

have been proper for the Dallas police to have not permitted the reporters in the immediate vicinity of the area where Oswald was being questioned, I think—I cannot think of any city where I could have expected the thing to be handled in a different way than from what it was handled in Dallas. I think the thing was a crime of such magnitude that the police themselves wanted—having had an arrest, I think that they were then anxious to show that they had solved the shooting, and that they were trying to erase what they considered to be a stigma on the name of Dallas.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Looking back over your experiences on those 3 days, do you have any suggestions as to how the police could have handled the press consistent with what you consider to be their obligation to render assistance to the press in the performance of the press duties?

Mr. McCULLOUGH. Nothing, beyond the fact that they might have, and there would have been a tremendous yell of censorship and violation of freedom of the press—they could have kept the media, the news media, in one area, and established some sort of a liaison, appointing an officer to bring information to them. This I have never seen done. But it could be done. It is entirely a personal opinion. I think that the Dallas police performed pretty well. As I say, I was asked constantly for credentials. And most of the reporters near me were also asked for credentials. Especially on the morning—Sunday morning, in which it was planned to move Oswald, they were very strict.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you think it would have been proper or improper for the police to have barred the press from the basement area at the time that Oswald was being transferred?

Mr. McCULLOUGH. I think what they did was proper. In other words, I feel that they felt that they had the situation under complete control. That had everyone stayed in the positions, with no movement, that there was sufficient space in there to guard the prisoner and to move him out without anything going wrong in the basement.

Mr. GRIFFIN. You say that on the assumption that there was nobody in there bent upon shooting him.

Mr. McCULLOUGH. That is right. There, again, you don't want to get too much personal opinion there, but I think it is possible at any time for anyone who really wants to kill somebody to do it—a public official or anyone else.

Mr. GRIFFIN. So that our record may be complete here, how many years experience have you had as a newspaper reporter?

Mr. McCULLOUGH. Twenty-six years.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Prior to your giving your testimony here this morning, have I or any other member of the staff of this Commission discussed your testimony with you?

Mr. McCULLOUGH. No; not at all.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. Pollak, do you have any further questions?

Mr. POLLAK. No; I don't think so.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you have anything, Mr. McCullough?

Mr. McCULLOUGH. No; that is all.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me thank you for coming here. Your assistance has been considerable to us, and we appreciate it very much.

Mr. McCULLOUGH. I don't know whether it has been of any value. But I am delighted to fulfill the request.

Mr. GRIFFIN. We are happy that you could come. And, again, I thank you.

TESTIMONY OF ABRAHAM KLEINMAN

The testimony of Abraham Kleinman was taken at 11:35 a.m., on July 24, 1964, in the office of the U.S. attorney, 301 Post Office Building, Bryan and Ervay Streets, Dallas, Tex., by Mr. Burt W. Griffin, assistant counsel of the President's Commission.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me introduce myself again. I am Burt Griffin.

Mr. KLEINMAN. I am Abe Kleinman.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I am a member of the general counsel staff of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

It is our normal procedure to explain a little bit about what we are doing here before we ask you to testify.

The Commission was set up pursuant to an Executive order of President Johnson and the joint resolution of Congress, and it has been directed to investigate, evaluate, and report back to President Johnson upon all the facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy and the death of Lee Harvey Oswald.

We have asked you to come here today particularly because you were acquainted with Jack Ruby, and we would like to find out what light you can shed upon Jack Ruby and his involvement in the events of November 22, 23, and 24.

Under the rules and regulations of the Commission, I have been designated to take your deposition today. Also, under these rules, the witness is entitled to have a written notice 3 days before he appears to testify. I might ask you if you have received such a notice.

Mr. KLEINMAN. Yes; I received that Sunday. I wasn't there but it was signed for in my sister's hand.

Mr. GRIFFIN. When did you actually see it?

Mr. KLEINMAN. The notice here?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes.

Mr. KLEINMAN. Sunday.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Then you have had 3 days?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Yes; I called Monday to find out about it.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me ask you first of all, do you have any questions about what is taking place here? And if so, I will try to answer them for you.

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I really don't know what, except what I read. That is, that you wanted me to come up here and answer some questions.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Why don't we proceed with the testimony, and if you have any questions, you may ask them.

Mr. KLEINMAN. I wouldn't have any questions, because I don't know just what you want or what I could tell you.

Mr. GRIFFIN. We will try to ask you some questions and we will see what answers we can get. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me.

Mr. KLEINMAN. I don't have any, because I don't know very much about it, except I knew Jack Ruby.

Mr. GRIFFIN. All right, let me ask you then if you will raise your right hand and I will administer the oath to you.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Sure.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Would you state for the court reporter what your full name is?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Abraham Kleinman.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Would you spell it?

Mr. KLEINMAN. K-l-e-i-n-m-a-n.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Where do you live, Mr. Kleinman?

Mr. KLEINMAN. 1189B Timplemore Drive.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Is that here in Dallas?

Mr. KLEINMAN. That is near White Rock Lake.

Mr. GRIFFIN. When were you born?

Mr. KLEINMAN. December 16, 1902.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you have a trade or profession?

Mr. KLEINMAN. I am a public accountant.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long have you been a public accountant?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I started practicing after I got out of the service in 1943.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long have you lived in the Dallas area?

Mr. KLEINMAN. I have lived here in Dallas about 58 years.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Pretty close to a native.

Mr. KLEINMAN. Pretty close.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you recall when it was that you first met Jack Ruby?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I really don't recall when or how I met him, but I guess its been maybe 12 or 13 or maybe less, somewhere in there.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did there come a time when you began to do accounting work for him?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I have. I did accounting work for him. He wanted me to work out his corporation returns for the State and the Federal, but I have never been able to complete it for him.

Mr. GRIFFIN. When was it that he asked you to do that?

Mr. KLEINMAN. It was sometime in 1962, the latter part of 1962.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you ever do any work for him before that?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Yes. I checked some records for him with the Internal Revenue. I don't recall when.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you know him on a social basis between the time you first met him?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Not socially. I would know him like you meet anyone and know him, as an acquaintance.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Where would you meet him?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Oh, sometimes I would run into him downtown. And while I was doing work for him, he would come by the office, and I would have to go by his place of business on Commerce Street to the Carousel.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you visit the Carousel Club from time to time?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I had visited there a number of times maybe around the latter part of the month to bring him some reports to sign, or get the social security withheld, or get his tax reports out.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did Jack bring any records to you on a monthly basis?

Mr. KLEINMAN. He was supposed to. He brought quite a few records. There was a lot of records missing that he brought up later. We were trying to accumulate all the records to work up his report.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Were you able to tell from an examination of the records that he did bring you whether or not the Carousel Club was a profitable operation?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, from the looks of it, it didn't look like it was too profitable, as far as I could tell. Of course, I never did get the final, get to make a final.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you have any indication that he was actually losing money?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, at times he said it was losing money.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did the records substantiate that?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, that I couldn't say because I didn't have all the records, all of his paid receipts. And over a period of 6 or 8 months, why he would find additional receipts and bring to me.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Receipts meaning?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Paid bills such as for merchandise.

Mr. GRIFFIN. If there were any missing, that would only reduce his profit?

Mr. KLEINMAN. If it were missing, it would increase his profit, because it wouldn't be charged off.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Well, you mean for tax purposes?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Oh, yes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I was thinking of for straight business accounting whether you could tell from the records whether he had a net profit after everything was taken off.

Mr. KLEINMAN. It is hard to say in that business because you would have to take in a certain amount of money. You don't know whether you have a profit or loss until you bring in all of your expenditures, your entertaining help and other help that he might have.

Mr. GRIFFIN. On the basis though of what he did bring in to you, did he show a net profit?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I didn't get that far on it, because there was a lot of information that he had there that I couldn't identify readily, and I had to get him to explain some of the transactions.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you ever have occasion to discuss with Jack his religious beliefs?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Beg your pardon?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you ever have occasion to discuss with Jack his religious beliefs?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did Jack ever express to you any concern or sensitivity about his position in Dallas as a Jewish person?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No; I have never gone into it. I never discussed anything like that with him. In the first place, when he came up to see me, the main thing I was interested in was getting his reports that he had to file quarterly, because they were behind originally, and I was trying to get him up to date on it, and it took up so much time, that I couldn't discuss anything with him.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you know where Jack Ruby maintained his bank account?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, he had a small bank account. I think it is in the Merchants State Bank. I think that is the name of the bank. I have got it in the office.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Any other, that you recall?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No. There might have been another account, but I don't remember what bank it would be, because the bank accounts he had were very small. I think most of his business was handled out of his pocket.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you know Mr. Ruby's friend, George Senator?

Mr. KLEINMAN. I met him downtown. I met him, if I remember correctly, I first met him in the Statler's Men Shop. I think he was selling. He was a salesman representing, I don't know whether it is men's line or what line of merchandise it is he was representing.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you see him at all on November 22 or 23 or 24?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Who is that?

Mr. GRIFFIN. George Senator.

Mr. KLEINMAN. I don't think so. I don't remember seeing him.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me ask you, where were you at the time you learned that President Kennedy had been shot?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I was in this restaurant that burned down here on Commerce Street next to the Picadilly. I don't know whether it is right next to it, or either one door away. Someone came in and said the President had been shot, and I knew that the parade had just passed by. I was on Akard and Main Street. And we thought they were kidding because it was so fast, they would get the news out so quick.

Mr. GRIFFIN. What did you do after you heard that?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I walked up the street there to Sol's Turf Bar and they had it turned on television.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long did you remain on Friday at Sol's?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I don't remember. I usually go by there every evening. He is one of my clients.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you remember where you were Friday evening?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I don't think I could remember exactly where I was.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Now on Saturday, did you have occasion to go to Sol's Turf Bar?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Yes. I usually go there on Saturdays to make up their payroll, and that Saturday, if I am not mistaken, I was at the barber shop until about, oh, maybe 2:30 or a quarter to three. Then when I left there I went over to Sol's to make up the payroll, and Jack Ruby was in there that afternoon.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you see Jack in there when you walked in the door, or was it sometime later?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, he was in there when I walked in, and he left within about, oh, just a few minutes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Where was Jack when you first saw him in the bar?

Mr. KLEINMAN. That afternoon?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes.

Mr. KLEINMAN. He was in Sol's.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Whereabouts? In a booth, or at a table, or along the bar?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No; he was standing there talking to two or three people.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you remember who those people were?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I don't recall. One of them was Frank Belocchio. I don't recall who else was in there. There was a group of people in there.

Mr. GRIFFIN. What did you do when you saw Jack?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I didn't do anything. I said hello to him. He was showing them some pictures that he either made or he took off of a signpost somewhere regarding somebody that put them on there. I think the sign was supposed to read, or did read—I didn't take a good look at it—to impeach Warren. And, of course, I hadn't heard anything about it, and I didn't even know where he got it.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you hear Jack say anything about those pictures?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I don't remember what he said, but he seemed to be upset about the pictures. I don't know what their conversation was before I came in.

Mr. GRIFFIN. What was the conversation after you came in?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I don't think there was anything except, you know, he mentioned about those pictures on the Warren impeachment, and then they were looking at an advertisement out of the News. Someone had a full page advertisement about President Kennedy, I think it was.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did Jack indicate whether or not he knew who Mr. Warren was?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No; he didn't. Well, I imagine he knew that he was a Chief Justice.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Why was he upset about the photograph?

Mr. KLEINMAN. That I don't know.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long did you stand there?

Mr. KLEINMAN. I beg your pardon?

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long did you stand there at that conversation?

Mr. KLEINMAN. I don't know how long I did stay in there.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long were you present during the conversation?

Mr. KLEINMAN. I don't think I was there over 2 or 3 minutes, because I went back in the back to try to get the payroll out.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you know Ralph Paul?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Yes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long have you known Ralph Paul?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Oh, just a very short time. Jack introduced me to him up at the club, and, of course, I knew the name from the records that I was working on, but I don't know him very well.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you have occasion to see Ralph Paul at any time the weekend the President was shot?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No, sir.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did you have occasion to see any friends or employees of Jack Ruby on that weekend?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No, sir. I believe he closed the place up on Friday.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I am going to mark for the purpose of identification a document which is an interview report prepared by two FBI agents, Lansing P. Logan, and Alton E. Bramblett. I am going to mark this document "Abraham Kleinman, Deposition July 24, 1964, Exhibit No. 1." This report consists of 3 pages that are numbered consecutively, 317, 318, and 319. The report pertains to an interview which Logan and Bramblett had with you on December 7, 1963. I will ask you to look at that and read it and tell me if it is an accurate report of the conversation they had with you on that day.

Mr. KLEINMAN (after reading). No; its got one mistake here. It says certified. I am not certified. I am a registered public accountant. This 59 here, I think I may have said 59, but it is about—I am 61 last December—about 58 years here.

Mr. GRIFFIN. What does that pertain to? What does the year 1953 refer to?

Mr. KLEINMAN. It don't say. It just says 59 years here in the Dallas area. That is close enough. That is about right.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you have any additions or corrections that you think should be in this?

Mr. KLEINMAN. Well, I don't think I know of any. I don't recall any.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Well, let me ask you then if you will sign your name on the first page and initial the next 2 pages.

Mr. KLEINMAN (signs and initials).

Mr. GRIFFIN. Just any place that is conspicuous. Thank you very much.

Mr. KLEINMAN. I don't recall anything else that I would know. In fact, I have been so darn busy I haven't had time to even read the paper. I have read some of it.

Mr. GRIFFIN. If there is anything that should come to your attention that you think would be valuable to the Commission, I will appreciate your letting us know.

Mr. KLEINMAN. Sometime you hear a lot of different conversations which it doesn't make sense. People form opinions and this and that. It is all foreign to you.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Have you heard any information of anything about how Jack Ruby got into the basement of the Dallas Police Department on November 24?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No; that I didn't. I don't know how he could get in there myself.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Do you have any information pertaining to anybody who might have given him any assistance or urged him in any way?

Mr. KLEINMAN. No.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Thank you very much. I appreciate your coming here. It was nice to meet you.

Mr. KLEINMAN. Nice meeting you.

TESTIMONY OF WILMA MAY TICE

The testimony of Wilma May Tice was taken at 3:20 p.m., on July 24, 1964, in the office of the U.S. attorney, 301 Post Office Building, Bryan and Ervay Streets, Dallas, Tex., by Mr. Burt W. Griffin assistant counsel of the President's Commission.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me state for the record while Mrs. Tice is here, that I have talked with your husband for a few minutes and I have explained to him that the decision as to whether or not other people are to be in the hearing room with us is the one that the witness makes, and that we have permitted public hearings at the request of the witness, and we have had private hearings at most of these. After I talked with him at some length, I think he agreed with me that if it was your wish that he not be in here, that we go ahead and have this as a private hearing. So I will first of all ask you, Mrs. Tice, if you would like to go ahead privately, or if you would prefer to have your husband in here?

Mrs. TICE. I would prefer not to have my husband in here.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me introduce myself again. My name is Burt Griffin, and I am a member of the general counsel's staff of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. I want to explain to you preliminarily that what we are doing here and how we are set up and then I will ask you to take the oath and testify.

Mrs. TICE. Let me ask you first, is this to be told to my husband?

Mr. GRIFFIN. We will not tell your husband about it, but we are taking a printed transcript and these will all be public records eventually, and it will certainly be available to your husband to read if he should ever want to. Now, if you would prefer not to testify about this, why I think that we are not going to ask you to do it.

Mrs. TICE. You mean I don't have to testify? I don't have to say anything if I don't want to?

Mr. GRIFFIN. No; if you would prefer not to testify, why, I am not going to compel you to do it. We asked you to come here because the FBI had interviewed you, and we wanted to get under oath what they had reported to us previously. But as I say, if you have domestic reasons why you don't want to talk about this, we are certainly not going to force you to do it.

Mrs. TICE. Will I be subpoenaed later for something?

Mr. GRIFFIN. We will not subpoena you. The report is in the records.