

Date 11-29-63

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JACK KEISTER KELLEY, age 54, operator of the King Kurl Drive-In Restaurant, 2020 Court Street, advised that he was the individual who had been contacted by newspaper reporters yesterday, and had indicated that he had known JACK RUBY several years ago. He stated he knew RUBY primarily in Chicago. He stated that the information he furnished the newspaper reporter was substantially the truth as it appeared in the press.

It was noted that he had indicated to the press that he was a former entertainer and night club master of ceremonies and an ex-comic in Chicago, that he had known RUBY in 1944 and had scoffed at the idea of a patriotic motive being involved by RUBY in the slaying of OSWALD. He reportedly stated that he "could not see RUBY as pushing a thing through like this out of patriotism. That he might do it for publicity or might do it for money."

JACK KEISTER KELLEY advised that he had been a club comic and entertainer and master of ceremonies in night clubs and taverns in Chicago for most of the years of the 1940's and that he has been employed in various night spots, actually throughout the Nation, for short engagements of a week or two, and that he has used the stage name of "M. T. HEAD."

He related that he is actually only a casual acquaintance of RUBY, that RUBY first came to his attention in Chicago about 1943. He stated he first knew JACK RUBY as JACK RUBENSTEIN and that he believed that RUBENSTEIN had legally had his name changed to RUBY, and believed that one or two of his brothers and sisters had done likewise. He recalled that he first knew of RUBY, who was subsequently to be referred to as "SPARKY" RUBY when he was playing as an entertainer in the Famous Door, Broadway and Diversey Streets in Chicago. He stated that "SPARKY" RUBY was employed there as a bouncer. He stated the Chicago Famous Door was owned by PAT MC CLAREN. He stated he heard a year or two ago that Mr. MC CLAREN had suffered a heart attack

and may now be deceased. He related that Mr. PAT MC CLAREN apparently owns several night spots and could not have them all actually in his own name, under various state or Federal laws, and that he recalled the Famous Door, at the time he was there, was managed by SAMMY HAAAS, whom KELLEY now believes to be deceased. During the time he first knew of "SPARKY" RUBY at the Famous Door, KELLEY related that he noticed that at times, RUBY was seen by him to be wearing a hearing aid. At times, he was not wearing the hearing aid, but seemed to hear alright without it. KELLEY stated that at the time he did not know RUBY well, but inquired of persons who apparently had prior knowledge of RUBY, as to RUBY's wearing the hearing aid, and he received replies to the effect that RUBY's hearing was not impaired but that RUBY was evading service in World War II or the draft.

KELLEY related he next knew of RUBY at the Club Aloha, on West Madison in Chicago, beyond Western, in 1944 or 1955. This club was operated by JOHNNY MEROLA. KELLEY was not sure if RUBY was employed there or just hung out there.

KELLEY next recalls seeing RUBY about 1945 or 1946 in the Gaiety Club, on northwest side of Chicago near the elevated tracks, where RUBY was selling combination gambling tickets on a horse race, the race being referred to as the "Stars and Stripes Race" at a local Chicago track. KELLEY could not recall the name of the owner or the manager of the Gaiety Club at that time.

About 1946, KELLEY stated he next knew of RUBY in the Argyle Lounge. He stated that this was a Mr. EPSTEIN's place, and was located under the elevated tracks in Chicago, where RUBY was either hanging out or was possibly employed as a bouncer. Mr. KELLEY related that EPSTEIN was shot in his place about four or five years ago and he believed that he was shot dead at the time or died as a result of the shooting.

KELLEY related that he next knew of "SPARKY" RUBY about 1948, when he (KELLEY) was engaged to act as master of ceremonies

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by SA MARCUS E. SHARPE: b1c Date dictated 11-27-63

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by a man from Hammond, Indiana, who had previously owned or did own at the time, the Zig-Zag Tavern in Calumet City, Illinois. KELLEY stated this man, whose name he cannot now recall, bought a small night club in Calumet Heights, Illinois, and engaged KELLEY to act as master of ceremonies. Mr. KELLEY recalled that this club was closed in ten weeks because it was losing money, but that during two weeks of this ten weeks, RUBY was employed there as the bouncer.

KELLEY related that he had not seen or heard of RUBY since 1948, until about 1958 or 1959. KELLEY related that he was seeking employment and was looking up "show people" in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and other points, and happened to run into RUBY in Dallas, Texas.

KELLEY related that he was not only seeking employment by visiting various cities and stopping in at taverns and small night clubs having entertainers, but was also stopping by these places to merely say hello to the "show people" and hoping that he might run into someone he knew. He stated it was by this activity on his part that he accidentally entered the Carousel Club in Dallas, and happened to run into "SPARKY" RUBY again. KELLEY related he did not know that RUBY was in Dallas, Texas, that he visited with him for a few minutes and drew the conclusion at the time that RUBY was either the owner or manager of this club.

KELLEY recalls that "SPARKY" RUBY was a rather quiet man, that he had no particular male associates or friends. He stated, however, that he was always interested in girls and that he almost always had a girlfriend with him but had never went steady with any one girl. He stated these girls were always of the caliber found in small night clubs, acting as entertainers or hostesses in these type places. KELLEY stated that since he had heard of the assault on OSWALD, that this had been the first he had heard of RUBY since he had seen him in Dallas about 1958 or 1959.

KELLEY stated that he would actually know of no person in Chicago or elsewhere who would be considered to be a friend or associate of RUBY and that he certainly has no information

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regarding the recent activities or associations of RUBY.

KELLEY related that he certainly could never consider RUBY as being a person overly patriotic and that he would base this opinion on what he had learned about RUBY back in 1943 and 1944 when he drew the conclusion that apparently RUBY was a draft dodger. KELLEY stated that neither could he consider RUBY to possess any un-American sympathies. He stated he did not believe that RUBY was at all interested in politics of any kind and certainly that he had not displayed any un-American sympathies in any way at the times he had known him.

KELLEY related that he does not believe that RUBY would therefore kill OSWALD out of sheer patriotism, but stated that he might do it for publicity or that he might do it for money or might do this due to his temper when overly excited.

KELLEY stated that RUBY was usually a quiet man, that in acting as a floor-walker or bouncer in the night clubs, he was usually quiet and easy to get along with, but that when RUBY lost his temper, he would do things that he might not ordinarily do if he could control his temper. KELLEY related that apparently it is due to his hot temper that he gained the nickname of "SPARKY" RUBY.

Mr. KELLEY stated that he has, himself, spent considerable time in small Chicago night spots, and has been in Peoria, Illinois, on several occasions, working as an entertainer. He stated he had never heard of RUBY in Peoria; however, he recalled on one occasion, and he was not able to recall the exact night club, that while he was entertaining, he believed that he had noted this man, RUBY, to appear in the audience with what appeared to be a show girl, that he noted the man momentarily and thought it was RUBY, and after he had finished his performance, he was seeking out RUBY in the audience but did not locate him. Mr. KELLEY related that apparently, RUBY was merely passing through Peoria, and insofar as he can ascertain, RUBY would not be known to anyone that he could think of in Peoria, as he had never known RUBY to be in Peoria, other than possibly just passing through.

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Mr. KELLEY related that these particular clubs in the Chicago, Illinois, area where he had known of RUBY to either hang out or to be employed occasionally as a bouncer, were, to the best of his knowledge, clubs that were independently owned and were not in any way that he knew of, connected with any of the alleged organized crime outfits or syndicates in Chicago. KELLEY related, therefore, that he would consider that RUBY had no connection with any organized crime in the Chicago area. He stated, of course, he would be unable to relate what his associations have actually been over the years, as he did not know him well, other than as a casual acquaintance, and certainly would not know of his associations in Dallas, Texas.

1Date 10/4/63

On November 26, 1963, PHIL UDELL, also known as "FIEFEL", owner of Lakewood Iron and Metal Company, 1305 West Belmont, advised he had known "SPARKY" RUBENSTEIN for approximately thirty-years. UDELL described RUBY as a clean-cut individual who did possess a hot temper and was good with his fists but who was, however, 100 per cent patriotic. UDELL stated RUBY was a ticket scaper and all around "hustler" who was not, however, connected with organized crime or the "syndicate" in Chicago. UDELL recalled RUBY was partner of HARRY EPSTEIN in a punch board business.

UDELL admits knowing LENNIE PATRICK, West Side hoodlum and stated RUBENSTEIN also knew PATRICK, claimed, however, neither worked for PATRICK. He recalled RUBY obtained a job with Scrap Metal Union from a man who was later killed and replaced by PAUL DORFMAN. UDELL recalled during approximately 1940, he and RUBY and others were en route to a boxing match at White City, Illinois, when they approached a small Nazi bund rally consisting of uniformed bund members. UDELL recalled this irritated the group and they broke up the meeting.

UDELL concluded by describing RUBY as a sports fan, a lady's man, who enjoyed dancing and a clean living individual who neither drank nor smoked. He stated he was shocked over the murder of OSWALD by RUBY and stated it was his opinion that RUBY was simply overwhelmed with sorrow at the President's death and inasmuch as he had easy access to the Dallas Police Department, he committed an act which "a lot of us would have liked to have done".

on 11/26/63 at Chicago, Illinois File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent JOHN R. BASSETT gj 49 Date dictated 11/10/63

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