr. McKeown. I was by myself. You see, I had a bar
21 in the back of the lounge and we would go back there and
22 it was closed during the day, and we would go back there
23 and talk. Nobody else was there.

24 Mr. Purdy, Did you ever discuss with Mr. Prio whether
25 or not you should help these men?

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes, I did discuss it with him and he
2 told me just to lay low. He says, do not get involved in
3 it. He says, that's not going to hurt Castro. What we want
4 to do is hurt Castro.

5 Mr. Purdy. He just thought you should not be involved
6 at all?

7 Mr. McKeown. Right.

8 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I think it would be appropri-
9 ate at this time for members of the Committee to ask any
10 questions concerning this subject. I will have just a few
11 follow-up questions on a separate subject after this.

12 Mr. Dodd. In order to advise the witness and also the
13 other members of what we tentatively plan to do, it is about
14 quarter of noon now. We will proceed for another 15 or 20
15 minutes and then take a break until 1:30 for lunch and then
16 come back at 1:30.

17 My guess is that we are going to have to come back,
18 unfortunately, for a little while anyway, because of the
19 schedule.

20 But I will ask Mr. Sawyer if you have any questions
21 along the lines that counsel has been following.

22 Mr. Sawyer. I do not have any questions.

23 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Fithian?

24 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, I had to be away from the
25 hearings for part of the morning. I would like, at breaktime,

1 to catch up with some of the things that have gone on. I
2 don't want to duplicate questions that counsel asked in my
3 absense. I want to retain an opportunity to question the
4 witness.

5 Mr. Dodd. I just have -- Mr. McKeown, I would like to
6 follow the line of questioning that counsel was proceeding
7 on just a second ago, and that is, let me frame the question
8 properly.

9 We are talking about a proper timeframe. You first
10 met Mr. Castro when? Can you recall the month, day, month
11 year, possibly specifically, and where that occurred?

12 Mr. McKeown. I met him in the Shamrock Hotel in Houston,
13 Texas.

14 Mr. Dodd. When?

15 Mr. McKeown. Maybe a year -- maybe not that long --
16 before he overthrew Batista, before he overthrew Batista,

17 Mr. Dodd. Can you be more specific? What month of
18 1958 or '57?

19 Mr. McKeown. Well, I think it was in '57; I am not
20 sure.

21 Mr. Dodd. Do you recall whether it was summer, fall?

22 Mr. McKeown. The summer, I recall.

23 Mr. Dodd. The summer of 1957, the Shamrock Hotel.
24 Who introduced you to Mr. Castro?

25 Mr. McKeown. Prio was with me.

1 Mr. Dodd. Was anybody else present at that meeting?

2 Mr. McKeown. Raoul.

3 Mr. Dodd. His brother?

4 Mr. McKeown. Prio's Bodyguard.

5 Mr. Dodd. When was the last time you had any contact
6 with Mr. Castro?

7 Mr. McKeown. When I met him in the airport of Houston,
8 Texas.

9 Mr. Dodd. Again, for purposes of the record, would
10 you tell us what month and year that was?

11 Mr. McKeown. It was a little bit after he took over.
12 If you will look in there, he went to New York, as you
13 recall, and then he came down there to Houston, and then
14 his brother came in behind, Raoul.

15 Mr. Dodd. You are talking April '61?

16 Mr. McKeown. It could have been, yes. I know he was
17 already in power when he came to Houston and I had lunch there
18 with him, but there were all kinds of FBI men and all, You
19 never seen the likes of it.

20 Mr. Dodd. Did you have an opportunity to speak alone
21 with him at that time?

22 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not, really. I really did not.
23 He was in a big hurry to go out to Merchison's.

24 Mr. Dodd. My understanding is, now, you first met
25 Mr. Castro in June, July or August of '57 in the Shamrock

1 Hotel. Your last contact with him, either by phone, letter,
2 or by in person, was in April, or the spring, of 1961?

3 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

4 Mr. Dodd.. That is the timeframe that we are working
5 in?

6 Mr. McKeown. I met him in the Shamrock Hotel.

7 Mr. Dodd. In '57?

8 Mr. McKeown. In '57.

9 And they were on their way to Mexico, Prio, Raoul,
10 Castro. It wasn't much good, to be frank with you. Prio
11 wanted to let me know that he was going to be the leader of
12 the invasion.

13 Mr. Dodd. Your last contact with him was in 1961?

14 Mr. McKeown. At Houston, Texas. I think it was 1961.
15 When did he take over? '59, or '60, or when?

16 (Pause).

17 Mr. Dodd. You stated for the record that you received
18 any number of requests from a variety of different people to
19 solicit from the Castro government support or assistance in
20 a variety of different matters after the Castro takeover and
21 as a result of news that indicated that you had a relation-
22 ship, or a previous relationship, with him?

23 Mr. Dodd. I would like, for the record, for you to state
24 first of all, for me, in categories, what sorts of assistance
25 were you solicited for, and I would like you to be as

1 specific as you can.

2 Mr. McKeown. Well, it was more or less legitimate, like
3 they wanted to sell him things, you know, cars and jeeps,
4 farm equipment.

5 Mr. Dodd. Commercial?

6 Mr. McKeown. Commercial, yes.

7 Mr. Dodd. That is one category.

8 Mr. McKeown. There is one guy who wanted of all things
9 molasses. He came out to my place and said that he would
10 make it worth my while if I could get a lot of molasses out
11 of Cuba.

12 Mr. Dodd. What other categories were you being solicited
13 for, for assistance?

14 Mr. McKeown. Well, that covers it all. Commercial --

15 Mr. Dodd. That is commercial. You mentioned, for the
16 record, for instance, some people contacted you because
17 they had people who were in jail down there and needed
18 assistance.

19 Mr. McKeown. Well, yes, there were a couple of them
20 who said that they would like to get their friends out of
21 jail.

22 Mr. Dodd. Do you see what I am getting at? Follow
23 my logic. I am trying to get you to develop categories for
24 me so that I can get some kind of indication of what kind of
25 assistance you were being solicited for.

1 Mr. McKeown. I want you to know right now, Mr. Dodd,
2 that all of these things that they came to me about, and I
3 think it is on the record, that I told my probation officer
4 about, because I did not want to get involved, do you under-
5 stand?

6 I was on probation. I certainly did not want -- I have
7 never been in trouble in my life before, never. I did not
8 want to get -- I was scared all the time.

9 If you'd ever been on five-year probation, you will know
10 it.

11 Mr. Dodd. So there were personal requests, personal
12 requests for individual people, aside from commercial requests,
13 to get people out of jail, people who were being detained.
14 You were requested to do that, as well.

15 Mr. McKeown. I was asked to,

16 Mr. Dodd. What other areas? You also mentioned that
17 Mr. Ruby, or Rubinstein, wanted to sell some military equip-
18 ment?

19 Mr. McKeown. Yes. Jeeps and slot machines. He said
20 he had a whole lot of slot machines stashed over in some
21 mountains around Nevada and that he could get them into
22 Cuba.

23 Mr. Dodd. What other requests, what other kinds of
24 things were you asked to do, as a result of the relationship
25 that you had with Mr. Castro?

1 Mr. McKeown. Like I told you about the fellow, Porter,
2 he wanted a big quota of sugar out of there for the govern-
3 ment of the United States and this money proposition. He
4 wanted him to burn the money, whatever money Batista got
5 out of there with. I understand it was quite a bit, but he
6 would not do it.

7 This particular man that I sent to Cuba, that is what
8 his mission was, to go to see about this money.

9 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Porter?

10 Mr. McKeown. No. This was the guy that was working
11 for this oil man in Houston, and we came here and I stayed
12 here in Miami. I did not go. And he stayed over there
13 three or four days and then he came back and he said Castro
14 was crazy, he ain't going to do that.

15 Mr. Dodd. What else? What other areas?

16 Mr. McKeown. Like I say, there was people who wanted
17 to drill wells over there, wanted to get leases to drill
18 wells over there, wanted to get leases to mine over there,
19 and things of that sort.

20 There was a lot of big money people, I guess. They were
21 sure trying to get me to do a lot of things. I did not see
22 where I could do anything, unless I could go over there, and
23 I was not about to go over there. I tried, do not misunder-
24 stand me; I tried to go, but the Judge would not let me go,
25 so I did not go.

1 Mr. Dodd. Can you think of any other areas? I am
2 trying, -- as I understood your testimony, there were literally
3 hundreds of calls that you got.

4 Mr. McKeown. Well, I cannot recall every little thing
5 that they wanted me to do. You name it, they probably asked
6 me to do it.

7 Mr. Dodd. I would like you to try to recall, if you
8 can, for me, in those situations where there was more than
9 just a phone call -- I recognized you are apt to get a lot
10 of phone calls from people in the middle of the night
11 requesting things. I am not talking about those.

12 What I am talking about, what I want you to focus on,
13 are those relationships that went beyond a phone call, where
14 there involved either a personal interview with you or a
15 letter or something beyond just that initial kind of call.

16 Mr. McKeown. Jack Ruby, he personally contacted me.
17 He came to my place three or four times.

18 This fellow Porter -- I think his name was Porter.
19 Do you recall who was the campaign manager for Ike Eisenhower
20 in Houston, Texas or this whole state of Texas? Do you know
21 who he was? Was his name Porter or was his name Butler?

22 Mr. Dodd. We will have counsel check on it.

23 Mr. McKeown. That is who he was, and he came to my
24 place of business. He asked me to come up there just in
25 khaki clothes.

1 Mr. Dodd. Who else?

2 Mr. McKeown. There was a guy by the name of Lancon,
3 and then this fellow I told you about that I sent to Cuba,
4 he came to my place. He wanted to sell Castro this money.

5 This guy that lived next door to Ike Eisenhower up
6 here, in some big place, had a farm next to Ike Eisenhower --
7 was his name Greenspan? I do not know his name. He was a
8 friend of Ike Eisenhower. He lived on a big farm next to
9 Ike Eisenhower's farm.

10 Mr. Dodd. Let us step back. Let us take Mr. Lancon.
11 Do you know how to spell his name?

12 Mr. McKeown. L-a-n-c-o-n, a Frenchman.

13 Mr. Dodd. What is his first name?

14 (Pause)

15 Do you have any correspondence from him? Do you have
16 a letter from him?

17 Mr. McKeown. No. He came to my place.

18 Mr. Dodd. What did he specifically request?

19 Mr. McKeown. He wanted to deal with the money.

20 Mr. Dodd. Did you have more than one meeting with him?

21 Mr. McKeown. Oh, well, there is that Italian. He ran
22 a gambling place over in Dickenson, Texas. Frank. I really
23 wanted to make some money out of that. He told me he'd give
24 me 2 percent if I could sell this money to Castro, but
25 Castro would not do it.

1 I have all this stuff wrote down, Mr. Dodd. I really
2 did not -- I had letters, everything, I had all of that, but
3 my house burned, and that messed me up good, and it burned
4 everything up, I lost everything. I lost everything in the
5 world I had, I lost everything, and I have never gotten back
6 since. I lost it all. Everything.

7 Mr. Dodd. We are running out of time. I need your
8 help in this, Mr. McKeown. What I am trying to do --

9 Mr. McKeown. That is what I am here for.

10 Mr. Dodd. I understand that. Just listen to me and
11 see if you can stick with me a little bit, because you have
12 a tendency to drift sometimes and we are trying to focus in.

13 I want you, if you can, to the best of your knowledge,
14 to focus your attention on each one of these people, if we
15 can, and develop as much knowledge as we can about each one
16 of these contacts that you had with people which went beyond
17 just a phonecall or the nut call that you might get in the
18 middle of the night. I am not asking you about those.

19 Tell us as much as you can about each one of these
20 specific contacts that you had with people who were soliciting
21 your help in establishing a contact with Fidel Castro and
22 the Castro government, all right? I want you to try to stick
23 with me, if you can, on this thing.

24 I want to talk about Mr. Lancon and what more information
25 you can give us about this individual other than what you have

1 given me already.

2 Mr. McKeown. This Mr. Lancon, he was interested in
3 money. He owned a diving company that dives, goes down
4 underwater. He owned a big diving company there, and he
5 was under the impression that he knew where there was a
6 sunken treasure right off the coast of Cuba and he would
7 like for me to get permission for him to go look for that
8 treasure. He knew where it was and he wanted me to get
9 Castro to let him do that.

10 I remember that.

11 But the one that sticks out in my mind more so than
12 any of them, and I guess the reason it is is because of the
13 assassination, is Jack Ruby.

14 These others -- I did not pay any attention, but since
15 all of this has come up about the assassination, naturally
16 you think about that more than you do anything else. But
17 all of these others were just a bunch of nuts, like you
18 said, and wanted something for nothing.

19 Mr. Dodd. Can you tell us -- you mentioned Mr. Lancon,
20 you mentioned Mr. Porter, you mentioned Mr. Ruby, you men-
21 tioned an Italian man whose name is Frank and you cannot
22 recall his last name. Did you mention anyone else?

23 Those are four. I am looking for any additional ones
24 to shed some light on this.

25 Mr. McKeown. I cannot recall his name and he came down

1 and he offered me \$5,000 -- he had it in his hand, too.
2 He wanted me to be my agent to get things for people out
3 of Cuba. What his name was, I do not know. He came twice.

4 And then there was another one, but that poor guy is
5 dead now. He was the Captain on a ship and he came to me
6 to raise money for the people who were in jail in Cuba.

7 Mr. Dodd. A Captain on a ship?

8 Mr. McKeown. He was, but he died. He got in a storm
9 off the coast of Carolina.

10 Mr. Dodd. A commercial?

11 Mr. McKeown. A tanker.

12 Mr. Dodd. A tanker?

13 Mr. McKeown. He was a licensed -- you know, he worked
14 for Esso.

15 Mr. Dodd. Worked for Esso?

16 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

17 Mr. Dodd. Do you remember when that contact occurred?

18 Mr. McKeown. Yes, sir. It was around '61, something
19 like that. It was before the assassination.

20 Mr. Dodd. Who was he seeking -- what sort of individuals
21 was he seeking assistance for who were in prison?

22 Mr. McKeown. Well, we went over to the affiliate of
23 NBC there in Houston and we bought time to go on the
24 television, you know, for people to donate money. You
25 understand?

1 Mr. Dodd. Yes.

2 Mr. McKeown. To try to get these people out of Cuba,
3 but it never did materialize because he was going to make
4 this one more trip and that is when he died. He got caught
5 in the storm. As a matter of fact, I went to his burial.
6 But they never did find him; he went down with his ship.

7 That is all there was to that. I did not go through
8 with that.

9 Mr. Dodd. You cannot recall his name?

10 Mr. McKeown. No, I cannot. He lived right over there
11 by NASA, close by where I lived.

12 Mr. Dodd. You cannot recall the names of the people
13 who were in prison that you were seeking the release of?

14 Mr. McKeown. No.

15 Mr. Dodd. Do you recall what they were in prison for?

16 Mr. McKeown. Political purposes. That is the only
17 thing I know.

18 Mr. Dodd. Were they Americans?

19 Mr. McKeown. I think they were Cubans with naturaliza-
20 tion, Americans.

21 Mr. Dodd. During the period -- what was your probation
22 period again, the time you were on probation? How long a
23 period?

24 Mr. McKeown. Five years.

25 Mr. Dodd. Running from?

1 Mr. McKeown. '58, '59. I do not know.

2 Mr. Dodd. Until 1963?

3 Mr. McKeown. Something like that.

4 Mr. Dodd. Who was your probation officer?

5 Mr. McKeown. Mr. Fields, and then when I would come
6 to Miami, I would come back to Miami, but I would always
7 have to get permission and I could not stay but a certain
8 length of time, and I had to let them know where I would be
9 when I was there. And I would have to check in the minute
10 I got here to Mr. Robinson in Miami.

11 Mr. Dodd. How often did you see your probation officer?

12 Mr. McKeown. Every month and then he got to liking
13 me a little bit and he said, you do not need to come up
14 here every month. You can just fill out the form and mail
15 it.

16 Mr. Dodd. When did that occur?

17 Mr. McKeown. About two and a half years after I was
18 on probation. Me and him got to be pretty good friends, this
19 fellow Fields.

20 Mr. Dodd. You went to his office to report?

21 Mr. McKeown. Yes. He was in the Post Office Building.
22 He was the one, I really thought I was going to go to Cuba,
23 but he was the one who blocked it. Maybe if I had gotten to
24 go to Cuba, I could have told you a lot more. But I did not
25 get to go.

1 Mr. Dodd. When you met with Mr. Fields and made
2 your reports to him, did he solicit information from you
3 regarding activities involving Cuba? Did he ask you any
4 specific information about whether you were having any
5 contacts with people who were soliciting assistance?

6 Mr. McKeown. We discussed a lot of things, you know?
7 As a matter of fact, he drank a lot -- he really drank a
8 lot. He was a pretty good fellow. But he told me, Mac, if
9 you could get to Cuba you could make a lot of money, could
10 you not?

11 And I said, yeah, I believe I could, but I would not
12 just get up and go over there, you know, like two or three
13 people I know did.

14 Mr. Dodd. Did he ask you specifically whether people
15 were coming to you to talk about contacts with Castro or the
16 Castro government?

17 Mr. McKeown. Not very often. He asked me, do you hear
18 from any of your Cuban friends, or something like that, and I
19 said no. I would not tell him, if I did.

20 But I was pretty good on that probation, I will be
21 frank with you. I sure did not want to do anything wrong.
22 I did not do anything wrong. I lived it out five years.

23 Mr. Dodd. Let us suspend for just a moment.

24 (Pause)

25 Mr. McKeown, I would ask you if you would return to this

1 room, let us say at 1:30. It is now 12:05. The Committee
2 will stand in recess until 1:30.

3 (Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the Subcommittee recessed,
4 to reconvene at 1:30 p.m. this same day.)
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AFTER RECESS

(1:50 p.m.)

Mr. Dodd. We will proceed from where we were this morning at the time that we took the luncheon recess. I will just have one other question I would like to pursue with you, Mr. McKeown, then I will ask counsel to proceed and hopefully we will complete in relatively short order.

Mr. Appel. I would like to make a request of the Committee now, that in view of the fact that Mr. McKeown's counsel of choice is not here, I would like to request a copy of the of the transcript and under the Committee Rule 3.36, Section 9, the witness may be provided with a transcript of testimony given in Executive Session if the Committee would allow it. I would like to request that now.

Mr. Dodd. I am advised by counsel that the Rules of the Committee are that not until the sessions are public will the transcript of any Executive Session be made available to witnesses other than to review the statements, which counsel can do. At such time with the minutes of these meeting, the substance of these meetings, become public information, then at that time, the transcript can be had by the witness.

Mr. Appel. Mr. Chairman, you are referring to Rule 3.8, under Rule 3.36, subsection 9, the Committee may authorize that a transcript be given. It is clearly

1 indicated in the rules.

2 Mr. Dodd. As a policy of the committee, we have not
3 done that as long as we are in Executive Session, a process
4 which this Committee is now engaged, so it would be after
5 that. But if you would like to see a copy of it, of the
6 transcript, you may do that in the offices of the Committee.

7 Is that clear?

8 Mr. Appel. Yes.

9 I would like to make a request under Rule 3,9 that we
10 be notified when the transcript is complete.

11 Mr. Dodd. Yes.

12 Mr. McKeown, the last series of questions, I think you
13 answered them but I would like to pursue it once more,
14 because it has to do with the statements you have made in
15 the past regarding the fact, the allegation, rather, that
16 there were one or more United States Senator involved with
17 the sale or shipment of arms to Cuba.

18 I would like to ask you again whether or not you have
19 any specific knowledge as to that allegation and, if so, who
20 those United States Senators were.

21 Mr. McKeown. Well, I heard by the grapevine that there
22 were a couple of Senators mixed up with the getting of the
23 arms, but who they were, I do not know. If I did, I would
24 tell you.

25 Mr. Dodd. Who did you hear that from?

1 Mr. McKeown. Prio.

2 Mr. Dodd. Was there anybody else, to your knowledge,
3 who would be privy to that same rumor?

4 Mr. McKeown. No, not as I can recollect. Nobody said
5 anything more about it.

6 The way it came up I said, boy, you're sure getting a
7 lot of arms. I said, how are you getting all this money?
8 He says, I have connections in Washington.

9 Mr. Dodd. How did he happen to bring up the word
10 Senators? Connections in Washington could be anything.

11 Mr. McKeown. The way it was, he was trying to get
12 the United States government to recognize a government in
13 exile -- do you understand?

14 Mr. Dodd. Yes.

15 Mr. McKeown. -- at that time. And he told me that he
16 might be able to get it through. As a matter of fact, they
17 never did get it through, but he said there were a couple
18 of Senators helping him out. Who the Senators were, he
19 never said and I never asked him.

20 Mr. Dodd. Would you be aware of any other individual
21 who might also have heard that same rumor who would have
22 heard it from Mr. Prio?

23 Mr. McKeown. I do not know, because him and I were by
24 ourselves when that conversation came up. I do not know
25 of anybody. He might have told quite a number of people that.

1 I do not know. I really do not know.

2 Mr. Dodd, may I go back again? Since we have made
3 this little break -- you know I have never been before the
4 Warren Commission, as you know. I am sure you know that.

5 Mr. Dodd. I know that.

6 Mr. McKeown. This gentleman from the FBI that came out
7 to the office where I worked and then I went up to him, I
8 know, I am almost positive-- of course, it has been a long
9 time, you know -- but I am almost positive that the word
10 Oswald did not even come into the picture, and I stayed
11 there with him, I would venture to say two hours.

12 And in this Warren Commission, I got a copy of it,
13 there was only one word in there about Oswald, the testimony
14 that I made. It was that I did not know Oswald. That was
15 all that was in there, if you read it. I am sure you have.

16 But after I get to thinking -- I told my attorney here
17 down when we were eating -- I get thinking and thinking
18 about this. All he was interested in was Jack Ruby. He
19 was really interested in Ruby. But the word Oswald, I do not
20 even think it came into the picture. If it did, I really --
21 really, I would be almost to God with you, if I remember
22 back right, he did not hardly mention Oswald.

23 Mr. Dodd. You never voluntarily --

24 Mr. McKeown. No.

25 Mr. Dodd. -- made mention of Mr. Oswald?

1 Mr. McKeown. Not voluntarily.

2 He sat me down there and he says, you answer the ques-
3 tions I ask you and he says, just tell the truth, that's
4 all. I know you are not implicated in this.

5 But he says, just tell me how much did you talk to
6 Ruby, Jack Ruby?

7 That was what he told me, and he was really -- he wanted
8 to know more about Jack Ruby than anything else. That is
9 almost all he talked about, was Jack Ruby.

10 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Fithian?

11 Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 Mr. McKeown, as you know, we are trying very hard to
13 get all of the story and all of the facts that pertain to
14 the assassination of the late President Kennedy. I realize,
15 and you have mentioned on two or three occasions today, that
16 has been quite a long time ago. A fellow's mind plays
17 tricks on him over the years.

18 Mr. McKeown. Let me answer that.

19 Mr. Fithian. I will make a couple of comments, then I
20 want to ask you a questions.

21 It is hard to remember back. It is hard for me to
22 remember back three terms ago. What I want to ask you, you
23 may not be able to answer with a great deal of assurance
24 that you are right, or firmness, but is it possible that
25 due to the fact that you did meet Jack Ruby and therefore,

1 were one of the few Americans who were in contact with a
2 person very directly related to his assassination, and
3 then subsequently you have seen movies or television programs
4 or radio programs, you have looked at the Warren Report,
5 all of the discussion --

6 Mr. McKeown. I did not look at the Warren Report. I
7 just got my testimony through this FBI agent.

8 Mr. Fithian. Yes.

9 What I am getting at is this. Is it possible that
10 your memory that you met Oswald could be wrong?

11 Mr. McKeown. Are you trying to say -- or maybe I am
12 misunderstanding you -- that Oswald did not come to see
13 me? Is that what you are referring to?

14 Mr. Fithian. I am trying to ascertain whether or not
15 certain tricks of the mind cannot sort of project backwards
16 for ten or fifteen years and come up with something that
17 you believe to be true and you visualize to be true, but
18 it is very hard to nail it down. It is hard to prove this.

19 I am not saying that you are wrong or right, I am just
20 asking, whether or not, in your own judgment, thinking back
21 to that time, that maybe Jack Ruby only came to see you
22 once, or once or twice, and then frittered out of the picture,
23 and as you got to thinking about it more and more, it loomed
24 larger in your mind than it really is.

25 Sometimes that happens to all of us, I am not in any

1 way, putting you down. I am just asking you whether or not
2 this is possible, that what now seems to be a very important
3 event, that is, you talk to Jack Ruby several times, you
4 saw Lee Harvey Oswald -- I am wondering if it is a possibil-
5 ity that that has just grown in your own view to something
6 that really exceeds the reality?

7 I would appreciate your comment on that.

8 Mr. McKeown. All right.

9 When a President of the United States is maliciously
10 killed, like Mr. Kennedy was, President Kennedy, and you
11 see somebody on the television that you had talked to, that
12 is very, very pressing on your mind. Do you understand what
13 I mean? You cannot for get that.

14 There are a few other things maybe you can forget.

15 Mr. Fithian. Let me interrupt right there. I tried to
16 put myself in your position. Here is a person who has
17 talked with Jack Ruby, who knows Fidel Castro personally,
18 who, like every American of our age, was absolutely stunned
19 by the news that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

20 Mr. McKeown. I cried like a baby.

21 Mr. Fithian. You could blot it out, the whole world,
22 in our conscious memory.

23 I find it almost totally unbelievable that, given
24 someone like yourself, who took the President's death as
25 tragically as any of us, would subsequently sit down with a

1 member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and talk and
2 answer the questions -- now, you were not on trial. They
3 were not pressuring you, you were not pressuring them.

4 I find it almost unbelievable, in retrospect, that
5 during the course of that discussion with an agent of the
6 highest law enforcement group in the United States, that
7 you would overlook the fact that you had seen Lee Harvey
8 Oswald.

9 If it is so graphic, the death of President Kennedy, as
10 it was on all of us, it would seem to me that there is not
11 one chance in 10,000 that you would sit down with a member
12 of the FBI and just casually terminate the inquiry in the
13 discussion of Jack Ruby and not even think to mention the
14 fact that you had indeed in the presence of the President's
15 killer who was now claiming to be the only assassin of
16 President Kennedy.

17 That is the only problem I am having with your testi-
18 mony.

19 Mr. McKeown. Well, I really cannot explain it to you.
20 The only thing I can say, like I told Dan Rather, he asked
21 me the same question you are asking me about Oswald, and
22 what he could not figure out is why the Warren Commission did
23 not call me and ask me about Oswald.

24 Mr. Fithian. Do you know how the President was killed?
25 Did you know that he was shot with a rifle? You are aware of

1 that, are you not?

2 Mr. McKeown. I read it in the paper.

3 Mr. Fithian. That is what I mean. It was reported,
4 flashed over the news, dramatically,

5 Now you say, had you been in contact, personal contact
6 in your home, with the President's assassin, but you tell
7 this Committee that the President's assassin had pushed you
8 to buy rifles,

9 Surely, even in the most casual connections between your
10 talking with Oswald in person, right there in your home, in
11 his asking you to sell him the high-powered rifle with
12 scopes, and the fact that the President of the United States
13 was killed by a high-powered rifle with scopes and the
14 fact of your being subsequently being asked by the FBI to
15 tell them all you know.

16 I find it just incredible that you can sit there for
17 five minutes, let alone two hours, or whatever it was, and
18 not think of the fact that it was important to the Federal
19 Bureau of Investigation, that it was important to the United
20 States government, that it was important to the American
21 people, that you had been asked by the killer of the President
22 to sell him a rifle.

23 I am just -- I am trying hard to believe you, but I am
24 telling you, that is hard to believe.

25 Mr. McKeown. I am going to tell you something, You'd

1 better believe me, because I am telling the truth and know
2 it as well as I am sitting here that that FBI man -- I do
3 not think he asked me about Oswald,

4 Mr. Fithian. I do not doubt that at all.

5 Mr. McKeown. I do not believe he asked me one word
6 about Oswald.

7 Mr. Fithian. He had no reason to ask you about Oswald,
8 did he? Your own known connection --

9 Mr. McKeown. He told me to begin with to answer the
10 questions he asked me. That is what he told you,

11 Mr. Fithian. Your only known connection, to that man
12 interrogating you, your only known connection, suspected
13 connection, was could you give them a couple of pieces of
14 the mosaic so that they would know a little bit more about
15 Jack Ruby. That is the only reason they were talking to
16 you, is that they knew that you knew Jack Ruby and that you
17 had possibly met Jack Ruby.

18 So there was no way that they would, out of the clear
19 blue sky, know that you had any contact with Oswald.

20 It seems to me that, in your love of the President, your
21 thought for the President, your concern for the whole issue,
22 I just repeat, I cannot believe that you would not, at some
23 time before you got up and walked out of that room, say, by
24 the way, I also met Oswald, or something to that effect.

25 Mr. McKeown. I wish I had. The only reason I did not

1 tell him was because he did not ask me, and that is the
2 God's truth. He did not ask me. The only thing he was
3 asking me about was Jack Ruby.

4 Mr. Fithian. In your discussion with Mr. Rather --
5 do you remember that? The Dan Rather CBS program?

6 The transcript of your discussion with Mr. Rather has
7 your saying this: "Rather: 'Did you talk to the FBI about
8 Oswald's coming to see you?'" That is his question, "Did
9 you talk to the FBI about Oswald's coming to see you."

10 Your response to him, to Mr. Rather; "McKeown. 'I
11 think they did ask me if I knew Oswald. I think that I told
12 them I did not know him, never heard of him, or something
13 like that. I am not sure. It was up in the Federal Building
14 up in Houston where they asked me to come up there and, of
15 course, I was scared, you know, and nervous too.'" -- and
16 I understand that.

17 Now we have three versions. We have one in which we
18 have the FBI Report. We have one here in a very recent
19 interview of you by Mr. Rather in which you say yes, you
20 think that they did ask you about Oswald and you told them
21 that you did not know him or had not met him.

22 And now, the third version comes to this Committee where
23 you seem very sure that you had met Oswald, or you seem very
24 sure that you recognized him on the television screen. That
25 is, that picture might have been at the time when he was

1 being assassinated by Jack Ruby. You can hardly make it
2 out, let alone match it up with somebody you have seen
3 several years ago.

4 Mr. McKeown. The picture I was looking at was pretty
5 good.

6 Mr. Fithian. Why did you tell Mr. Rather in this
7 transcript: "I think I told them I did not know him, never
8 heard of him, or something like that,"

9 Mr. McKeown. Why did I tell Mr. Rather that?

10 Mr. Fithian. Yes. Why did you tell Mr. Rather some-
11 thing so shockingly different than you are telling me right
12 now?

13 Mr. McKeown. I really do not know. I will tell you.
14 Dan Rather is a very forward man, as you know, and he was
15 popping questions to me -- well, as a matter of fact, the
16 program was on the TV for about fifteen minutes and I was
17 down there eight days with him, so you can understand.

18 Mr. Fithian. Mr. McKeown, I guess I cannot understand.
19 I guess I cannot understand, because we are dealing with the
20 events surrounding the assassination of a man that you and
21 I both loved and admired and respected and revered, and I
22 just do not want you, or anybody else, mucking this story or
23 making up this story or trying to rewrite history for commer-
24 cial gain, or anything else that might be motivating you here,
25 because your story then and your story to Rather and your

1 story now, they do not square with one another.

2 That is why I was very gentle, at the outset of my
3 questioning, in asking you whether you thought it was
4 possible that the mind over the years plays tricks on you.

5 Do you think that is possible now, given this obvious
6 direct confrontation between what you said with the FBI, what
7 you told Dan Rather, and what you are now telling me and
8 the rest of this Committee?

9 Mr. McKeown. Well, I told you at this Committee about
10 the man knocking on my door and he came in, I invited him
11 in. Him and this other gentleman. I told you that. That
12 is the truth.

13 Now, if that was not the truth, how come Sam Neal calls
14 me up from about 1,000 miles away and tells me that is the
15 guy who was at your house?

16 Mr. Pithian. I do not know. That is one of those
17 unanswered questions.

18 Mr. McKeown. I know it was him.

19 Mr. Pithian. The same question I have asked you twice
20 now, if that was true, how could you sit through an FBI
21 questioning and not tell the FBI that you knew this man or
22 that you had met him, or how could you tell Dan Rather one
23 thing and this Committee another? Because those dates are
24 not all that far apart.

25 Mr. McKeown. To be frank with you, I will tell you,

1 Dan Rather --

2 Mr. Fithian. I am serving, just temporarily, as the
3 Chairman of this Subcommittee. I am not the Chairman. I am
4 speaking as just one member.

5 Let me remind you that you are here under immunity
6 granted by a court of the United States and therefore, for
7 any gunrunner violation of parole, any and all of those
8 things, any criminality, we cannot act. But, Mr. McKeown,
9 we can act, as a Committee of the United States Congress,
10 if you lie to us. We can act if you try to obstruct our
11 efforts to get at the whole story for whatever reason.

12 You do understand that?

13 Mr. McKeown. And I am sure --

14 Mr. Fithian. I am going to ask you again, did you
15 meet with Lee Harvey Oswald?

16 Mr. McKeown. At my door.

17 Mr. Fithian. Are you sure you met Lee Harvey Oswald?

18 Mr. McKeown. Positive.

19 Mr. Fithian. Did you intentionally --

20 Mr. McKeown. He did not say Harvey. He said Lee Oswald.

21 Mr. Fithian. Did you intentionally keep this informa-
22 tion from the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

23 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not.

24 Mr. Fithian. Did you intentionally conceal this infor-
25 mation from the FBI?

1 Mr. McKeown. No, I did not.

2 Mr. Fithian. Did you intentionally mislead Mr. Rather
3 in a CBS interview?

4 Mr. McKeown. If I did, it was unbeknownst to me if I
5 did that. The only thing he asked me -- the thing that he
6 was more interested in was about the guy wanting the four
7 guns. That is what he was more interested in than anything.

8 And I told him, just like I told you, that he came
9 back twice. He was there and then he came back.

10 As far as me getting my story mixed up, maybe I got it
11 mixed up. You know what I mean. How long has it been?
12 It's been about 16 years, has it not, around there. From the
13 time that this has happened, I have lost one of my lungs, I
14 have lost all of my stomach and I have been sick ever since,
15 practically.

16 I lost every damn job I get because of it, on account
17 of it, and that's the truth. I got a good job down at the
18 Reynolds Aluminum Company, Corpus Christi, as a projects
19 engineer, assistant projects. As soon as they found out that
20 I was mixed up in this business they fired me. Every job
21 I have got, I got fired from the pump company as soon as
22 the FBI came out there.

23 Mr. Fithian. Do you think that this whole event owes
24 you something, then? Is that what you are saying?

25 Mr. McKeown. What do they owe me? It does not owe me

1 nothing.

2 Mr. Fithian. I am sorry. I am not following your
3 explanation as to why you told Mr. Rather something, one
4 thing, and you are telling us another.

5 Mr. McKeown. What am I telling you except what I told
6 him? I am just telling you the man came to my door.

7 Mr. Fithian. You are telling Mr. Rather here that the
8 FBI did, indeed, ask you if you knew Oswald and you are
9 telling me that the FBI never did raise the question, and
10 that is why you did not tell them. That is what you are
11 saying.

12 Mr. McKeown. I think that is what I said.

13 Mr. Fithian. In our transcript here in the last fifteen
14 or twenty minutes that is all you have told me over and over
15 again, all day today and on two or three different occasions
16 you said that the reason you did not mention Lee Harvey
17 Oswald is that the FBI never raised the question.

18 Well, very recently you told Dan Rather something 180°
19 opposite that. You said they asked the question --

20 Mr. McKeown. Maybe he put them words in my mouth,
21 you know. He's pretty good --

22 Mr. Fithian. I am trying not to put any words in your
23 mouth. I am trying to stick to the straight story here.

24 I am having a lot of difficulty, first on the basis
25 of just --

1 Mr. McKeown. I certainly do not want to cause you
2 any trouble.

3 Mr. Fithian. Will you rethink your answer just on the
4 basis of the logic of it. Someone who was alert to inter-
5 national affairs, political affairs, as you were, the most
6 dramatic, searing thing that happened in American society,
7 the assassination of an extraordinarily popular handsome
8 young President, shocked the society down right to its
9 roots.

10 As one of the few people in the whole United States who,
11 now you tell us, was in contact with the assassin of the
12 President and with the person who killed the President's
13 assassin, you are later questioned by the Federal Bureau of
14 Investigation and you just conveniently do not tell them that
15 you know anything about Oswald.

16 I cannot find any explanation for that. Can you, in
17 your own mind, find any reason?

18 Mr. McKeown. I agree with you.

19 Mr. Fithian. It is so implausible.

20 Mr. McKeown. Yes, it sure as hell -- I look at it the
21 same way as you. If he had asked me, I certainly would have
22 told him. I do not know. You see, Ruby came to my place
23 long before the assassination.

24 Mr. Fithian. I understand that.

25 Mr. McKeown. I believe that I went up there before the

1 assassination, about Ruby. Hell, I don't know. I am so
2 confused, I do not know whether I was up there before the
3 assassination or after the assassination.

4 Mr. Fithian. Talking to the FBI?

5 Mr. McKeown. Yes. Do you have it wrote down there?

6 Mr. Purdy. The only account we have is January 28,
7 1964.

8 Mr. Fithian. This would have been 1964, the next
9 calendar year after President Kennedy has been assassinated.

10 Mr. McKeown. I sure wish -- you do not know how bad I
11 wish I could tell you whether I told him that or not. I
12 really wish I could tell you that. I might have told him
13 that.

14 Mr. Fithian. Mr. McKeown, I look upon you as a good
15 citizen and somebody who is willing to try to help this Com-
16 mittee get all the facts laid out on the table, and I wish
17 you would just think very, very carefully, about what you
18 told the Committee.

19 I do not know you. I have never met you before and I
20 might never seen you again, but between the two of us, we
21 are going to have to write the final chapter of the history
22 of this event, as to the circumstances surrounding the death
23 of John Kennedy.

24 I would not want to go to my grave misleading the
25 American public. I do not think you do either.

1 Mr. McKeown. I do not, either.

2 Mr. Fithian. I ask you, just as an American to give
3 some thought to your answer and not to mislead this
4 Committee, because the circumstances are getting so over-
5 whelming, as I think about this matter, the rules of this
6 Committee is going to allow you five minutes at the end of
7 all of the questioning to try to reflect on this and try to
8 set the record straight on anything that you think you have
9 given us the wrong impression on.

10 Mr. Chairman, I have been pressing the witness, in your
11 absence, very hard because it just seems so implausible to
12 me that a person, who, at his age and mind was so struck by
13 the assassination of the President that he would forget in a
14 conversation with the FBI, forget the fact that the Presi-
15 dent's assassin had been in his home, had been in his home
16 trying to buy a high-powered rifle, and knowing the President
17 was killed by a high-powered rifle.

18 And I am asking basically whether or not it is a trick
19 of the mind to sort of think that, and embellish the story.
20 It is like going on a fishing trip. You think back on it,
21 in ten years, you do not remember all the times you did not
22 catch anything, but the fish grows.

23 I am wondering if there is not that human psychological
24 element at work here, because I cannot find any other explana-
25 tion for it, and I do not know whether you can or not.

1 Mr. McKeown. I wish I could.

2 Mr. Fithian. Why do you not, just in your own mind,
3 try to tell us what you really think happened.

4 Mr. McKeown. What I think happened?

5 Mr. Fithian. Yes.

6 Mr. McKeown. About the way that the President was
7 killed? In my opinion?

8 Mr. Fithian. How many time did Jack Ruby visit you?

9 Mr. McKeown. Three or four times.

10 Mr. Fithian. And tell us whether you are absolutely
11 sure whether the person who came to your door was Lee Harvey
12 Oswald.

13 Mr. McKeown. At that time, I was in pretty good health
14 and I would swear on a Bible -- and I am a believer in the
15 Bible, and I believe in the Lord and Jesus Christ -- that
16 it was Lee Harvey Oswald who came to my door.

17 Mr. Fithian. Tell us why you did not tell the investi-
18 gators that at the time? Give us something that is more
19 reasonable than we have.

20 Mr. McKeown. Mr. Fithian, I do not know why. If you
21 want to know the honest-to-God truth, like I told you, I do
22 not think you ask me. Maybe he did. I do not know. I do
23 not know. I swear if I knew I would tell you, I really would
24 tell you, because you do not know -- I am an Irishman and
25 Kennedy is an Irishman and if there was anything in the world

1 I could do to help you solve this, I would do it. Just
2 like I talked to you about getting this phonecall about me
3 not mentioning that this Latin was not with Oswald, but I
4 told you he was with him, you see, and I could have not
5 told you that. But I am not afraid.

6 Mr. Fithian. I understand that, but as just one Irish-
7 man to another, there is a great deal of sympathy and
8 empathy and feeling for a great Irish President. I do not
9 want you to leave here today doing anything to get the story
10 so out of focus that nobody is ever going to know. This is
11 only one small piece of it, but you are on the verge of get-
12 ting the story out of focus so nobody is ever going to know.
13 I do not think that you want that on your conscience.

14 Mr. McKeown. I sure do not.

15 Mr. Fithian. Let me ask you if this FBI report is not
16 accurate, or is accurate.

17 Mr. McKeown. Do you have the FBI report?

18 Mr. Fithian. I have it right in my hand.

19 Mr. McKeown. What does it say? Read it to me.

20 Mr. Fithian. It says: "He [McKeown] remarked he is
21 not certain that the above-described telephone call from
22 Dallas or the man who personally appeared at the J&M drive-
23 in was identical with the Jack Ruby who killed Lee Harvey
24 Oswald."

25 Then, "to his knowledge, he has never seen or met Lee

1 Harvey Oswald."

2 That report was written at that time, that day, when
3 you finished that conversation. You must have told them
4 then that, to your knowledge, you had never met or had never
5 seen, Lee Harvey Oswald. Is that not reasonable for this
6 Committee to expect, that your memory would have been better
7 15 years ago than it is now, and that 15 years ago when
8 you were indeed asked by the FBI whether you had any knowl-
9 edge of Lee Harvey Oswald, you said, to your knowledge, you
10 had never seen or met Lee Harvey Oswald. Is that not the
11 truth, rather than what we are hearing today?

12 Mr. McKeown. If that is the truth, that is a lie,
13 because I did see Lee Harvey Oswald. If that is the truth,
14 what he says in his report, that I said that I did not know
15 Lee Harvey Oswald, I want to be truthful and I want to tell
16 you that the bastard who came to my door was Lee Harvey
17 Oswald. It was him. It was him. It was him.

18 I am positive.

19 Mr. Fithian. Are you sure, projecting back mentally,
20 the mind's eye, the mind's image, that is where we start on
21 this. I am concerned that is what has really happened. I
22 am not accusing you of lying. I am just accusing you of
23 thinking wrong, of trying to embellish the story now, to make
24 it better than it really was, make your own rule more
25 important, more central, than it really was. Because the

1 best evidence that we have is, at that time, you did not
2 think that you had ever met Lee Harvey Oswald.

3 Mr. McKeown. Was it in 1964?

4 Mr. Fithian. 1964.

5 Mr. McKeown. The President was killed in 1962, was he
6 not?

7 Mr. Fithian. '63.

8 Mr. McKeown. '63.

9 Mr. Fithian. This was just a few months, two, three
10 months, two months, about 60 to 90 days after the President
11 was killed.

12 Would not your memory have been better than it is now
13 of the events?

14 Mr. McKeown. It probably would.

15 Mr. Fithian. Which do you really think is the accurate
16 story?

17 Mr. McKeown. You want my own opinion of it?

18 Mr. Fithian. I want your own,

19 Mr. McKeown. I do not believe he asked me if I knew
20 Lee Harvey Oswald. I actually do not believe he asked me.
21 Whether he said he did and what is there on that paper is
22 well enough, I cannot remember him asking me.

23 Mr. Fithian. In two out of three opportunities you
24 have had to talk about this you came down on the same side.
25 Once, when you were talking with the FBI when you said to

1 your knowledge you never saw, nor met, Lee Harvey Oswald.
2 The second time you came down with this was when Dan Rather
3 asked you the question and I read you the quotation from
4 the script that Dan Rather has of your testimony to him.

5 Mr. McKeown. That I told the FBI that I knew Lee
6 Harvey Oswald.

7 Mr. Fithian. Here, I will read it to you again.

8 The first time that you commented on this was at the
9 FBI hearing where you said, to your knowledge, you had never
10 seen or met Lee Harvey Oswald.

11 The second time that you talked about this story was
12 when Dan Rather asked you the question, Dan Rather said:
13 "Did you talk to the FBI about Oswald's coming to see you?"
14 And you said, "I think they did ask me if I knew Oswald. I
15 think I told them I did not know him, never heard of them,
16 or something like that."

17 Those two stories match, but what you are telling me
18 today does not square with that.

19 Has anyone suggested to you a line of discussion that
20 you ought to take with this Committee?

21 Mr. McKeown. No.

22 Mr. Fithian. No one has talked to you about your
23 testimony?

24 Mr. McKeown. The only one I talked to was Mr. Fonzi.

25 Mr. Fithian. You have not talked with your attorney?

1 Mr. Appel. We have not had time.

2 Mr. Fithian. You and Mr. Lane have had conversations
3 about this?

4 Mr. McKeown. More or less.

5 Mr. Fithian. You have talked to Mr. Lane?

6 Mr. McKeown. The only thing we talked about was when
7 he came to my house.

8 Mr. Fithian. He came to your house for what purpose?

9 Mr. McKeown. To see if I could get him some bazookas
10 and machine guns.

11 Mr. Fithian. I am sorry, I did not hear that.

12 Mr. McKeown. He wanted me --

13 Mr. Dodd. You are talking about Mr. Lane?

14 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Mark Lane, your attorney.

15 Mr. McKeown. What do you want to know about him?

16 Mr. Fithian. I am just asking, I asked you whether
17 you had two testimonies lined up, that is, you have the FBI
18 material and you have the Dan Rather material, and I now
19 was asking you whether you had talked to anybody else about
20 your possible testimony before this Committee and your
21 present attorney says that he has not talked to you about
22 it, and I am sure that he just met you today.

23 And you said you talked to someone else, Mr. Fonzi.
24 And you did talk to Mark Lane about your testimony, is that
25 correct?

1 Mr. McKeown. Is Mr. Fonzi here now? Maybe he can
2 recall if I told him that I talked -- I am so confused.

3 Mr. Fithian. Let me recognize counsel and let them
4 pursue this series. Perhaps I have jumped ahead of where
5 we wanted to be in the questioning.

6 Mr. Chairman, I just could not believe that an American
7 of Irish descent -- the Chairman is Irish -- and that an
8 American of Irish descent who had respect and admiration for
9 John Kennedy, as our witness has today, could be interroga-
10 ted by the FBI and happen to overlook the fact that Lee
11 Harvey Oswald had been at his home trying to buy a high-
12 powered rifle and, 50 days after the President is killed, he
13 is being asked this by the FBI and finding it incredible --

14 Mr. Dodd. I can only say that, Mr. Fithian, my good
15 friend, I am sure that the witness's desire to be fully can-
16 did and honest about his testimony, the fact that he is an
17 Irishman and I am an Irishman, lends no credence whatsoever
18 to our witness's veracity. We will leave that for another
19 day.

20 Mr. Fithian. I guess I want to pick up the line of
21 questioning to counsel as to how did Dan Rather pick you out
22 of 214 million people and start this whole business talking
23 to you anyway.

24 Mr. Dodd. If the gentleman would yield?

25 Counsel, why do you not proceed with that line of

1 questioning?

2 Mr. Fithian. I will let counsel take the questioning
3 from here, but I will get back into this before the night
4 is out, Mr. Chairman.

5 Mr. Dodd. I have a feeling that you will.

6 Counsel?

7 Mr. Purdy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Mr. McKeown, you were about to begin responding to a
9 question as to how you first made contact with Mr. Rather
10 for the CBS Special?

11 Mr. McKeown. I was sitting at home and a lady called
12 me by the name of Harriet Rubin and she was in Dallas,
13 Texas and I was in Miami and she asked me if this was the
14 McKeown that used to live in Houston and I said yes.

15 She said that she was with "60 Minutes," she was
16 representing Mike Wallace, and I said, what is this? A bunch
17 of baloney? I thought it was just a hoax.

18 She said no. I would like to come down there to Miami
19 and she was a researcher for CBS. That was what she was.
20 She worked in the research department. So she came.

21 And she called me up. She checked into the "Four
22 Ambassadors." So I drove over there and we went up to her
23 room and she had a taperecording and I just told her about
24 what happened.

25 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, how was it that she found out

1 about you?

2 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. I asked her. I said how
3 did you find out about it? She said, your name is already
4 in the Warren Commission. She said you might as well tell
5 me about it. They are going to call you up before the
6 Committee and you will have to tell them.

7 Mr. Purdy. What Committee was that?

8 Mr. McKeown. I guess this one.

9 Mr. Purdy. In 1975, this Committee was not in existence.

10 Mr. McKeown. I do not know. She says, you are going
11 to have to go before some Committee.

12 Mr. Purdy. Was anybody with you at the time?

13 Mr. McKeown. No, I was by myself.

14 Mr. Purdy. Just you and Harriet Rubin?

15 Mr. McKeown. Right.

16 Mr. Purdy. No one else present?

17 Mr. McKeown. Nobody.

18 Mr. Purdy. Was anybody else present during any meetings
19 you had with Miss Rubin?

20 Mr. McKeown. Prio. When her and I went up to Carlos
21 Prio's house and it was nothing about -- well, yes, it was
22 about the assassination. It was about this Spanish guy
23 coming with Oswald, you know what I mean?

24 Mr. Purdy. About the Spanish guy coming with Oswald?

25 Mr. McKeown. Coming with him, was with him, and I called

1 Prio off into the next room and asked him, do you think that
2 I should tell this woman anything about all of that? He
3 said yes. The more trouble you can get Castro in, do it.
4 That is what he said.

5 Mr. Purdy. How would that get Castro in trouble?

6 Mr. McKeown. Well, I do not know.

7 Mr. Purdy. Did Miss Rubin ask you about the Oswald
8 meeting, or did you first suggest it to her?

9 Mr. McKeown. No. She asked me on the phone, she says,
10 I understand Jack Ruby came to see you and all this and
11 all that, and I told her yes. And she says, did Oswald
12 come to see you?

13 I said yes, he came to my door.

14 Mr. Purdy. Was that the first time that you had ever
15 spoken who was not an acquaintance of yours?

16 Mr. McKeown. That was the first time. That has not
17 been a real time ago.

18 Mr. Purdy. Why did you tell her?

19 Mr. McKeown. I really did not have to tell her.

20 Mr. Purdy. Why did you tell her?

21 Mr. McKeown. I do not know,

22 Mr. Purdy. Did she know, before she asked you, that
23 you had met Oswald?

24 Mr. McKeown. Did she ask me if I knew Oswald?

25 Mr. Purdy. Did she know that you had met Oswald before

1 she asked you about the meeting?

2 Mr. McKeown. I do not know if she knew it or not.

3 Mr. Purdy. Do you know if anybody told her before she
4 talked to you that you had met Oswald?

5 Mr. McKeown. She told me she went and talked to
6 Oswald's mother.

7 Mr. Purdy. What did Oswald's mother say about you?

8 Mr. McKeown. She did not say; she did not tell me.
9 She just told me -- I said, what have you been doing over
10 there in Dallas, and she said she went and talked to Lee
11 Harvey Oswald's mother.

12 Mr. Purdy. Did Miss Rubin talked to anyone who knew
13 that you had met Oswald before you told her that you had
14 met Oswald?

15 Mr. McKeown. I do not know,

16 Mr. Purdy. Do you think she did?

17 Mr. McKeown. She acted like she did, because she asked
18 me.

19 Mr. Purdy. Can you think who it might have been that
20 she talked to?

21 Mr. McKeown. No.

22 Mr. Purdy. Who else had you talked to about this who
23 might have communicated this information to her?

24 Mr. McKeown. After the assassination I talked to quite
25 a few people that that dirty bastard is the one who had come

1 to my house. You know, I guarantee if he came to your
2 house you'd go tell somebody.

3 Mr. Purdy. You told a number of people including your
4 probation officer that you had met Oswald and Ruby, correct?

5 Mr. McKeown. If I did, I do not remember.

6 Mr. Purdy. Earlier today, you stated --

7 Mr. McKeown. I might have.

8 Mr. Purdy. You stated that you told a number of
9 people, including your probation officer.

10 Mr. McKeown. I probably did.

11 Mr. Purdy. You told them that before the FBI inter-
12 view on February 28, 1964, is that correct?

13 Mr. McKeown. To be frank with you, I do not know. I
14 do not know.

15 Mr. Purdy. Earlier today you gave us quite a list of
16 a number of people, some of whom you remember their names,
17 some you do not, whom you believe you told you met Ruby and
18 Oswald. After the assassination you told them and before
19 you talked to the FBI, is that correct?

20 Mr. McKeown. Repeat that.

21 Mr. Purdy. You told us earlier today that you talked
22 with quite a number of people after the assassination.
23 You told them that you had met Oswald and Ruby and you told
24 these people this prior to the time you had the interview
25 with the FBI?

1 Mr. McKeown. Yes, probably.

2 It was common knowledge.

3 Mr. Purdy. What was common knowledge?

4 Mr. McKeown. That Sam Neal was at my house when he
5 came there, Sam Neal knows a thousand people or more there,
6 and you know, he told quite a few.

7 Mr. Purdy. If it was common knowledge, why did you
8 hesitate to tell the FBI?

9 Mr. McKeown. I just do not know.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did it ever cross your mind?

11 Mr. McKeown. God Almighty, I certainly wanted to tell
12 them, but I cannot remember. To be frank with you, I cannot
13 remember.

14 Mr. Purdy. As soon as you recognized Mr. Oswald and
15 Mr. Ruby, did you consider going to the authorities to tell
16 them that Mr. Oswald had approached you to buy a high-
17 powered rifle?

18 Mr. McKeown. Did I go to them and tell them?

19 Mr. Purdy. Did you consider going to the authorities
20 and tell them that shortly after the assassination.

21 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

22 Mr. Purdy. Why did you not go and talk to anybody until
23 January 28, 1964, two months later.

24 Mr. McKeown. I think you have the dates mixed up there.
25 I am going to be frank with you. Like I told you, I was

1 going to lunch with this lady when the President got killed
2 and we came back to the office. Now, that was in November,
3 right?

4 Mr. Purdy. Right.

5 Mr. McKeown. As soon as we got back to the office --
6 I will not say it was the next day, but I will say it was
7 within two to three days that the FBI was there.

8 Mr. Purdy. They came to see you?

9 Mr. McKeown. At the office.

10 Mr. Purdy. How long did the interview take?

11 Mr. McKeown. At the office where I was working.

12 Mr. Purdy. How long did that interview take?

13 Mr. McKeown. It was no interview.

14 Mr. Purdy. What transpired at that meeting?

15 Mr. McKeown. He wanted to know if I was McKeown, and
16 I said yes and he asked me to come up to his office and
17 I said that I would be glad to.

18 Mr. Purdy. The record indicates that the FBI interview
19 was on January 28, 1964. Is it your contention today that
20 the record is wrong and that you did not meet with Special
21 Agent W. F. Pultz, Jr., on January 28, 1964 when you discussed
22 with him your meeting with Jack Ruby?

23 Mr. McKeown. Could you repeat the question?

24 Mr. Purdy. Is it your contention today that the FBI
25 report dated January 28, 1964 is incorrect in that it says

1 you were interviewed on January 28th and not sooner?

2 Do you have a specific present recollection that you
3 were interviewed prior to that time?

4 Mr. McKeown. It seems as though I was, yes, but maybe
5 I was not. Hell, I do not know.

6 The only thing I know, I went up to the FBI offices.
7 There was not a soul in there but him and I.

8 Mr. Purdy. Your present recollection is that you did
9 not consider going to the authorities after the assassina-
10 tion to tell them that you had met Ruby and Oswald until
11 you talked to the FBI in their office, is that correct?

12 Mr. McKeown. Are you trying to say that I should have
13 gone up there?

14 Mr. Purdy. I was asking, first of all, if you considered
15 going to law enforcement authorities to tell them that you
16 knew Ruby and Oswald prior to the time that you had the two-
17 hour meeting with the FBI.

18 Mr. McKeown. I considered it,

19 Mr. Purdy. Why did you not go to the authorities?

20 Mr. McKeown. Well, I do not know. To be frank with
21 you, I do not know. Maybe I was scared or something. Maybe
22 I was scared I would get involved, or something. I do not
23 know.

24 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, when Miss Rubin called you --

25 Mr. McKeown. Maybe I should have went.

1 Mr. Purdy. When Miss Rubin called you from CBS, did
2 she tell you that there would be any financial remuneration
3 to you for telling your story?

4 Mr. McKeown. No. She told me she would pay my expenses
5 back to Texas.

6 Mr. Purdy. Was there any discussion of payment beyond
7 expenses?

8 Mr. McKeown. No. They were very nice. They rented me
9 a room at the Holiday Inn and they rented me a Rent-a-car.
10 You see, I have a sister and brother in Houston. They told
11 me I could stay an extra week and keep the rent car and
12 charge it to them.

13 Mr. Purdy. Did anyone help you negotiate or work with
14 CBS? Did you have an agent of any kind?

15 Mr. McKeown. No.

16 Mr. Purdy. You testified earlier that you had been
17 approached by British Broadcasting Company for a television
18 show. Did they offer you any money?

19 Mr. McKeown. Well, yes.

20 Mr. Purdy. How much money did they offer you?

21 Mr. McKeown. \$100.

22 Mr. Purdy. Is that how much they paid you?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

24 Mr. Purdy. Did the British Broadcasting Company approach
25 you, or did you, or someone, approach them?

1 Mr. McKeown. They approached me.

2 Mr. Purdy. Do you know if anyone suggested to them
3 that you would be a good person for their show?

4 Mr. McKeown. Not that I know of. He told me that
5 they could not pay any money on account they did not put
6 any commercials on over there and I said well, if it will
7 help try to solve the President's assassination, and find
8 out who in the hell did kill him, I would be willing to do
9 that.

10 Mr. Purdy. Did anyone give you any advice, prior to
11 appearing either on CBS or BBC programs, about what you were
12 going to say?

13 Mr. McKeown. Not a soul. As a matter of fact, my
14 ex-wife, the mother of my children, she was all against it.
15 on account I have a son-in-law in Miami that is pretty high
16 up in society and she did not want to let him know that I
17 was mixed up in this.

18 Mr. Purdy. Has anyone ever approached you with any
19 serious proposal providing you with money in exchange for
20 information you wanted to give about the assassination?

21 Mr. McKeown. No. I wish they had.

22 Mr. Purdy. Have you ever considered writing a book about
23 these experiences?

24 Mr. McKeown. I have considered writing a book, yes,
25 about my experiences with Castro. As a matter of fact, there

1 have been a number of people who have come to me these past
2 years and I always refused it, because I did not want to
3 do it.

4 Mr. Purdy. Do you presently have a book contract
5 outstanding for you to write a book about the assassination?

6 Mr. McKeown. No, not about the assassination.

7 Mr. Purdy. Do you have a present understanding or
8 working relationship with any agent or any book publisher
9 that you will write a book about any subject which will
10 include references to the assassination?

11 Mr. McKeown. No, I have talked to a few people with
12 this book, this book business, and they want me to put it
13 in a book that Oswald came to see me and Ruby came to see
14 me,

15 Mr. Purdy. Who are you working on this book with?

16 Mr. Appel. I would object to these questions.

17 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond to the
18 objection. It is counsel's contention that these questions
19 go directly to the witness's credibility as to possible
20 incentives for embellishments on his previous story, but in
21 the form of some pressure from some other source, or for the
22 potential from some monetary gain that could result from a
23 dramatic story concerning the assassination.

24 Mr. Dodd. Does counsel want to be heard in support of
25 his objection?

1 Mr. Appel. I feel that you could call in somebody to
2 testify about pressure if you feel that there is any undue
3 pressure here. I do not really see that it is relevant.

4 Mr. Dodd. The Chair is going to overrule the objection
5 on the grounds that it does tend to support or test the
6 credibility of the witness and therefore, I will ask the
7 witness to respond to questions of counsel.

8 Counsel may proceed.

9 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, are you presently working with
10 anyone on a book with whom you have a contract outstanding
11 or a in the works for you to produce a book which includes
12 information about your knowledge about the assassination?

13 Mr. McKeown. Well, the book that I have a contract for --
14 as a matter of fact, I do not have a contract. I do not
15 have a contract with any publisher whatsoever, none. But
16 I have a little contract with him for writing a book for
17 me.

18 Mr. Purdy. Who is that?

19 Mr. McKeown. Mark Lane.

20 Mr. Purdy. Have any general figures or monetary remun-
21 eration been discussed as to how much money you can expect
22 from such a book?

23 Mr. McKeown. Yes, but nothing to get excited about.
24 As a matter of fact, we have not been able to sell it, so
25 there must not be much to it.

1 Mr. Purdy. What is the general monetary figure, or
2 figures, you have been told you might be able to recover
3 for this book?

4 Mr. McKeown. Maybe \$10,000.

5 Mr. Purdy. Mr. McKeown, did you tell the Select
6 Committee on Assassinations staff members on February 14th
7 of this year that the figure \$50,000 had been discussed
8 for that book?

9 Mr. McKeown. It had, yes. Now it is down to \$10,000.
10 As a matter of fact, this man that got shot over here in
11 Georgia -- I do not know him, do not misunderstand; I do not
12 know him -- he is the one who said he would give me the
13 \$10,000. But that is out now, because he got shot, and he
14 was going to open up a publishing company and now he is not.

15 Mr. Purdy. Have you been recently told a figure as
16 to how much money you might be able to get from this book?

17 Mr. McKeown. Recently, yes.

18 Mr. Purdy. What figure were you told recently?

19 Mr. McKeown. Maybe \$50,000.

20 Mr. Purdy. How recently was that.

21 Mr. McKeown. I have been told that so many times, I do
22 not believe it.

23 Mr. Appel. May I have a moment to speak with the
24 witness, please?

25 (Pause)

1 Mr. Purdy. Did Mr. Lane approach you, or did you
2 approach Mr. Lane, about writing this book?

3 Mr. McKeown. He approached me.

4 Mr. Purdy. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

5 Mr. Dodd. Let us suspend for a moment here.

6 (A brief recess was taken.)

7 Mr. Dodd. I know Mr. Fithian is anxious to pursue his
8 line of questioning. I wonder if you might comment.

9 In your testimony earlier to us today, you made refer-
10 ence to the fact that at the time of Mr. Oswald's visit to
11 your home, there was an associate of yours, or a friend of
12 yours present, a Mr. Neal, Sam Neal.

13 Mr. McKeown. Right.

14 Mr. Dodd. I wonder if you might be able to tell us,
15 at that time, in August or September, 1963, the time of the
16 alleged visit where Mr. Neal was living, what his address
17 was at that time?

18 Mr. McKeown. At my house,

19 Mr. Dodd. He was living at your home?

20 Mr. McKeown. Yes. He was getting a divorce from his
21 wife and he was pretty despondent and everything, so I had
22 four bedrooms there. I told him to come on over and move
23 in here. I knew him a long time.

24 Mr. Dodd. Where did he work at the time?

25 Mr. McKeown. He works for NASA, a master electrician.

1 Mr. Dodd. NASA?

2 Mr. McKeown. When they were building NASA down there.

3 Mr. Dodd. Did you have mutual friends, associates, or
4 people he would have known that you did not know that came
5 by there to visit from time to time while he was living
6 there?

7 Mr. McKeown. He had a lot of friends, yes. He had a
8 lot of friends.

9 Mr. Dodd. Can you recall?

10 Mr. McKeown. What?

11 Mr. Dodd. Can you recall for us, to the best of your
12 knowledge, the names of any of these people who were friends
13 of his at that time?

14 Mr. McKeown. He knew J. D. Hern,

15 Mr. Dodd. Who?

16 Mr. McKeown. J. D. Hern. He lived about a block when
17 he separated, and he knew Raymond Neal, but no kin to him.
18 Their name just happened to be the same, and he knew a lot
19 of people.

20 Mr. Dodd. Where did Ray Neal work?

21 Mr. McKeown. Raymond Neal, he worked for Sinclair
22 Oil. He is retired. They were just friends. We would go
23 fishing together and things like that.

24 Mr. Dodd. Anybody else you can think of?

25 Mr. McKeown. There was a whole lot of them.

2 Mr. Dodd. Is Mr. Neal still alive?

3 Mr. McKeown. I think so. I have not seen him. As a
4 matter of fact, it was at his house where Dan Rather inter-
5 viewed me.

6 Mr. Dodd. What is the address of that place, do you
7 recall?

8 Mr. McKeown. I know it is General Delivery, St. Leon
9 Texas. Raymond Neal told me about six, seven months ago,
10 and I got word two weeks ago that Raymond Neal's wife died,
11 and Raymond Neal told me about six months ago that Sam was
12 a terrible case, he had cancer. Wehther he is living now,
13 I do not know.

14 Mr. Dodd. You have not had any contact with Mr. Neal
15 since the time you have been interviewed by Mr. Rather?

16 Mr. McKeown. Yes, I have had contact with him.

17 Mr. Dodd. When was the last time?

18 Mr. McKeown. When my brother died, I went back home to
19 his funeral and I droye down and talked to Sam.

20 Mr. Dodd. How long ago was that?

21 Mr. McKeown. Seven or eight months ago.

22 Mr. Dodd. Seven or eight months. The last time you
23 saw him was seven months?

24 Mr. McKeown. Yes. He was sick then.

25 Mr. Dodd. Since that time, you have had no contact with

1 him?

2 Mr. McKeown. None whatsoever.

3 Mr. Dodd. Have you made any effort to keep in touch
4 with him?

5 Mr. McKeown. No.

6 Mr. Dodd. He has not written you?

7 Mr. McKeown. No. He never writes. He is the gentle-
8 man who called me on the phone and said, that's the guy who
9 was at your house, Sam Neal.

10 Mr. Dodd. The fellow who did what?

11 Mr. McKeown. He was the gentleman who called me on
12 the phone the morning that Ruby killed Oswald because he
13 was watching television down at some friends of his house
14 and he called me up and told me, are you watching television.
15 I said yes.

16 He said, well, that's the little bastard who was at
17 your house.

18 Mr. Dodd. Which one of those people was he referring
19 to?

20 Mr. McKeown. He was referring to Oswald, because he had
21 never seen Ruby.

22 Mr. Dodd. The assassination of Oswald by Ruby happened
23 almost 48 hours after the assassination of President Kennedy.
24 I presume you had been watching television or had seen
25 newspapers and so forth.

1 Mr. McKeown. I saw something in a newspaper that
2 they were going to broadcast it --

3 Mr. Dodd. Let me ask you this. Did you turn on the
4 television on Friday, November 22, 1963 when you received
5 word that the President was assassinated?

6 Mr. McKeown. No, I had a radio. We were in the office
7 where I worked in the pump company.

8 Mr. Dodd. Did you turn the television on Friday night?
9 Did you watch any television at all that you recall over
10 that week-end?

11 Mr. McKeown. I watched everything on it, according
12 to the assassination.

13 Mr. Dodd. At that time, did you see the pictures of
14 the then-alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

15 Mr. McKeown. No.

16 Mr. Dodd. You never saw any pictures of Lee Harvey
17 Oswald on television?

18 Mr. McKeown. Not as I recall, I did not. The only
19 time I seen him is when he shot him, you know? That was
20 the only time that I knew that was him.

21 I watched, you know,-- you know.

22 Mr. Dodd. Do you see what I am driving at with you?
23 I am trying to find out whether you recognized this fellow
24 except for the fact that Mr. Neal told you it was the same
25 guy. There was 48 hours between the time the assassination

1 occurred and the time that Ruby assassinated Oswald. This
2 fellow's picture was on every TV screen in America.

3 Mr. McKeown. If it was, I did not recognize him.

4 Mr. Dodd. You did not recognize him.

5 Mr. McKeown. I did not pay much attention.

6 Mr. Dodd. You did not pay much attention to what was
7 going on?

8 Mr. McKeown. No. I was more interested in whether he
9 was going to die or not, the President. He lingered about
10 four or five hours.

11 Mr. Dodd. Not at all. About one hour. About 2:00
12 o'clock in the afternoon.

13 Mr. McKeown. I was at the radio in the office and it
14 was 12:00 o'clock when we went to get lunch and the President
15 did not die until about 2:30 or 3:00.

16 Mr. Dodd. That is right.

17 I am asking you whether or not, between Friday evening
18 and Sunday morning, November, 1963, whether or not you
19 recognized pictures that were appearing on TV screens all
20 across this country of Lee Harvey Oswald. Did you recognize
21 the man who had been in your living room a couple of months
22 before?

23 Mr. McKeown. I did not pay any attention.

24 Mr. Dodd. You did not pay any attention?

25 Mr. McKeown. No. I did not have any idea. As a matter

1 of fact, I had put that man out of my mind. I thought he
2 was just a rat. I did not have no idea, do you know what
3 I mean?

4 It was just like I came to your door to sell you a book,
5 and you said no, you wouldn't think no more about me, would
6 you?

7 Mr. Dodd. You did not recognize his name, Lee Harvey
8 Oswald?

9 Mr. McKeown. I recognized the name. I said, it seems
10 like that guy who was here was named Oswald. I said, oh,
11 well, I guess he wasn't, you know?

12 The only time I recognized him was when I was looking
13 directly at the screen when he shot him.

14 Mr. Dodd. When was that?

15 Mr. McKeown. I think it was Sunday morning.

16 Mr. Dodd. I thought you just told us that you were not
17 watching it?

18 Mr. McKeown. Oh, yes. I did not tell you I wasn't
19 watching it. I told you I was watching it and I told you
20 Sam Neal called me and asked me if I was watching it. I said
21 yes, I am watching it.

22 He says, well, that's the bastard who killed the Presi-
23 dent who was at your house, I said yeah, I know it is.

24 That is what I told you, right?

25 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Fithian, do you want to proceed with your

1 questions?

2 (Pause)

3 Counsel brings up a good point. That Sunday morning
4 that you received a call from Mr. Neal, did you get the call --
5 did you see Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald?

6 Mr. McKeown. I saw him push up there in front and --
7 in Mr. Dodd's In live coverage, not replay.

8 Mr. McKeown. It was live, I think. It was live. And
9 this one particular fellow had a Stetson hat on. I guess
10 he was the Sheriff or something.

11 Mr. Dodd. Let me ask you this. What time in the
12 morning do you recall getting the phonecall from Mr. Neal?
13 How early was it? Was it mid-day.

14 Mr. McKeown. Around 11:00 o'clock, I think. I really
15 do not know what time it was. It must have been right after
16 the shooting occurred. What time was that?

17 Mr. Dodd. I am asking you.

18 Mr. McKeown. I do not know.

19 Mr. Dodd. You do not recall?

20 Mr. McKeown. Can you remember what time Oswald got
21 shot?

22 Mr. Dodd. Sure.

23 Mr. McKeown. I cannot.

24 Mr. Dodd. All right.

25 Mr. Fithian, do you want to proceed?

1 Mr. Fithian. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Mr. McKeown, I do hope that in the closing moments --

3 Mr. McKeown. I will do anything you want me to.

4 Mr. Fithian. That you will reflect on your responsibility before the Committee and your responsibility in history
5 because we are about to terminate this part of the proceedings
6 and we do not have a very clear picture of what you know
7 about this.

8 Mr. McKeown. I am trying to tell you everything I know.

9 Mr. Fithian. I wish I could accept that. I am going
10 to give you an opportunity, but I have got to tell you that
11 I am disappointed.

12 I am going to go back over the testimony that you have
13 given here, some of the statements that you have made, and
14 I want you to be as candid as you can, remembering that you
15 are under oath, remembering that all we asked you to do
16 when you were sworn in today was to tell the truth, the
17 whole truth, and nothing about the truth. I emphasize that
18 last, nothing but the truth.

19 Mr. McKeown. That is what I am doing.

20 Mr. Fithian. I advise you as a friend, that is how
21 you get in trouble before this Committee.

22 Mr. McKeown. I do not want to get in any trouble. I
23 get into enough trouble.

24 Mr. Fithian. Let us go through this and try to be as

1 straightforward as you can. Some of them are very vague
2 and very much in contradiction to each other and somehow
3 not coming out right.

4 I would like to put aside other testimony you have
5 given us this morning and just tell me, truthfully and
6 honestly and candidly, and in short terms, the answers to
7 some questions that I have.

8 Number one, let us talk about the Jack Ruby or Rubin-
9 stein visit to you. You testified this morning that Mr.
10 Ruby came to you and asked for a letter to Castro.

11 Mr. McKeown. I did not say that. I said he came to
12 me and wanted to know if I could help him get rid of some
13 jeeps and some slot machines.

14 Mr. Fithian. Yes, and he specifically asked you for a
15 letter of introduction.

16 Mr. McKeown. Right.

17 Mr. Fithian. To the Cubans, including Castro.

18 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

19 Mr. Fithian. That is what I am talking about.

20 Mr. McKeown. Yes.

21 Mr. Fithian. Just setting all aside, the details of
22 whether he was selling jeeps or bubble gum, I am saying he
23 came to you for the purpose of a letter of introduction to
24 the Cuban authorities, right?

25 Mr. McKeown. That is exactly right.

1 Mr. Fithian. And you, at first, were not going to
2 write that, and you thought -- I am not faulting you -- that
3 you might write it because he was going to pay you money
4 for it, right?

5 Mr. McKeown. Right.

6 Mr. Fithian. In your testimony, you said that after
7 awhile you decided that you would write it and that you
8 did write it, is that correct?

9 Mr. McKeown. Right.

10 Mr. Fithian. Then you said that you did not give it
11 to him.

12 Mr. McKeown. I did not.

13 Mr. Fithian. Why did you not give it to him?

14 Mr. McKeown. Because he never did come back to get
15 it. He never did come up with the money. I told him if
16 he would give me \$10,000 and if he did not get to see Castro
17 I would give him his \$10,000 back.

18 Mr. Fithian. You said that you would write a letter
19 and if he would give you \$10,000, you would give it back to
20 him if that letter would not get him to see Castro.

21 Mr. McKeown. That is right, exactly right.

22 Mr. Fithian. How many times did he return? How many
23 times did Mr. Ruby return?

24 Mr. McKeown. He came about three or four times,

25 Mr. Fithian. Each time asking for the letter?

1 Mr. McKeown. No. Well, yes, more or less.

2 Mr. Fithian. That was the purpose, was it not? He
3 wanted a letter of introduction?

4 Mr. McKeown. When I look back --

5 Mr. Fithian. And he wanted to be able to, once he got
6 the letter of introduction, to say well, McKeown, he used
7 to play baseball or whatever. That is what you said this
8 morning.

9 Mr. McKeown. Yes. He asked me all about where I had
10 been with Castro and how we had talked and what we had dis-
11 cussed and things of that nature, you know, and he kept
12 after me about how many arms were there, and were there
13 really \$2 million worth. I told him I guessed there was,
14 I really do not know.

15 He said, well, no, I am going to get this money and
16 bring it back up here, and I said, have you got the money?
17 That's what I asked him. He said no, I do not have it yet.
18 Don't worry about the money, that's easy. That's easy. Do
19 not worry about that at all.

20 Then he came back and we would talk some more about
21 different things, about what warehouses I put the guns in
22 and who all helped me haul them out to his house, who lived
23 at the house, what the people's names was who lived at the
24 house, things of that nature.

25 Then he says, did you write the letter? I said, I have

1 not written it yet, because you have not given me any money
2 and then he came back and I told him I had the letter
3 written.

4 He says, you know, it is kind of risky carrying that much
5 money around. I did not believe the money -- are you listen-
6 ing to me?

7 Mr. Fithian. Yes, I am.

8 Mr. McKeown. I said well, I am not going to give you
9 the letter until you give me the money. That was the last
10 time I seen him. He never did come back.

11 Mr. Fithian. Did he, or did he not, ask you for the
12 letter when he came back?

13 Mr. McKeown. Yes, he asked me for it.

14 Mr. Fithian. He did. You are sure of that?

15 Mr. McKeown. I am almost positive that he asked me
16 for the letter, but I did not give it to him.

17 Mr. Fithian. Let me quote to you what you told Mr.
18 Rather on that point.

19 "McKeown was interviewed by the FBI" -- this is Rather
20 speaking -- "but told them nothing about Oswald." Then this
21 is the part I want you to hear.

22 "Curiously he" -- McKeown -- "did say that Jack Ruby
23 had come to see him in 1959 offering him \$25,000 for a
24 letter of introduction to Fidel Castro. Ruby never came
25 back to pick up the letter, McKeown said."

1 Mr. McKeown. That is what I told you. The last
2 time he left, he never came back and I have never seen him
3 no more until I seen him on television. Never have I laid
4 eyes on him.

5 Mr. Fithian. When you told that to Rather, you were
6 talking about his fourth visit?

7 Mr. McKeown. After his third or fourth.

8 Mr. Fithian. After his last visit?

9 Mr. McKeown. His last visit.

10 Mr. Fithian. Second, let me go back to that part of
11 the story -- I think we are going to be interrupted by a
12 vote on the Floor. That is what all these bells are about.

13 You say, you told the Committee that Oswald came to
14 you and tried to buy rifles and that he offered you a certain
15 sum of money for a certain kind of rifle. Would you repeat
16 that for me, please?

17 Mr. McKeown. When he first came in, he wanted to know
18 if I could get him some bazookas and some Thompson machines.
19 He said, he had a good deal working. They were going to
20 try to overthrow Salvador. That is where he said.

21 And I said, I guess you know that I am on probation and
22 I said that I am not going to do anything, irregardless about
23 any kind of guns or any other thing, nothing.

24 Mr. Fithian. Then he left and then he returned?

25 Mr. McKeown. He kept talking. He said, it will be a

1 big benefit to you. We know you can get these guns. We
2 know you have got them, we know you can get them. I don't
3 see why you do not help us out.

4 And I said well, I just want to let you know that I am
5 not going to help you out, not only you, but nobody else.
6 I am not going to get involved.

7 I said, I got involved in this damn thing innocently.
8 I did.

9 All I was in the damned thing for was to try to get my
10 buisness back over there in Cuba, and then I get into all
11 of this.

12 And so, I was trying to get him out of my house. I
13 finally got him out of the house and this guy went to him --
14 this guy in the car -- and he comes back and this guy is
15 standing by the car and I go out on the porch, and he says
16 well, look. This won't be very much. You can do this today,
17 maybe tomorrow, whatever. I want you to get me four high-
18 powered rifles, automatics, with telescope sight. He said
19 he would prever .300 Savage automatics. That is what he
20 said.

21 Mr. Fithian. Why do you remember this so clearly?

22 Mr. McKeown. Because I have a .300 Savage automatic.

23 Mr. Fithian. You should know that a .300 Savage
24 automatic is a very easily acquired weapon.

25 Mr. McKeown. It certainly is.

1 Mr. Fithian. You don't have to have any special help,
2 you do not have to have a man with your connections to get
3 one.

4 Mr. McKeown. That is exactly what I told him. I said,
5 you can get those guns right down here at the Sears Roebuck
6 or most any hardware store you can get them.

7 Mr. Fithian. Did you not think --

8 Mr. McKeown. He says we want you to get them for us.

9 Mr. Fithian. Did you not think it was a little bit odd
10 that he was going to offer you three or four times the
11 price?

12 Mr. McKeown. I thought it was ridiculous. I told
13 him that it was ridiculous. I said, you can get the guns --

14 Mr. Fithian. Mr. McKeown, were you on pro when you
15 were talking to the FBI?

16 Mr. McKeown. I think so.

17 Mr. Fithian. In February of '64?

18 Mr. McKeown. I think so. I do not know. You can check
19 back. I do not know.

20 I know that I was scared.

21 Mr. Fithian. To set the record correct, your parole
22 ended at the end of 1963. I do not doubt that you were
23 frightened in talking to the FBI.

24 Mr. McKeown. You'd better believe it.

25 Mr. Fithian. Follow me very closely on this. If I were

1 frightened and I were going to be interrogated by the FBI,
2 and the assassin of the President of the United States had
3 been at my door and I had turned down his request to get
4 a high-powered rifle, do you not think that it would have
5 been reasonable to expect that I would tell the FBI about
6 my good deed?

7 Mr. McKeown. I sure as hell would.

8 Mr. Fithian. In spite of the fact that you loved
9 the President, in spite of the fact that you knew all about
10 this, in spite of the fact that you knew Jack Ruby --

11 Mr. McKeown. I did not know Jack Ruby.

12 Mr. Fithian. That you had met him four times.

13 Mr. McKeown. You emphasized that I knew these people;
14 before they ever come to me, I did not know them from Adam.
15 I wish they had never come to me.

16 Mr. Fithian. In spite of the fact that Jack Ruby had
17 come to you and had talked to you four times, or three times,
18 or whatever, and you are now being asked by the FBI if you
19 know anything about it, in spite of your Cuban connections
20 and all the rest of it, and despite the good deed that you
21 had done by turning down this assassin who had asked you to
22 get him a rifle, you expect to sit there and tell me and
23 expect me to believe you that you sat there and talked to
24 the FBI for two hours and you did not even mention this?

25 Let us get our story straight. If you are going to write

1 a book, would you not sell more copies if you tell it the
2 way you are telling it now than if you told the truth? Is
3 that not the real thing we have been fighting with all day
4 today?

5 Mr. McKeown. We have not been fighting.

6 Mr. Fithian. Is that not the real effort that we have
7 been making here? You have been trying to protect a fable
8 that you want to sell to the public and you are not inter-
9 ested in getting the story straight.

10 Mr. McKeown. I most certainly am.

11 Mr. Appel. I object to this. He is badgering.

12 Mr. McKeown. I hope to God that you find out who killed
13 the President and if I can help you any way in the world I
14 would do it, and I am going to do it.

15 Mr. Appel. I object.

16 Mr. Dodd. Let's suspend one second. Why do we not
17 take a five-minute recess here and answer that roll call.
18 The second bell has run. Then we will come back.

19 {A brief recess was taken.}

20 Mr. Dodd. At the time that we were called away to
21 answer a quorum call, Mr. Fithian was questioning the witness
22 and I would yield to Mr. Fithian to pursue his line of
23 questioning.

24 Mr. Fithian. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that further
25 questioning would be all that productive. I think the record

1 has shown that we have three, if not four or five, inconsis-
2 tencies in the witness's testimony and the record will show
3 that the witness is in the process, if not fictionalizing
4 this, at least commercializing this, in a book arrangement
5 and I think that that is really what we have learned here
6 today, and I have no further questions.

7 Mr. Dodd. Well, fine.

8 I want to, first of all, thank you, Mr. McKeown, for
9 being here today. It has been a long day for you and the
10 Committee is appreciative of that. I would be negligent in
11 my duty, however, as Chairman before this Committee before
12 we terminate not to remind you of the tremendous significance
13 and importance of these hearings, so vitally important that
14 each and every witness who appears before us should be as
15 candid as honest as he or she can possibly be in trying to
16 help us arrive at the truth.

17 I would also be negligent if I did not remind you, as
18 a witness before this Committee, of a fact which I am sure
19 you and your counsel are both well aware of and that is
20 that the cloak of immunity does not extend to perjury and
21 I am sure that your attorney has apprised you of that fact.
22 I am sure you are aware of it.

23 Having said that, first, I want, by the rules of our
24 committee, I would like to give you give minutes in which time
25 you can, if you so desire, sum up for us your own feelings

1 or thoughts. At this particular time, it would be the last
2 opportunity, more than likely, that you would have to straighten
3 out any irregularities in your own testimony. This is the
4 opportunity for you to do so.

5 To repeat what Mr. Fithian said earlier, we do not
6 harbor any ill feelings towards any witness whatsoever and
7 we want you to know that, and we are appreciative of your
8 being here. I am going to give you that opportunity now
9 to utilize those five minutes, if you so desire.

10 Mr. Appel. Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak briefly
11 on behalf of Mr. McKeown, as allowed under Rule 3.6, just
12 very briefly, then I would like to have him have a chance
13 to say something briefly.

14 I would like to remind the Committee that Mr. McKeown
15 has been brought up here from Miami under strange circum-
16 stances. He has been brought from Miam under very strange
17 circumstances to a strange place. He is very nervous.

18 I do not know the man other than having met him this
19 morning and being here today, but I know that he is rather
20 nervous being here. I think a lot of the problem of conflict
21 in his testimony has been a result of his misunderstanding
22 of questions, possibly, or just being nervous and confused
23 and I think the Committee should keep that in mind.

24 I think that the Committee should also keep in mind,
25 though, that there might be conflicts in what he has said

1 because of his confusion, but there is possible fruit here
2 for further investigation by the Committee and I do not
3 think that his testimony should be totally discredited because
4 of his nervousness, et cetera.

5 By all means, the Committee should follow up what he
6 has said here today to find possible further information
7 that will get to the bottom of this investigation.

8 That is all I would like to say and I would like to have
9 Mr. McKeown --

10 Mr. Dodd. Let me just respond. The Committee is aware
11 of that. We do recognize that it is an unsettling experience
12 to have to testify before any panel but, again, as I am
13 sure you have advised your client here, the law is not that
14 forgiving when it comes to nervousness of the witness. We
15 are seeking the truth, and we would hope that if the witness
16 would recognize that he has nothing to fear at all from this
17 Committee, and while we respect and understand what nervous-
18 ness can do to a person, this is your opportunity now --
19 we hope, after some seven or eight hours that you would
20 recognize that there is nothing to fear at all and use
21 this opportunity, Mr. McKeown, to straighten out any concerns
22 that you may have had or any conflicting testimony that you
23 may have given today.

24 Mr. McKeown. Well, Mr. Dodd, to my knowledge, you
25 know, as I can remember, that not a soul has told me what to

1 say or has to say it or anything. Now, I have told the
2 truth as I know it, and I would not lie. I would not tell
3 you a lie, because lying -- you know it, it gets you nowhere.

4 The only thing that I am confused on is the FBI's
5 report and what I told you people here, I guess, maybe Dan
6 Rather, I do not know. You see, I just think that I told
7 the truth. I know I told the truth. I know Lee Harvey
8 Oswald came to my door. I know that as well as I know my
9 name.

10 I know it was him and any commercial outside of it, I
11 have not made one dime except my expenses to Texas and the
12 \$100 that British Broadcasting fellow by the name of Scott
13 Malone, I guess he just gave it to me.

14 You see, after I lost my lung, I have not been able
15 to work and I had a little insurance policy which don't
16 pay me much and after I was disabled, where I could not
17 hardly get my breath, well, they put me on disability, you
18 know, so I get the Social Security and that is what I am
19 living on. And I am living with my daughter.

20 If I have misled you in any way, I am sorry. I really
21 am, because I want to tell you the truth. I know it was
22 Oswald who came to see me and nobody has told me anything.
23 I know it was him and I know it was Jack Ruby who came to
24 see me at my place of business. I know it. As well as I
25 am sitting here, I know it.

1 Mr. Dodd. Is that the conclusion of your statement?

2 Mr. McKeown. I just wanted to let you know that I am
3 doing the best I can. I do not want to tell you a lie, for
4 God's sake. I do not want to tell you any lie. What would
5 I gain by telling you a story? Nothing whatsoever. I would
6 not gain anything. I would just jeopardize myself. That
7 is all that I would do.

8 Mr. Dodd. I thank you.

9 I should also warn you, and advise you, rather, that
10 you will be under continuing subpoena subject to recall by the
11 Committee.

12 Again, I want to thank you for coming up here and
13 spending a long day. We appreciate your testimony.

14 The witness is excused.

15 Mr. McKeown. I do not understand -- continued subpoena?

16 Mr. Dodd. If, at a future date, we want to recall you
17 then the subpoena, after you appear here today, is still
18 operative, still good, to advise you of that fact.

19 Mr. Appel. If I could ask one question, is it copy
20 for me to get a copy of Exhibit 93, the FBI report, or to
21 see it one more time?

22 Mr. Dodd. You can see it.

23 Counsel, would you give counsel for the witness an
24 opportunity to look at that?

25 (Whereupon, at 3:50 o'clock p.m. the Subcommittee
proceeded to other business.)