

Date December 11, 1963

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JOE E. SLATIN, Apartment #801, Dorchester Hotel, 911 St. Joseph, employee at Banker's Drug, 206 South Ervay, Dallas, Texas, advised he has been acquainted with the Commerce Street area of Dallas since about 1948. In the period from 1948 until about 1960 he operated a drinking establishment in that area including the Band Box, the Holiday Bar, and the "22" Club.

In the late 1940's or early 1950's he became acquainted with JACK RUBY who at that time came to Dallas from Chicago, Illinois, to help his sister, EVA, operate the Silver Spur night club. From that time through the 1950's, he became casually acquainted with RUBY as another operator of drinking establishments. He formed the impression that RUBY was an individual who constantly sought publicity and who attempted to become a successful operator of night clubs.

RUBY indicated that he had grown up in a rough area of Chicago and that it was his intention to make a success of himself in the Dallas area. RUBY got the reputation of being a quick tempered individual but a person who was always fair. RUBY kept in good condition and handled whatever trouble developed around the Silver Spur. He developed somewhat of a reputation of being good with his fists and appeared capable of handling any trouble that developed there.

In middle or late 1959, SLATIN got the idea of opening a private membership club on Commerce Street. He knew that this type of drinking club was illegal but at the time it appeared that a number of such clubs were in operation and making money. With the idea of opening such a club he approached JAMES DUNN who agreed to form such a club with him. DUNN put up about \$5,000 and SLATIN rented the upstairs property at 1312 1/2 Commerce Street and began redecorating the place and lining up help. This club had every indication of being a successful membership club but at about that time there were a number of raids on such clubs by Dallas authorities resulting in unfavorable publicity and it appeared that their club would have trouble opening. By this time the money supplied by DUNN had been used up. RUBY had dropped around to see the place and SLATIN approached him regarding further financing.

on 12/10/63 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-1639
by Special Agent JAMES F. CLONKIBL Date dictated 12/10/63

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RUBY agreed to put up \$5,000 to form the Sovereign Club. RUBY arranged with an attorney for incorporation papers for the S & R, Inc. which was to be the corporation. In connection with raising the \$5,000, RUBY made a point to explain to SLATIN that he was securing this money from a brother in Chicago. In actuality, SLATIN suspected that the \$5,000 was RUBY's own money and that RUBY mentioned his brother putting up the money to forestall any attempt by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to attach this money. RUBY had indicated to SLATIN prior to this time that he was having difficulties with the IRS.

The club opened in either late January or early February, 1960, but business was not too good. It was obvious to SLATIN that RUBY was attempting to go "too high class" in the operation and that the business as he desired it to be conducted could never be successful. In addition, RUBY exhibited several temper tantrums, and was generally hard to get along with. Their business relationship was deteriorating but it never reached the point where in their arguments they ever came to blows. As a result of this situation and because he knew the business would never be successful, SLATIN voluntarily withdrew. At the time he withdrew he got no money but RUBY had promised him \$300 which never has been paid.

Since that time, he has only seen RUBY on about three or four occasions. On these occasions RUBY dropped by the Banker's Drug to talk with him and always invited him over to the Carousel Club which he was operating on the premises of the old Sovereign Club. He never did take up RUBY's invitation to go to the Carousel Club. On one of the occasions when RUBY visited him he borrowed \$100 from RUBY. RUBY gave him the money in a manner indicating that it was a loan but SLATIN actually considered it only a part of the \$300 he had coming when he withdrew from the Sovereign Club.

On one occasion about six months or more ago, RUBY contacted him at his residence telephonically indicating he was having trouble with his business because he was not being allowed to operate some strip tease acts as his competitors were doing. He appeared to be upset but SLATIN told him there was not much that could be done about the situation. RUBY indicated he was glad to talk to SLATIN and that he had actually called him because SLATIN appeared to be the type of person who could calm him, RUBY, down.

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SLATIN advised that the last time he saw RUBY was about three or four months ago when RUBY dropped into the drugstore for a very casual visit.

SLATIN advised that throughout the period he knew RUBY he was aware that RUBY was acquainted with police officers at the Silver Spur, at the Vegas Club, and at the Carousel Club. He advised, however, that this association just appeared to be RUBY's normal desire to know all people. He could not recall the names of any particular police officers RUBY knew. He advised that from the manner in which RUBY talked with the officers at these establishments it did not appear that RUBY was granting these men any special favors.

SLATIN advised that he never knew RUBY to ever carry a gun. It was his impression that RUBY thought he could handle himself well enough with his fists that he did not need a gun.

SLATIN advised that RUBY never exhibited any interest in politics.

Although RUBY was always around downtown and made a special point of meeting people and remembering their names, he did not appear to have many close friends. The only person SLATIN recalled who could be considered a close friend of RUBY, would have been RALEPH PAUL. He advised he never saw RUBY out with a woman and considered this just a little peculiar. He has heard rumors that RUBY was a homosexual but he personally never saw anything which would indicate to him that RUBY was a homosexual. SLATIN explained that when he operated the Band Box during the mid 1950's, it was a "queer joint" so that consequently he became familiar with that type of person. It got to the point that he felt he could "spot a queer" by seeing that man around a little bit. In his contacts and associations with RUBY, he never did form the opinion that RUBY was a queer.

SLATIN advised that he has thought about RUBY quite a bit since the Sunday morning when RUBY shot OSWALD in the basement of City Hall. Based on the association he has had with RUBY, in the past, it is his impression that RUBY was merely seeking publicity when he shot OSWALD. RUBY had a

strong feeling for the underdog and this probably prompted his actions. He probably had no intention of actually killing OSWALD but probably hoped to just wound him, get a lot of publicity out of the situation and thereby become a "big shot."

SLATIN advised that he was not acquainted with OSWALD and that he doubted very seriously that RUBY would have been acquainted with him. He explained throughout the period he knew RUBY, RUBY made a point of referring to all men quite a bit younger than he as "punks" whether these individuals were customers in his place or people he came in contact with from some other situation. In view of OSWALD's age, he doubted that RUBY would ever have associated with him.

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