

C.D. - 85  
Sec. II

Date December 3, 1963

Mr. SETH KANTOR, a member of the Washington Press Corps, Scripps-Howard Alliance, 1013 13th Street Northwest, Washington, D.C., stated that he was assigned by his paper to cover the trip to Texas of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. He stated he was riding in the special bus which carried the White House correspondents on November 22, 1963. KANTOR related that this bus was several car lengths behind the President's car, but as they were nearing the corner of Elm and Houston Streets in Dallas, he heard three shots. He thought these were shots, but some of the press men thought the first shot was only a backfire of an automobile.

He advised they were then taken in the bus to Market Hall, where originally President KENNEDY had intended to address a meeting there at a luncheon on November 22, 1963. Upon arrival at this Hall, he obtained the service of someone, whom he does not recall, to take him to Parkland Hospital.

Upon arriving at Parkland Hospital, KANTOR went to the emergency area of the hospital and remained with other newsmen. Shortly before 1:30 p.m., November 22, 1963, the newsmen were notified that MALCOLM KILDUFF, the White House Press Aide, was to make a historical announcement. The newsmen followed KILDUFF out of the emergency area which leads to the west side of Parkland Hospital and to the southwest corner of Parkland Hospital. Upon arrival at the southwest corner of Parkland Hospital, KILDUFF entered the door, went in a small area, and then upstairs to a room where the announcement of the President's assassination was made at 1:30 p.m., November 22, 1963.

Upon entering the southwest corner of the building, he felt someone tug at his coat, and it was JACK RUBY, whom KANTOR had known in Dallas, Texas, when KANTOR was on the staff of the Dallas Times Herald newspaper. KANTOR related

Kantor, Seth Exhibit 7

*Washington D.C.  
Seth Kantor  
June 3, 1963  
Report  
Exhibit 7*

on 12/3/63 at Dallas, Texas

File # DL 89-43  
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by Special Agent VINCENT E. J. DRAIN/gm

Date dictated 12/3/63

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that he filed a story for his paper following this, but he did remember the time that RUBY tugged his coat because it was about two minutes before KILDUFF made the announcement of the President's death. KANTOR states he would place the time at about 1:28 p.m. when RUBY tugged the back of his coat and talked with him.

KANTOR filed a story which he says is fairly complete about the events that afternoon for his paper back in Washington. KANTOR does not know whether or not this has been used, and it is being set forth verbatim:

"Dallas. Nov. 25 - To my utter amazement I watched the man charged with killing President KENNEDY gunned to death by a friend of mine, JACK RUBY.

"It happened less than ten feet from where I was standing in the basement of the Dallas Police Station. LEE HARVEY OSWALD was being led to an armored car in the basement driveway. He was to be transferred to the Dallas County Jail.

"There was heavy police protection for OSWALD. Each of us newsmen had been carefully checked -- we showed our credentials -- before being allowed into the basement driveway area to watch OSWALD get into the transfer van.

"OSWALD was near where I stood. I was looking into his face. He had a scant smile. He was freshly shaved, and his face appeared to beam with cleanliness.

"At this point I heard Vice Squad Detective B. H. COMBEST shout, 'JACK -- you son of a bitch.'

"COMBEST was standing in front of OSWALD. RUBY was lunging past COMBEST like a stocky, five foot - nine inch porpoise, his arms extended, a pistol at the end of it. As the muzzle came to OSWALD's stomach, the gun went off.

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"I watched OSWALD's face contort from cleanliness to horror. As his body crumpled, he let out the last sound of his life, a spine-chilling moan.

"The last time I had seen OSWALD's killer, RUBY, was two days earlier. It was at Parkland Memorial Hospital, moments before the news was official that President KENNEDY was dead. I had come to Texas covering the President's trip.

"I felt a tugging at the back of my coat. I turned. RUBY put out his hand. He shook hands numbly, having minutes earlier witnessed the tragic events of the President's assassination.

"'This is horrible,' RUBY said. 'I think I ought to close my place for three days because of this tragedy. What do you think?' His places are downtown strip joint and saloon.

"I agreed that he should shut them temporarily, but I spent no more time talking to him because I was hurrying behind the pale and shaken MALCOLM KILDUFF, the White House press aide, who was on his way to make the historical announcement that the President was dead.

"Before Friday, I had not seen the 52 year old RUBY for nearly two years since leaving Texas to be a reporter in Washington, D. C.

"I saw much of RUBY, whose real last name is RUBENSTEIN, when I lived in Dallas. He was a fellow who usually wore a diamond stickpin and who came to me frequently with an idea for a newspaper story.

"These were weird things, these stories, but unmarried RUBY always has been attracted to unusual people.

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"There was a snake charmer he knew -- a suburban Dallas housewife who kept large snakes in crates in her house. Her husband was an accountant. At night, she performed in RUBY's night club stripping off her clothes while a snake coiled around her arms and legs.

"I did another story about the male West Indies limbo dancer whom RUBY brought here as a performer, had taken a liking to and was sponsoring for U. S. citizenship.

"That is the way he was. When he liked you, he wanted to do anything and everything he could to help you. If he didn't like somebody, he would curse them and fight them. He has had a few arrests here because of the passionate ways in which he had expressed his feelings of dislike for people.

"'I came up the hard, tough way in Chicago,' he once told me. 'I have been around real thugs. I can handle myself.'

"But one time I remember him bringing his nephew here 'to educate the kid. A man needs an education to get anywhere decent. I don't like the way I have wound up -- in the girlie-show business. What kind of a life is that for a man?'

"Friday I saw tears brimming in JACK RUBY's eyes when he searched my face for news of the President's condition.

"Yesterday, I spoke to GEORGE SENATOR, who has known RUBY eight years. SENATOR and RUBY have been sharing a four-room house for \$125.00 a month since September. SENATOR said that RUBY 'had been grieving' since the President's death.

"RUBY was a non-political man as I knew him, but he was always emotional. How was the emotional man able

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to walk into the police station basement yesterday morning and murder the un-emotional man charged with killing the President? I couldn't believe my eyes. The precautions taken by the Dallas Police were thorough. They even searched the Tristone elevator shaft leading from OSWALD's upstairs cell to the basement to make sure no assassin had found a hiding place.

"RUBY knew and was known by many Dallas police. He was allowed in, somehow. He was JACK RUBY the kibitzer in the jail basement, just as he had been JACK RUBY the kibitzer at the hospital where President KENNEDY died. He was a familiar face at all kinds of strange events in this city. But yesterday he stopped being the kibitzer."

KANTOR related that he did not actually see RUBY, but he saw RUBY's arm extending forth with a gun toward OSWALD, and the reason he did not see RUBY was in view of the fact that his attention was focused on OSWALD's face at the time of the shooting. When he heard gunfire, he turned his eyes and there were the police grabbing RUBY. In the excitement KANTOR stated he does not remember just who was down in the basement of the building as he was concentrating on his own story.

KANTOR stated that the reason he was at the police station on November 24, 1963, was the fact that the night before, someone with the Press Corps, asked Chief of Police JESSE CURRY, Dallas Police Department, what time the transfer would be made of LEE HARVEY OSWALD to the Dallas County Jail. Chief CURRY replied that if the press was back the next morning, November 24, 1963, by 10:00 AM, it would be early enough. KANTOR stated that he slept late and walked over to the Dallas police station, arriving there about 10:40 AM, November 24, 1963, thinking the transfer had already been made. Upon arrival he went immediately to the basement of the building prior to the time OSWALD was brought down to the basement, and was there, as had been set forth, at the time JACK RUBY shot LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

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