

ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

HUGH H. ANDERSON

Aug. 31, 1967

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ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

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PRESENT: MR. JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
MESSRS. JAMES ALCOCK, ALVIN OSER and
NUMA BERTEL, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

MEMBERS OF THE ORLEANS PARISH GRAND JURY

HUGH H. ANDERSON

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Reported by:
Maureen B. Thiel
Secretary
Orleans Parish Grand Jury

MR. HUGH H. ANDERSON, after being duly sworn by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury, was questioned and answered as follows:

MR. ALCOCK:

- Q. For the record, state your full name please?
- A. Hugh H. Anderson.
- Q. Mr. Anderson it is my duty to inform you that anything you say in here can be held against you or used against you, however, you have the right under the State and Federal Constitutions to refuse to answer any question that you feel might incriminate you or tend to incriminate you. You understand that?
- A. I do. I will tell you anything I know.
- Q. Fine. Additionally, should you make a statement categorically and the statement be false and you do it deliberately and knowingly, of course you can be charged with perjury. Do you understand that?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And additionally, anything that you are not sure about and you make an unqualified statement about something that you are not completely sure about, that is also perjury. In other words, if you don't know the color of my car and you say my car is white, but you don't know it, and it can be shown you never knew it, and you make the unqualified statement, even though it is white,

you can be charged with perjury. You understand that?

A. Yes.

Q. Now where are you employed?

A. I am not employed now.

Q. Where was your last employment?

A. I left the Roosevelt approximately May 28.

Q. This year?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your position?

A. I was the General Manager.

Q. How long were you with the Roosevelt?

A. About a year and a half, approximately.

Q. You recall the year when you first became General Manager of the Roosevelt, approximately?

A. Well, I was - I can't tell you - I came here when they acquired the property, but I was back and forth, I was still employed at the Adolphus in Dallas.

Q. ^{What} / Was your position at the Adolphus?

A. I was the Managing Director.

Q. When did you become Managing Director of the Adolphus?

A. In 1957.

Q. Were you there continuously from 1957 until you came

here to the Roosevelt?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you always the Managing Director there?

A. Yes.

Q. Prior to the Adolphus, where were you?

A. I was Managing Director of the Texas Hotel in Fort Worth.

Q. How long were you there?

A. Approximately 9 years.

Q. You more or less have been in the hotel business all of your life?

A. Yes, I have.

MR. GARRISON:

Mr. Anderson, we are mainly interested in talking to you because you know a few of the people we are interested in, and no doubt you have known some of them in the course of your hotel work and maybe you can tell us something about them. I understand that you used to know Jack Ruby? When you were with the Adolphus?

A. Right.

Q. How long did you know Mr. Ruby? Approximately.

A. I don't know how long, I would see him often, his place was right across the street from the hotel. I have had coffee with him and would see him around.

Q. Have you ever had a picture taken of you with Jack Ruby?

A. There is a picture existing, it was taken at - there is a person in Dallas named Johnny Hitt, and he opened an agency, he was with MCA, and quite a personable fellow, he had sold talent to the hotel from time to time. Johnny Hitt opened his agency when MCA dissolved, and invited all of his friends to come to the opening and that night my picture was taken with Ruby and a lot of other people, because I happened to be there.

Q. What business is Johnny Hitt in now?

A. I am sure he is still selling attractions. He may be with General I don't know what company he is with now, but he is still in Dallas, I think he lives in Lancaster. Lancaster, Texas, I think.

Q. Do you remember the approximate date of this event?

A. No.

Q. What was the occasion of the event?

A. Hitt, Johnny Hitt was opening an amusement company of his own and he had invited all of his friends, the people he had done business with, I had bought attractions for the Adolphus Hotel, and that is the reason for my

being there.

there

Q. Was Ruby/at the time?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. Was the Century Room in the Adolphus?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Ruby ever come to the Century Room?

A. I can't be too sure, but I assume he has.

Q. How about Breck Wall, was he being featured at the Century Room?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell me when he first began there?

A. He was there a long time, I am sorry but I can't recall.

Q. Do you recall where he was featured before that occasion?

A. That was the first review that he had as far as I know.

Q. He put it together for the Century?

A. Yes, that's right. I was talked into employing that group through Joe Riseman, the orchestra leader, who advised me about whom I should employ, in the Century Room.

Q. He is the Pagliacci of the piano?

A. Yes. And an amusement editor of the Dallas Morning News, I can't think of his name,

Q. Fonzi? (phonetically spelled)

A. No, ... he is a very popular fellow ... he left and

went to Las Vegas.

Q. Was it something like Joe Fonzi?

A. No ... Zarpi, Tony Zarpi. (phonetically spelled)

Q. What was Zarpi - did you know Zarpi before this occasion?

A. Yes, I knew him all along.

Q. Zarpi knew Jack Ruby, didn't he?

A. Yes, I'm sure he did. It later came out in the paper.

Q. Do you know whether or not Breck Wall knew Jack Ruby?

A. No, I don't.

Q. You know Joe Peterson?

A. Yes. He was with Breck Wall.

Q. Where did they appear together before the Century Room?

A. I do not know. I was talked into booking this through Joe Riseman and Tony Zarpi.

Q. The show was "Bottoms Up"?

A. Yes.

Q. Had not Breck Wall and Peterson previously worked with Jack Ruby?

A. I don't know.

Q. Are they still at the Thunderbird?

A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Do you know Louis McWilly?

A. No.

Q. Louis McWilly is at the Thunderbird, and was a friend

Q.

of Ruby's in the early 1960's, he had a night club in Dallas, does that refresh your recollection at all of Louis McWilly?

A. No. I don't know him.

Q. How about George Senator, Jack Ruby's roommate?

A. George Senator? I have heard of him. I have heard the name, but I don't know the person.

Q. Do you know Lee Odom?

A. I have heard the name, but do not know the person.

Q. Well, if it will refresh your memory, Lee Odom came up some months ago when it was announced by him in Dallas that he had met Clay Shaw because you introduced him to Shaw at the Roosevelt. He said that he came to see you because he was interested in the bull fight business.

A. I had never seen this fellow - now I'll tell you who he is. He came in to see me, its a funny thing, he came in to see me, my brother's daughter had met him in Mexico, she had been down, as a matter of fact she was going to attend the University of the Americas, and she got interested in the bull fighting and when they put on the bull fight in Dallas, she helped them with some publicity and put out a magazine and that is how

she got acquainted with the fellow. He wanted to put a bull fight on in New Orleans and she wrote me a letter and asked me if I would introduce him and show him where to go when he got here. And when he got here I called Loppiccolo, what's the

Q. Frank Loppiccolo?

A. Works for the Mayor, he worked at the Roosevelt, his name is Frank ...

Q. Frank Loppiccolo, Jr.

A. I called him and asked him if he could help this fellow and Loppiccolo took him around and that was the last I saw of this fellow.

Q. Then his statement that you introduced him to Clay Shaw is not completely correct?

A. No, I would not know Clay Shaw if I were to see him.

Q. You never met Clay Shaw?

A. No.

Q. Do you know George deMorenschulz (phonetically spelled) in Dallas?

A. (Inaudible)

Q. You going back to take over a new hotel, aren't you?

A. No, I am putting together a new hotel down here.

Q. In New Orleans?

Q. Out of curiosity, where is it going to be? Is it a secret?

A. It is going to be on the corner of Elysian Fields and Route 10, on the Equitable _____ property.

MR. ALCOCK:

Q. Where were you, Mr. Anderson, the day of the assassination?

A. I was in the Great Hall where he was supposed to speak, I was a member of the Dallas Citizens Council and I was invited to be there.

Q. Would that be at the International Trade Mart in Dallas?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know who made the arrangements for him to go to the Trade Mart?

A. No.

Q. Who ran the Trade Mart in Dallas at that time?

A. Trammell Crow. He owned it, I guess he managed it.

Q. You say you do not know Clay Shaw, is that correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. Have you ever read where Mr. Shaw spoke at any functions at the Dallas Trade Mart?

A. No.

Q. Was the production, "Bottoms Up" running at the hotel you were managing the day of the assassination?

A. I don't know.

Q. You don't remember?

A. I don't remember. I don't think it was.

Q. MR. GARRISON:

It was, to the best of my memory. Do you remember who decided to cancel the show for three nights?

Not that there was anything particularly wrong with it

A. One of the amusement editors called me shortly after the assassination and I think he asked if we would close and I asked him why did he ask that, and he said well, I am checking and the consensus is that all of the clubs are going to close. So that was the decision I made then. I said, yes we will close.

MR. ALCOCK:

Q. Did you see Jack Ruby from the time of the assassination and the time that he assassinated Oswald?

A. No.

Q. You didn't see him at all?

A. No.

Q. Had you ever seen Oswald in Dallas at all?

A. No.

MR. GARRISON:

Q. Do you mind telling me where you are staying now?

A. I am staying in Raymond Salmon's home in Slidell.

Q. Mr. Salmon is from New Orleans?

A. Yes - Raymond's summer home.

Q. I don't know him. What business is he in, may I ask?

A. Well, Raymond Salmon is the - I guess its an estate -
itsan old estate -

Q. But what does Mr. Salmon himself do?

A. I think he is a director - other than that I don't
know of anything that he is actively engaged in. He
is looking after the estate.

Q. Is he a friend of yours?

A. Yes.

Q. You know him from Dallas?

A. No, I know him from here, and I was in the service with
him. I know him from here.

Q. You mean from New Orleans?

A. Yes. That's all. He told me when I came down here,
he said don't buy a house, you move out to my house.

Q. Any other questions?

Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the preceding transcript
is a true and correct copy of the testimony
given, under oath, before the Orleans Parish
Grand Jury, on the 31st day of August, 1967,
and reduced to typewriting by me.

Maureen B. Thiel