



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois
June 5, 1964

Jack L. Ruby;
Lee Harvey Oswald

JACK L. RUBY

Ross believed that Ruby might have seen Capone at the Kit Howard Gymnasium in Chicago, Illinois, about 1926 and might have run innocuous errands for Capone, but he had no knowledge of any other relationship between Al Capone and Jack Ruby.

He did not know of any criminal activities ever engaged in by Jack Ruby, and he pointed out that among the group that he and Ruby associated with, none of them had ever carried a knife, gun or other dangerous weapon.

Ross had no knowledge that Jack Ruby was ever involved in the illegal sale, possession or use of narcotics.

Ira Colitz advised as follows on June 5, 1964:

He was born on September 27, 1915, in Chicago, Illinois. He is a bachelor and resides at 1000 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. His brothers Ivan and Jerome Colitz are bachelors and reside at 4950 Marine Drive, Chicago. Ivan has been employed by United Auto Parts for the past 25 years. He recently quit that position and is considering new employment. He is a writer and writes under the pen name of Ivan Bunny which appears frequently in Irv Kupcinet's column which appears in the "Chicago Sun Times" newspaper. Jerome is employed by the Continental Illinois National Bank. His sisters are Mrs. Viola Stein, 443 North Doheny Drive, Beverly Hills, California, Mrs. Elaine Hanock, 8710 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, Illinois, and Mrs. Clarice Bochan, 6458 North Richmond, Chicago. His father Benjamin Colitz is 85 years of age, is a retired scrap iron dealer and resides at 6301 North Sheridan Road, Chicago. His mother Rose Colitz is deceased.

He attended three years of high school in Chicago. Following his leaving school in the early 1930's, he commenced work with his father in the scrap iron business.

In 1941 he became manager of Barnes Ross' Cocktail Lounge, Madison and Clark Streets, Chicago. In the latter part of 1941 and until he entered the military service, he managed the Hollywood Lounge, Randolph and Clark Streets, Chicago. He was in the United States Army from May 5, 1942, until January 10, 1946. He served in the European theatre and had service serial number 36335482.

On his return from service, he operated the Realto Rail Lounge at Clark and Randolph Streets, Chicago, with a partner Martin Brin. They were in business at that location from 1946 until 1948 when their building was razed for the bus station which currently occupies that location.

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JACK L. RUBY

He bought the Clover Bar next to the Sherman Hotel on Clark Street after selling the Realto Rail and operated that bar from 1948 until 1953. In 1953 and part of 1954 he operated a distributorship for the Elatz Brewery in Chicago. In 1954 his cousin who was a prominent lawyer in Chicago wanted him to leave the bar business. His cousin purchased the Norcor Factory at Green Bay, Wisconsin, and gave him stock in it and a position in the firm. That firm makes folding chairs and tables and he handles sales for that concern, in Chicago with offices at the American Furniture Exchange, 866 North Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

To his knowledge he does not have an arrest record, however, in the latter 1930s he was involved in a number of brawls involving the German American Bund and on several occasions spent the night in jail, being released the following morning without charges being filed.

Colitz recalled that he knew of Jack Ruby two or three years before he was aware of his name. Ruby frequented the same neighborhood as he and he frequently saw him in the neighborhood area. Ruby is a few years older than he is and naturally in their younger days, they travelled in somewhat different groups. In about 1938 he first recalled knowing Ruby's exact identity inasmuch as Ruby and his partner Leon Cook attempted to persuade the iron peddlers to form a union. Colitz's father was considered a wealthy scrap iron dealer and had a large yard located at 3700 South Kedzie, Chicago. Leon Cook's father operated a small yard and sold material to Colitz's father. Leon Cook was an attorney by profession and also assisted his father in the operation of his scrap iron business. In their attempt to unionize the scrap peddler, Cook and Ruby were somewhat successful and made considerable headway in this venture. Subsequently Cook was killed while resisting a robbery attempt and Ruby was unable to carry out the organization. Later on, Paul Dorfman took over the organization which eventually led to the formation of the Junk and Waste Material Handlers Union. It is Colitz's opinion that Cook was a very high type individual and solicited Ruby's help in this union in that he believed the peddlers needed to be organized for protection

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of their business as well as to gain a sufficient wage. Colitz's only association with Ruby in connection with the organization of this union was the fact that Ruby and Cook attempted to organize his father's employees in their yard. Colitz also believes one reason for Ruby's leaving the union was that progress was too slow and Ruby was more interested in making a "fast buck."

During the years 1941 and 1942, while he was engaged in the bar business, Ruby frequently visited his bars along with many other friends and acquaintances they mutually knew from their neighborhood area on Chicago's west side. Colitz left his father's business primarily because his father demanded regular hours of him and since he also wanted to engage in a venture on his own without his father's intrusion.

Shortly before he entered the United States Army, two southern college students visited his bar and made insulting remarks to the colored piano player he utilized for entertainment. These remarks were somewhat uncalled for and on this particular night, Ruby happened to be in the bar and took offense at these remarks. A scuffle occurred between Ruby and the two students which he finally settled by asking the college students to leave. He had always realized that Ruby had a quick temper and was always trying to help anyone who was attacked by any means. He also realized that Ruby involved himself in situations in which he was not invited. Ruby as well as others in their Jewish crowd spent considerable time at the Layndale Poolroom, which was also known as a good restaurant prior to World War II and which was frequented by prominent people. It was a place to meet as was Dave Miller's Restaurant and Health Club, at 12th and Kedzie Avenue. Miller was a former boxing referee, was an older individual and was somewhat of a leader among the Jewish group on the west side. He was also considered as a gambling boss of the area and was always a soft touch for a couple of bucks for anyone who was in need of financial assistance. He was a well-liked man, respected and interested in sports.

There was no certain time when Colitz was in contact with Ruby or any others in the Jewish group. There were usual meeting places where they would congregate and on

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JACK L. RUBY

occasion they would not see one another for two weeks at a time. Ruby was a natural-born salesman and took great pride in being able to sell most anything. He spurned regular employment for a nominal wage in preference to being able to travel throughout the country selling novelties, notions, knickknacks, and anything which might sell for a specific occasion. He was also considered a good ticket scalper and travelled to various sporting events to pry this trade. Ruby made most of Barney Ross' fights and frequently travelled to New York to scalp tickets on same.

Ross during the 1930s was idolized by the west side group of Jewish people which included Ruby, Colitz and their crowd. Ruby's closer friends were those who were also more interested in selling. As in Ruby's case, it was necessary for him to continually earn money in order to help support his family which was unlike Colitz, inasmuch as his family had some wealth and he did not have to contribute to same. Colitz does not feel that Ruby could have been described as a "loner" inasmuch as he was readily accepted by their crowd and was liked by all. Because of his enthusiasm and interest in most everything, he received the nickname "Sparky." During the middle 1930s Ruby was away from Chicago often and spent some time in California with Solly Schulman, a former fighter from the west side of Chicago who seemed fond of Ruby. Schulman had a restaurant in San Francisco but died about eight years ago.

Ruby and his sales promotions, although appearing to be somewhat "shady" in nature, were legitimate and he was able to induce people into buying various wares that could be classified as seconds or irregulars but still were first class merchandise. Being a good salesman he was obviously somewhat of a con-man, however, he was not the type to take advantage of someone who could not afford it. To his knowledge Ruby had no close associates in any of his selling adventures and preferred to be on his own.

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JACK L. RUBY

During the late 1930s there were many meetings in the Chicago area of the German-American Bund. These meetings occurred throughout the city of Chicago and were generally against the Jewish people. Upon learning that a Bund meeting was being held, that information would be telephoned to places like the Lawndale Pool Hall, Dave Miller's Restaurant, and other hangouts of the Jewish following and they would automatically go to that meeting and attempt to break it up using violence. During these brawls, invariably some of the Jewish crowd including himself, as well as Ruby, ended up in jail and generally stayed overnight. To his knowledge seldom were charges preferred against him and he, Colitz, was never convicted nor were charges filed against him for this involvement.

The Jewish participants in these attacks on the Bund varied in number and there was no organization of same to handle this type of action. This was a spur of the moment reaction to knowledge that a Bund meeting was taking place and the Jewish people felt it necessary to attempt to prevent same. No individuals with communist or socialist leanings were in their groups to his knowledge. In addition no meetings were had to plan such attacks. Ruby, like himself, was only one of many participants and neither was a leader. Dave Miller's participation in same was primarily that of advising the group that he was aware a Bund meeting was being held and he in turn would call other gathering spots to alert them of this fact.

While operating the Clover Bar, Colitz recalled that Ruby visited his bar on only one occasion while being in Chicago and away from his business in Dallas, Texas. In 1946 while operating the Realto Rail Lounge, he was visited by Ruby who had just been released from the military service. Ruby sang the praises of the military service and his country. Colitz realized he was somewhat unusual in that many other individuals had also served in the military service and did not have the enthusiasm which Ruby showed. At that time Ruby asked Colitz to loan him \$2,000 inasmuch as he wanted to invest in his sister's bar in Dallas. Colitz refused this loan and subsequently received a telegram from Ruby asking for \$2,500. This he also refused.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Chicago, Illinois
June 9, 1964

JACK L. RUBY;
LEE HARVEY OSWALD -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

JACK L. RUBY

Since about 1948 he has not seen Ruby and his only knowledge of same until the recent publicity given him was that on occasion friends would remark that they had visited Dallas and had seen Ruby.

Colitz is acquainted with Joe and Morris Kollman, John Mc Donald, Solly Schulman, previously mentioned, Frenchie and Don Medlevine, Art Wayne, Buzzie Rifkin, Frank Howard, Jack Howard, Irwin Berke, Ben Epstein, Bennie Barrisch and Lou Graverman. He knew these individuals from Chicago's west side and to his knowledge Ruby was no more acquainted with them than himself. That acquaintance was out of their coming from the same area and travelling together as a group. Colitz cannot recall the identity of Martin Gimple, Mike Nemezin, Alex Gruber, Sam Gordon, Harry Epstein and Seymour Chazin. He is not aware if Ruby could have been close to these individuals. He recalled that Buzzie Rifkin was somewhat close to Ruby as was Bennie Barrisch. Rifkin now is employed in nightclubs on Chicago's near north side, while Barrisch is in the Los Angeles or San Francisco, California, area and employed by a whisky company.

Maurv Kahn, editor of a nightlife magazine in Chicago, should know Ruby inasmuch as he was also one of the group who travelled in the west side crowd. Colitz knows of no close relationship Ruby has had with anyone in Chicago since leaving here in 1946.

Robert O'Connell, Senior Clerk, Board of Education, Lafayette School Depository, 2714 West Augusta, Chicago, furnished the following information on June 8, 1964:

Jake-Jacob Rubenstein, 1232 Morgan, Chicago, born June 23, 1911, in Chicago, Illinois, father Joseph, attended Smyth Grammar School, Chicago, from October 24, 1916, through the 1920-1921 term. He completed kindergarten to grade 4B. No grades were shown for this period.

Jacob Rubenstein, 1121 South Marsfield, born April 25, 1911, Chicago, Illinois, father Joseph and mother Fannie, attended Clarke School, Chicago, from September 5, 1921, to the end of the 1921-1922 term. He completed the fourth grade. No grades were shown.

Jack Rubenstein, 1410 North Claremont, born March 13, 1913, in Chicago, father Joseph and mother Fannie, attended Schley School, Chicago, from September 1, 1924, until the end of the 1924-1925 term. Rubenstein completed the sixth grade and also a residence of 2247 Iowa, Chicago, was listed. Rubenstein's grades were not shown.

Jack Rubenstein, 1307 Oakley Boulevard, Chicago, born March 3, 1911, in Chicago, father Joseph, attended Sabin Junior High School 1925-1926 and 1926-1927. No grades were shown.

Jack Rubenstein, 1129 Sacramento, Chicago, attended Shepard School, Chicago, from September, 1925, until the end of the semester beginning in September, 1926. Rubenstein completed grades 7A, 8B and 8A.

Rubenstein's grades were reflected as follows: