

Ex. No. 3016 in dominion
of Lawrence R. Wilcox et al.,
Series, 3/31/64

LEGAL - Subpoenas; production of messages

W. J. Pirtle

Dallas, December 9, 1963
52-5

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Semingsen: (3)

The original money order application covering a \$25.00 money order telegraphed to Karen Bennet, will call Ft. Worth, Texas, from Jack Ruby, filed at 11:17 A.M. on November 24, 1963, is attached to this letter.

On the afternoon of November 24, Early Night Operations Manager W. J. O'Riley informed Assistant Operations Manager A. I. English that he was looking for a money order application filed by Jack Ruby that morning. Mr. English asked Mr. O'Riley why he wanted it, and Mr. O'Riley said that a Dallas Times Herald reporter had called about the money order and he, Mr. O'Riley, was to call the reporter back. Mr. English told Mr. O'Riley that he would take care of the matter.

Mr. English removed the original money order application filed by Jack Ruby from the traffic files, after making a skeleton of it, and locked the application in his desk. Mr. English did not call the newspaper reporter, and as far as he knows, the reporter did not call back about the money order. Mr. English kept the original application under lock and key until the day it was due in the bookkeeping department, and then handed it personally to Mr. Pirtle, Bookkeeping Manager, with the suggestion that Mr. Pirtle do something to protect the application and prevent it from reaching unauthorized hands.

Mr. Pirtle states that, to the best of his recollection, the Ruby money order application was turned over to him by Mr. English on November 27 at

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which time Mr. Pirtle had a dummy application made to be forwarded to the money order auditor, Minneapolis. The original money order application was then released to Customer Service Manager W. L. Townsley to be held under lock and key, because we were confident the record would be needed in subsequent investigation.

Mr. Townsley informed me of the existence of the Ruby money order application on Monday morning, November 25, the day after the money order was filed. Mr. Townsley informed me that Mr. English had the application locked up in his desk. In the meantime, Mr. English had relinquished the application to Mr. Pirtle. Mr. Townsley obtained the application from Mr. Pirtle and brought it down to my office. I instructed Mr. Townsley to keep the application locked in his desk until it was needed at a later date. On Monday, November 25, I personally received several calls from FBI agents and a personal visit from Lt. P. G. McCaghren of the Dallas Police Department asking about the money order filed by Ruby. All were informed proper legal procedure would have to be followed to obtain any MOD or message.

On Monday morning, December 2, after we had started our investigation as a result of the Times Herald article on November 30 regarding the Oswald matter, Office Manager R. T. Bradford asked Mr. Townsley for the Ruby money order application and the application has been locked up in Mr. Bradford's desk until now.

Senior Delivery Manager's Clerk D. E. Lane waited on Jack Ruby, when Ruby filed the money order in question on November 24. Mr. Lane reports that Ruby asked him for a receipt saying: "I do get a receipt, don't I, fer I need it to get my money back, as this is one of my employees." Mr. Lane assured Ruby that he did get a receipt after which the receipt was made out and handed to him. Ruby then left the office. No other conversation transpired between Mr. Lane and Ruby. Mr. Lane states positively that Ruby made no remark about Oswald or President Kennedy's assassination at the time the money order was filed.

Mr. Lane says that he knew Ruby by having waited on him at our counter on other occasions, as he, Mr. Lane, had sold him express orders in the past and he believes Ruby may have sent other telegraphic

money orders at some previous time. When Mr. Lane learned of Oswald's shooting, he was quite astonished, because the shooting occurred shortly after he had waited on Ruby.

Lieutenants McGagren and Revill of the Dallas Police Department came in our office November 29 asking about the Ruby money order. They called on Mr. Townsley as I was out of the city on that date. The officers then asked Mr. Townsley who Mr. Lane was, and Mr. Townsley pointed to Mr. Lane whose desk is in close proximity of that occupied by Mr. Townsley. Mr. Townsley then called Mr. Lane over to his desk where the officers questioned Mr. Lane.

Mr. Lane reports that Lieutenants McGagren and Revill asked him whether he would know Jack Ruby who had wired money to Karen Bennet at Ft. Worth on November 24. Mr. Lane said that he would recognize Ruby since he recalled waiting on him on the date of the money order, and had waited on Ruby at the counter at other times. Mr. Lane did not tell the officers anything about the money order, although they seemed to have full knowledge of it before coming to our office. The officers asked Mr. Lane whether Ruby had a hat on, and he replied that he was wearing a hat. They then handed Mr. Lane several photographs the officers had in their possession at the time. Mr. Lane picked out the photograph he knew to be Jack Ruby. The officers then made a record of Mr. Lane's name and address. This breach of our rules on the part of Mr. Lane is not considered too serious, since at this time the existence of the money order was general knowledge by the press and others, through Ruby's own admission that such a money order had been sent by him; however, the matter has been fully reviewed with Mr. Lane.

Messrs. Bradford, English, O'Riley, Pirtle, and Townsley have assured me that they have not disclosed any information regarding the Ruby money order

to anybody outside of our organization. Written statements from the following employees are attached:

Mrs. Betty Bedwell
A. I. English
Miss Bess Mildred Francis
D. E. Lane
E. T. Pirtle
Ward Townsley


District Manager

Att.

WILCOX EXHIBIT No. 3016—Continued

Dallas, December 6, 1963

Mr. Wilcox:

Approximately, November 1, 1962, I went to work as the Late Night Manager, and this is when I first came to know Mr. Ruby as one of our customers.

During this period of approximately one year, I have waited on Mr. Ruby with a degree of regularity when he made purchases of American Express orders. Sometimes, he would be in frequently, and other times, I would not see him for several weeks. He usually came in around 3:00AM after closing his club, and I do recall that about the second time I waited on him, I asked him for his name and he asked me to show his club name as the purchaser...so the stubs were either marked with the name Carousel Club or Vegas Club, whichever the case might be. I think the majority of the money orders sold would show the purchaser as "Carousel Club, 1312 ½ Commerce St." Most of these money orders were in the amount of fifty dollars, with an occasional order in the amount of forty dollars. I have never taken a "wire" money order from Mr. Ruby, and I am fairly sure that I have not waited on him since my return from vacation on November 3, 1963.

Betty Bedwell

WILCOX EXHIBIT No. 3016—Continued

Mr. Bradford:

This refers to the the money order application filed by Jack Ruby on November 24. I was at the office on Sunday, November 24. That afternoon shortly after 3PM Mr. O'Riley told me he was looking for the money order application. I asked him why and he said a reporter from the Dallas Times Herald had contacted him and had asked O'Riley to call him back. I told Mr. O'Riley I would take care of the matter. I went to the files, took the original application out and substituted a brief skeleton. I then kept the application under lock and key in my desk until the day it was due in the Bookkeeping Department. I then took the money order application to Mr. Pirtle and handed it to him personally with the suggestion that precautions be taken to not let it fall in unauthorized hands. I had kept Mr. Wilcox file d in as to where the application was. As for the Times Herald reporter - I did not call him back and as far as I know, he did not call back.

AIE

12/6-63.

(A. J. English)

Mr. English:

I transmitted the "Jack Ruby" money order of November 24 going to a payee at Ft. Worth, Texas. At the time I transmitted the money order I knew nothing of the connection between it and happenings at the City Hall.

I did not connect the money order with the shooting until I heard the name "Jack Ruby" mentioned on TV. I was on vacation the week following Sunday when the money order was filed. This is all I know about it.

Bea Mildred Franise

Dallas, December 9, 1963.

Automatic Operator.

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WILCOX EXHIBIT No. 3016—Continued

Dallas, Texas, December 9, 1963.

Mr. Wilcox:

When Jack Ruby came into the counter to file his money order on November 24th, he was not carrying any articles, like camera, brief case etc.

The only communications between Mr. Ruby and myself were these words "I stated good morning and he replied 'goodmorning'" I then figured the money order charges and while doing so Mr. Ruby asked me if he got a receipt. I assured him that I did make him a receipt then he stated that it was for getting his money back from his employee Karen Bennet. I made out his receipt handed it to him and he left.

When I learned of Oswald's assassination "I said that is not possible for he was just here". I did not report to anyone that I had taken this money order just previous to the shooting.

I have waited on Mr. Ruby on several previous occasions, principally, on the late night shift when I was relieving on it. He usually purchased American Express money order and as I recall always gave the address of his home address as the Carousal as his home address.

When Mr. Ruby left he left by the door on the left hand side and turned toward city hall.

Dayle E. Lane

Dallas, December 6, 1963

Mr. Wilcox:

The original money order application dated November 24 payable to Karen Bennet, Ft. Worth, Texas, from Jack Ruby, to my recollection was turned over to me by Mr. English on November 27 at which time a dummy application was prepared and the original released to Mr. Townsley, who advised he was turning it over to Mr. Wilcox.

E. P. Rice

— Wilcox Exhibit 3016 —

WILCOX EXHIBIT No. 3016—Continued

Dallas, Texas, December 6, 1963

Mr. Wilcox:


Regarding the original application of the money order Jack Ruby sent to Fort Worth, Texas, on Sunday the 24th of November, a Times Herald reporter called Mr. O'Riley, Sunday afternoon, November 24th, and informed him that the money order had been sent, and said that no doubt it would be of major importance in the investigation of the case, and asked Mr. O'Riley to look it up and call him back.

Mr. English was present at the time, Sunday November 24, and suggested to Mr. O'Riley that he (Mr. English) look it up, which he did. Mr. English removed the money order application from the file, replacing it with a skeleton, but did not call the newspaper reporter back, and instead, placed the application in his desk.

I knew the money order had been sent by Jack Ruby, because I was at the office that Sunday, the 24th, and when the name of the person who shot Oswald was announced, Mr. Lane, who took the order from Jack Ruby, said that he had sent a money order just a few minutes before he went to the City Hall and did the killing.

Realizing that this would turn out to be a very important piece of paper, I thought that I had better obtain it from our files, and ask Mr. Wilcox what he desired that we do with it as I was certain that one or more law enforcement officers would come to me with questions, or wanting to see it, and I knew we wouldn't want anyone discussing it, or showing it around. Monday, the 25th, when I called the service department, they said Mr. English had it, and then I called Mr. English and told him my thoughts about it. He said he had come to the same conclusion so he brought the application to Mr. Wilcox.

On November 29th, the day Mr. Wilcox was out of the city, Lts. Revill and McCaghren of the local police department came in asking about this money order. They asked who Mr. Lane was and I pointed him out, then they talked to him a few minutes. They produced some pictures, but at that time, my telephone rang, and I was not in on their complete conversation with Mr. Lane.


Wilcox Exhibit 3016

WILCOX EXHIBIT No. 3016—Continued