

4-116

1 WILLIAM E. HOWARD  
 2 a witness called by the Defendant, having been first duly  
 3 sworn, testified on his oath as follows:  
 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION  
 5 BY MR. BURLESON:  
 6 Q Would you state your name to the jury?  
 7 A William E. Howard.  
 8 Q Where do you live?  
 9 MR. WADE: I didn't get the name.  
 10 A Howard.  
 11 MR. WADE: H-C-W-A-R-D?  
 12 A That's right.  
 13 Q (By Mr. Burleson) Mr. Howard, where do you live?  
 14 A 4029 North Central Expressway.  
 15 Q What is your business?  
 16 A Well, principally oil. I've been in the oil business  
 17 for thirty some years here.  
 18 Q I'll ask you whether or not you know Jack Ruby, the  
 19 defendant in this case?  
 20 A Yes, I do.  
 21 Q Approximately how long have you known him?  
 22 A Oh, twelve or thirteen years.  
 23 Q What has been your relationship with him? Have you  
 24 known him socially, in business, or what?  
 25 A I've known him socially

4-116

1 Q Have you known him as a club operator here in town?  
 2 A Yes, sir.  
 3 Q Have you ever been in his club?  
 4 A Yes, I have.  
 5 Q I'll ask you whether or not at anytime during the  
 6 period of time that you've known him, whether or not you have  
 7 witnessed any emotional outbursts on behalf of Jack Ruby, or  
 8 by Jack Ruby?  
 9 A Well, I guess you'd call it an emotional outburst. I've  
 10 seen him in his various clubs getting into fights and brawls  
 11 and things of that nature.  
 12 Q All right. Now, directing your attention, can you re-  
 13 call any specific instances wherein he had an emotional out-  
 14 burst?  
 15 A Oh, yes.  
 16 Q Could you give us an example or two of that?  
 17 A Well, on one particular occasion, there was a young  
 18 fellow who was straddling a chair in one of his places, the  
 19 Silver Spur, and Jack commanded him to turn around and face  
 20 the table and be seated properly, which he did. But when he  
 21 went by him again, he had straddled the chair again, and they  
 22 had some words, and the first thing I knew there was a big  
 23 commotion, and Jack went off the handle and kind of beat this  
 24 fellow up.  
 25 Q All right. Now, would he do this in a sudden manner?

340

4-117

1 A Yes, sir, quite sudden.

2 Q All right. Would you say he was quick tempered?

3 A Oh, yes. Jack is quick tempered.

4 Q After this emotional outburst, or this blow up, would

5 he then calm down?

6 A Yes, he would be calm.

7 Q Would he also calm down very quickly?

8 A Well, things didn't seem to disturb Jack too much. He

9 would get into an upset, and then it would be all over.

10 Q Now, how many of these such have you witnessed, do you

11 think, over the last ten or twelve or thirteen years that you

12 have known Jack?

13 A Oh, any number of them. Maybe eight or ten or twelve,

14 or something like that. And lots more that I've heard about.

15 Q I'll ask you whether or not at various times you've had

16 conversations with Jack?

17 A Yes.

18 Q During these conversations would you describe how his

19 speech was?

20 A Well, sometimes his speech became disjointed, and it

21 would lack continuity, but not all the time.

22 Q But on some occasions?

23 A On some occasions, that's right.

24 Q Would he be the type of person, in talking and having

25 conversation, would he complete his sentences or would often-

4-118

1 times he stop in the middle of the sentence?

2 A Well, sometimes he would ramble and go off on a tangent.

3 Q Go on a what?

4 A A tangent. He would divert from the basic subject.

5 Q Have you seen or talked to Jack about his dogs?

6 A Oh gosh, yes.

7 Q Did you ever hear Jack refer to his dogs as anything

8 other than dogs?

9 A Well, they're his babies.

10 Q Babies?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Did you ever hear him refer to them as children?

13 A Well, in a sense, yes.

14 Q Did you ever have any contact with Jack when he was

15 with his dogs?

16 A Oh, yes. I've been in his apartment, or home, and I

17 have been in his club where he kept his dogs.

18 Q How would he treat these dogs?

19 A Just like they were children. He patted them, pampered

20 them, talked with them.

21 Q Did he have a particular favorite?

22 A Well, I guess he liked them all.

23 Q He liked them all. Did he take the dogs with him, or

24 one of them with him?

25 A He always had them with him.

4-119

1 Q All right. Do you know his sister, Eva Grant?

2 A Yes, sir, I do.

3 Q How long have you known her?

4 A Oh, I don't know. Four or five years, when she came

5 back from California. I believe she was in California, and

6 came back after about, I guess about four or five years ago,

7 whatever it was.

8 Q Have you known here through her connection with the

9 Club Vegas?

10 A That's right.

11 Q Have you visited out there when she's been there?

12 A Yes, sir, I've been around her.

13 Q All right. Have you ever seen Jack cry on any of these

14 occasions?

15 A Well, no, but I've seen him on the verge of breaking

16 up, but I haven't witnessed any tears.

17 Q Have you noticed any change in the Jack Ruby as you

18 knew him ten or twelve years ago, up until recently?

19 A Any change?

20 Q Yes, in his personality, his mental make up, as you

21 viewed it?

22 A Well, no. However, I think as time when on, and he

23 became more financially involved his attitude was a little

24 different, I suppose. But basically, he was the same, he was

25 very unpredictable.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2406--Continued

4-120

1 Q Did you form a conclusion as to whether or not Jack was

2 rational at all times?

3 A Well, I don't know if you would call it rational or not

4 but lots of times we'd maybe have dinner or something, and he

5 would get up and he would leave for no reason whatsoever, and

6 then the next day when I'd question him, he had some unfinished

7 business he had to take care of, so --

8 Q He'd just get up and leave?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Can you think of any other instances like this straddled

11 chair, that you can relate to the jury at this time?

12 A Oh, I've seen lots of them. He would ask people out on

13 the dance floor not to do certain things, and they would pay

14 no attention to him.

15 Q Then he would have one of these emotional outbursts?

16 Or one of these blow ups?

17 A Whatever it is, yes.

18 Q You would see him after he did that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And he would appear calm then?

21 A Oh, yes.

22 Q Would you say that Jack Ruby was a kind and considerate

23 type person?

24 A I presume in his way, he is, yes.

25 Q In his way. Have you seen him do acts of kindness?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2406--Continued

1 A Oh, I've seen him loan people money at different times  
2 and make contributions to different things, yes.

3 Q Have you ever made any contributions to anything that  
4 he had any connection with, any organization or fund or drive  
5 that he had any connection with?

6 A No, sir.

7 Q When was the last time that you saw Jack prior to  
8 November, 1963?

9 A Well, it was the early part of November, I believe.

10 Q The early part of November?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Do you recall where that was?

13 A Yes. I have a supper club here in town. It's the  
14 Stork Club. And Jack came by one day and said he had some  
15 trouble with one of his strippers. Her name was Jada.

16 Q All right. Did you talk to him on that occasion?

17 A Well, he talked to me. He wanted to let his emotions  
18 out, I believe, so I sat there and listened to him.

19 Q Was he upset at that time?

20 A Well, yes he was. He was disturbed.

21 Q How was his conversation on that date?

22 A Well, he told me he had a law suit or something --

23 Q No, I say *how* was his conversation, not what was it.

24 A Oh, he just wanted to get it off his chest, I think;  
25 telling me the circumstances, the situation had occurred, and

1 his difficulties with this help of his.

2 Q Would you describe how he talked?

3 A Well, of course, Jack talks in a staccato manner all  
4 the time anyway, so it didn't vary too much. But he was up-  
5 set about it, naturally.

6 Q Have you, based upon what you have seen from Jack, seen  
7 of his actions, hearing him talk, knowing Jack as you have  
8 known him, have you formed any type of opinion as to Jack's  
9 mental status, or mental state?

10 A Well, with apologies to Jack, I've always considered  
11 him --

12 MR. BOWIE: To which we object, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

14 MR. TOMAHILL: He's qualified to give an answer,  
15 Judge.

16 Q (By Mr. Burleson) Have you formed such an opinion?

17 A Yes, sir, I have.

18 Q Would you tell us what that opinion is, as to whether  
19 or not you feel like --

20 MR. BOWIE: We object, Your Honor.

21 Q (By Mr. Burleson) What is the opinion?

22 A Well, --

23 THE COURT: Do you object to it?

24 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes, sir, we object to it.

25 THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

858

1 MR. BURLESON: Note our exception.

2 MR. TONAHILL: Exception. May we complete the

3 Bill now?

4 THE COURT: No, sir.

5 MR. TONAHILL: Note our exception.

6 MR. BURLESON: We'll pass him.

7 CROSS EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. WADE:

9 Q Mr. Howard?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q I believe you said that you knew the defendant, Jack

12 Ruby, socially as a club operator. Is that right?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q You're not in business with him in any way?

15 A No, sir.

16 Q You haven't financed him or anything, down there?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q I believe you said he always had one or more of his

19 dogs with him wherever he went?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q I believe you said you never had seen him cry, did you?

22 A No, I don't believe --

23 Q Did you?

24 A No, I haven't seen tears roll down his cheeks, in that

25 sense of the word.

859

1 Q Was he the type person, Mr. Howard, that always liked

2 to be known, or you might say a name dropper, or that type of

3 person?

4 A Yes, sir, that's true.

5 Q He liked to know or call so and so important people as

6 his friends, isn't that right?

7 A Yes, he's very outgoing.

8 Q He's very outgoing and was he the type that liked to be

9 well thought of, I guess is one way of putting it?

10 A This is true.

11 Q And he, I assume, would tell you who he knew and who

12 was at his place, and one thing and another, that might be

13 some people prominent in some field in Dallas, is that right?

14 A No, I don't think that he was what you might classify

15 as a social climber, not in that sense.

16 Q No, I'm talking about one that wanted to be liked, and

17 wanted to know important people. In a sense you might say

18 egotistical, in that sense?

19 A This is true, yes, sir.

20 Q In other words, I'm not saying it very well, but he

21 liked to -- he sought the limelight, of a sort?

22 A This is very true.

23 Q That's very true. And, for instance, if he was up in

24 the City Hall on Friday night, in the middle of all the

25 cameras and telling them who everybody was, assuming he was,

4-125

1 that's the type thing he would like, don't you think? Ex-  
2 plaining it to the cameramen who everybody was around the City  
3 Hall?

4 A Well, he liked to be in the middle of things, no matter  
5 what it was.

6 Q No matter what it was, he always liked to be right in  
7 the middle of it?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Now, I believe you said when he came to talk to you  
10 about Jada, and he said that he had some controversy?

11 A I believe so, yes, sir.

12 Q Some two or three weeks before that. What kind of con-  
13 troversy was that?

14 MR. BURLINSON: We object to him going into that,  
15 as irrelevant and immaterial what the conversation was.

16 MR. WADE: He's already gone into the conversa-  
17 tion, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: What was the question?

19 MR. BELLI: If Your Honor please, even if some-  
20 thing is asked that is irrelevant on direct, but not  
21 objected to, it can't be broken into on cross. It's  
22 irrelevant. We say it's time wasting to go into any  
23 controversy he might have had with a strip teaser, or  
24 with Jada. Now, if Your Honor thinks it's important,  
25 as we haven't anything to hide, let's go into it.

4-125

1 THE COURT: What was the question?

2 MR. BELLI: The controversy with Jada, a strip  
3 teaser.

4 MR. WADE: I'll withdraw it.

5 Q (By Mr. Wade) I believe the F.B.I. interviewed you,  
6 did they not?

7 A Yes, they did.

8 Q I believe you told them that he was quick tempered, a  
9 rough and tumble scrapper, didn't you?

10 A That's right.

11 Q As a matter of fact, he went to the YMCA to build his  
12 body up all the time. You know about that?

13 A He was quite a health fadist, yes, sir.

14 Q He was quite a health fadist. And he was an egotist  
15 to some extent?

16 A I would presume so.

17 Q You would think so. And wherever anything was going  
18 on, he liked to be right in the middle of it?

19 A Well, he was of that nature.

20 Q And wherever he went he had cards of his club, that he  
21 would pass out or give away, according to the situation, would  
22 he not?

23 A This is true.

24 Q He did that many times in your presence, didn't he?

25 A Yes, he did.

1 Q He was trying to promote business for his club?  
 2 A That's true.  
 3 Q But he always carried them in his pocket and he would  
 4 spread them out when you were with him?  
 5 A Yes, that's true.  
 6 Q And he tried to, or did, give the impression that he  
 7 was tough enough to keep down trouble in his club, is that  
 8 right?  
 9 A I don't know whether he tried to give that impression  
 10 or not, but when it came to a show-down, he was right there.  
 11 Q He was pretty tough, wasn't he?  
 12 A Yes, he was.  
 13 Q And you've seen him throw people out of his club?  
 14 A Yes, I have.  
 15 Q Down the steps?  
 16 A Well, not exactly. on these particular occasions, but  
 17 I have seen him in his mix-ups, yes.  
 18 Q Did you ever see him carry a gun outside the club?  
 19 A Yes, he always had a gun with him.  
 20 Q Always had a gun with him?  
 21 A Yes, sir.  
 22 Q You never did report that to the police or anything?  
 23 A No, I didn't report it.  
 24 Q You never did?  
 25 A No, sir. When I say he had a gun, he always had it in

4-128

1 the money bag. I used to see it when he would throw it in the  
 2 car, if we went someplace. We would have dinner or something  
 3 like that, and he would throw this bag down, with the gun in  
 4 the money.  
 5 Q Did he carry that into wherever he was eating? The  
 6 gun?  
 7 A No, he would sometimes leave it in the car, I think.  
 8 Q Sometimes lock it up in the car?  
 9 A That's right.  
 10 Q According to where he was at the time, I presume?  
 11 A That's right.  
 12 Q He had a place to lock it up in his glove compartment?  
 13 A I think he put it in the back end of the car, in the  
 14 trunk.  
 15 Q You've seen him do that on occasion?  
 16 A Yes, sir.  
 17 Q Have you ever been target practicing with him?  
 18 A No.  
 19 Q You never have seen him shoot the gun?  
 20 A No.  
 21 Q But usually when he went -- I assume you all ate at  
 22 nice restaurants when you were with him, as a general rule?  
 23 A Oh, yes. Nice places, hotels.  
 24 Q He would generally lock his gun up in the car, rather  
 25 than take it inside with him, into the restaurant?

4-129

1 A Well, this wasn't always the occasion. Lots of times  
 2 he wouldn't have it on his person, or it might be in the car,  
 3 when he would open the back of the car and fish in the back to  
 4 get what he wanted, it would be obvious it was there.  
 5 Q To be more specific than, many times you said, I believe  
 6 that he didn't have it with him?  
 7 A This is true.  
 8 Q And many times when he had it with him in your presence,  
 9 he would lock it up in the car, according to the place you  
 10 were going into?  
 11 A Well, he didn't wait until he went some place to lock  
 12 it up. It was usually in the back of the car.  
 13 Q He usually carried it in the back of the car?  
 14 A Yes.  
 15 Q You would say that he is quick or high tempered, if you  
 16 would describe him, would you not?  
 17 A Yes, I would.  
 18 Q And you would say he was a rough and tumble fighter?  
 19 A Yes, sir.  
 20 Q That he liked to be in the center of things, whatever  
 21 is going on? The center of attraction to some extent, in that  
 22 if anything is going on, he wants to be in the middle of it.  
 23 Is that right?  
 24 A Well, I would say he's been in the middle of a lot of  
 25 things on a lot of occasions, yes.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2406—Continued

4-130

1 Q How long have you lived in Dallas, Mr. Howard?  
 2 A Thirty-two, three years.  
 3 Q Thirty-two or thirty-three years.  
 4 MR. WADE: Pass the witness.  
 5 REDIRECT EXAMINATION  
 6 BY MR. BURLESON:  
 7 Q Mr. Howard, you knew that Jack Ruby was in a foster  
 8 home when he was five years old?  
 9 A Yes.  
 10 MR. WADE: We object to that. It's leading and  
 11 suggestive.  
 12 THE COURT: Sustain the objection to it.  
 13 MR. WADE: When he was five years old? Did he  
 14 say something -- Have you known Ruby since he was five  
 15 years old?  
 16 A No.  
 17 MR. BURLESON: Mr. Wade isn't allowed to ask  
 18 questions. We have him on direct examination.  
 19 MR. WADE: Well, I didn't hear the question.  
 20 MR. BURLESON: Then we can ask the court reporter  
 21 to read it back.  
 22 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Burleson.  
 23 Q (By Mr. Burleson) Now, you say in answer to Mr. Wade's  
 24 question, that Jack liked to be in the center of things, is  
 25 that right?

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2406—Continued



4-131

1 A I say he's an outgoing person. He's not an introvert.  
2 He is a person that's always in the middle of things. When  
3 he's out on the street walking around he's talking to people,  
4 going to parties, and he makes himself known.

5 Q Did you know that Jack had arranged an interview for  
6 Mr. Wade?

7 MR. BOWIE: To which we object as leading, Your  
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

10 Q (By Mr. Burleson) State the facts with reference to  
11 whether or not you knew about the interview that Jack Ruby  
12 arranged for Mr. Wade?

13 THE COURT: I sustained the objection, Mr.  
14 Burleson. Get on to something else.

15 MR. BURLESON: I thought the objection was to  
16 leading.

17 THE COURT: You rephrased the question to ask the  
18 same question.

19 MR. TOMAHILL: Note our exception. There wasn't  
20 any objection to the next question, Judge.

21 MR. ALEXANDER: He disobeyed the Court's ruling  
22 on it, Your Honor.

23 Q (By Mr. Burleson) Now, you say Jack handed out cards.  
24 Is that correct?

25 A Yes, sir.

1-132

1 Q That was for his Carousel Club?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Now, did he hand those out much like politicians hand-  
4 ing them out?

5 A Well, he would hand them out to anybody that was a  
6 prospective customer.

7 Q Much like a politician would when he was looking for a  
8 vote?

9 A Well, I wouldn't know about that.

10 Q Now, on these occasions that you saw Jack with a gun,  
11 did you always see money with him?

12 A Yes.

13 MR. BURLESON: That's all.

14 RE-CROSS EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. WADE:

16 Q Do you own a club yourself?

17 A I operate and manage a club, yes, sir.

18 Q What club is that?

19 A The Stork Club.

20 Q Is that --

21 A It's a private club.

22 Q It's not a strip club, is it?

23 A Oh, no. It's a supper club.

24 Q Where is that located?

25 A On Oak Lawn, across from the Village. I've had it for

1 about three years now.

2 Q It's a private club?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q But you don't have --

5 A Oh, no. It's a supper club.

6 MR. WADE: That's all.

7 MR. BURLESON: That's all.

8 THE COURT: The court will be recessed until nine

9 o'clock Monday morning.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 D. V. HARKNESS

2 a witness called by the State, being first duly sworn,

3 testified on his oath as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. ALEXANDER:

6 Q You're Sgt. D. V. Harkness?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q What bureau or division of the Dallas Police Department

9 are you assigned to?

10 A Traffic Division.

11 Q And were you so employed and assigned back on

12 November 23, 1963?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q That would have been a Saturday, would it not?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Directing your attention to around two-thirty or three

17 o'clock in the afternoon on that Saturday, November 23, 1963,

18 I'll ask you if you were assigned to the vicinity of the en-

19 trance of the County jail to assist in traffic and handling

20 people?

21 A Yes, sir, I was.

22 Q Now I'll ask you if you were anticipating the transfer

23 of Oswald at around four o'clock?

24 A Yes, sir, we were.

25 Q Now, sometime after three o'clock, I'll ask you if a