

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 1/16/64

Mr. JOHN B. WILSON, JR., Attorney with offices at Room 820, Fidelity Union Life Building, 1511 Bryan, Dallas, Texas, advised that during approximately September of 1962 he was drinking beer at the Lasso Bar which was located across the street from the Baker Hotel in Dallas, Texas, when, between 7:00 and 7:30 PM, a man attired in a t-shirt entered the bar and asked a barmaid to loan him a dime to make a telephone call. She complied and the man whom he later found to be FRANK FERRARO proceeded to use the telephone which was located on the wall near where Mr. WILSON was sitting. Before the call was completed, another man whom Mr. WILSON later determined to be JACK RUBY entered the bar and proceeded to assault FERRARO. Mr. WILSON emphasized that he did not see brass knucks used by RUBY but that from the amount of blood issuing from wounds incurred by FERRARO during the fight, it was his conclusion that some device such as brass knucks had been used by RUBY. FERRARO bled profusely and Mr. WILSON, fearful that great bodily harm might result should the fight continue, stepped between RUBY and FERRARO and broke up the fight. He is unable to recall any of the conversation or remarks made by either FERRARO or RUBY during the fight and he had no knowledge or information as to the reason for the fight.

After the fight was stopped WILSON accompanied both RUBY and FERRARO outside where he looked for a policeman. Within a short time a squad car arrived. Mr. WILSON did not know whether the car's arrival was in response to a telephone call or whether it had been merely cruising in that area. He was not aware of the identities of the police officers. He noted that they apparently intended to arrest FERRARO and to do nothing to RUBY, whereupon he advised them he had witnessed the assault and since RUBY had been the aggressor they were arresting the wrong man. The officers then asked FERRARO whether or not he desired to press charges against RUBY and on WILSON's advice FERRARO answered in the affirmative. In the meantime, RUBY disappeared.

Mr. WILSON then gave FERRARO \$5.00 to pay for taxi fare to Parkland Hospital as it appeared his wounds required medical attention.

on 1/15/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639
by Special Agent HAROLD R. DOBSON - [r] Date dictated 1/15/64

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Mr. WILSON stated his principal impression of the attitude of the police officers was that they were quite willing to arrest FERRARO but were extremely reluctant to do anything about RUBY.

Mr. WILSON stated he had heard of RUBY prior to the above incident and that RUBY had on at least one occasion been pointed out to him but that he had not recognized RUBY until RUBY had given his name.

Mr. WILSON had no subsequent contact with RUBY.

A few days following the above incident, FERRARO appeared at Mr. WILSON's office and repaid the \$5.00 loaned him. He asked Mr. WILSON to represent him in a civil suit for damages against RUBY because of the assault but Mr. WILSON advised him it would be contrary to the ethics of the legal profession for him to represent a client in a matter in which he himself would be a material witness. He expressed his willingness to FERRARO at that time to appear as a witness against RUBY if necessary. He described FERRARO's attitude toward suing RUBY as being "wishy washy" as one minute FERRARO would talk about how nice RUBY had been to him and how he would hate to cause him any trouble and next moment he would become quite angry and indicate a desire to institute suit. Several weeks later WILSON received a letter from FERRARO who was at that time in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, asking for the names of attorneys in Dallas who might be employed to institute a civil suit against RUBY based on the assault. WILSON talked of the matter to one associate who indicated no interest in representing FERRARO due to the fact that FERRARO was in Wisconsin which would make ready communication between attorney and client difficult. WILSON wrote FERRARO that he had been unable to interest any Dallas attorneys in instituting the action. WILSON stated he had destroyed the envelope which had contained FERRARO's letter and that he at this time had no way of determining FERRARO's Milwaukee address.

Mr. WILSON stated he had told the above story to a college friend, RONNIE DUGGER, who is currently the editor of a newspaper known as the "Texas Observer".

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Apparently DUGGER had told the story to a Milwaukee, Wisconsin reporter because since the shooting of OSWALD Mr. WILSON has received two or three telephone calls from a newspaper reporter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, whose name he is now unable to recall requesting additional information concerning FERRARO and the assault by RUBY. It appeared from such long-distance telephone calls that the reporter had determined FERRARO had resided at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for a period of approximately two weeks and that the reporter has been unsuccessful in determining FERRARO's subsequent whereabouts.

Mr. WILSON stated he had previously been interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI concerning the appearance of the name "JOHN WILSON, Bond" among RUBY's papers. He had advised during the previous interview that he could think of no reason why his name should have appeared as he never represented RUBY and his only personal contact with him had been during the assault above mentioned. He stated that the general shock resulting from news of KENNEDY's assassination had also caused him to forget to mention during the previous interview a matter which might or might not be of some importance.

On the evening of November 23, 1963, Mr. WILSON attended a dinner. An individual known to him as SAM B. BALLEEN was also in attendance and during the course of the meal indicated that he had been acquainted with LEE HARVEY OSWALD as OSWALD had applied to him for employment. BALLEEN stated that OSWALD had not impressed him as the type of person who would do such a terrible thing but that he had become almost convinced at that time that OSWALD had actually assassinated KENNEDY.

Mr. WILSON stated he had never heard of LEE HARVEY OSWALD prior to the assassination and that he knew of no connection or association between RUBY and OSWALD. Except for the apparent reticence of the police officers to arrest or otherwise detain RUBY following the assault as previously mentioned, Mr. WILSON had no knowledge or information as to the nature and extent, if any, of RUBY's contacts and association with members of the Dallas Police Department. He was aware of no reason why RUBY shot OSWALD.

HOWELL H. WATSON, Watson & Watson Realtors, Fidelity Union Life Building, Dallas, Texas, furnished the following information:

Watson & Watson Realtors handles certain properties owned by H. H. NICHOLS and CLARICE NICHOLS, individually and as trustees of the estate of L. L. NICHOLS (deceased), formerly Nichols Enterprises. Included in this property is the building located at 1312 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas.

WATSON reviewed his file concerning the property at 1312-1/2 Commerce Street and advised this property was originally leased in December 1959 to one JOE E. SLATIN for a monthly rental of \$550.00. A lease agreement dated April 1960 reflects JOE E. SLATIN as lessee.

WATSON said records of his company do not reflect all transactions relative to this piece of property; however, it was his understanding that JOE E. SLATIN originally leased the building with the intention of operating a club; however, SLATIN did not have sufficient funds and in early 1960 JACK RUBY entered into a business arrangement with SLATIN to operate the club, which was then known as the Sovereign Club.

A letter in WATSON's file dated April 20, 1963, is addressed to JACK RUBY, c/o Sovereign Club, Inc. A lease dated June 20, 1960, bears the signature Sovereign Club and JACK RUBY individually. A check of the records relative to property at 1312-1/2 Commerce made November 6, 1962, reflected JACK RUBY and JOE E. SLATIN had executed a lease on December 1, 1959, effective five years from December 1, 1959, to November 30, 1964. As of November 1962 the account was four months delinquent. A letter dated February 14, 1963, to JACK RUBY, Sovereign Club, Inc., reflected he was behind \$1,650.00 in rent due.

The Watson record reflected that on March 1, 1963, a new lease was executed in the name of S & R, Inc., and JACK RUBY individually. The Watson file did not reflect the officers of S & R, Inc., and the lease was signed only by JACK RUBY for the corporation and individually. Watson records show that subsequent to March 1963 all rents on the property at 1312-1/2 Commerce

on 1/9/64 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 44-1639

by Special Agent PAUL L. SCOTT - LAC Date dictated 1/10/64

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