

Mr. IRWIN BERKE, 5807 Alcoce, advised that he is the owner of Irwin Berke's Charcoal Broiler Restaurant, 5338 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, North Hollywood and that his home telephone number is PO 6-2952 and his business telephone number is 769-9280.

Mr. BERKE advised that he is originally from Chicago, Illinois and that in 1936 he began the occupation of song plugger in Chicago. He advised that he worked for Shapiro-Bernstein Music Publishers, 54 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois. He stated that in this connection he has a vague recollection of some association with an individual by the name of JACK RUBY, whose true name could be JACK RUBINSTEIN.

Mr. BERKE advised that he could not recall what this man looked like, but believes he was possibly associated with JACK HOWARD. Mr. BERKE explained that JACK HOWARD was also a song plugger and also had an office in the 54 West Randolph Street Building. He stated that he does not know where JACK HOWARD would be at the present time, but does know that in about 1945 JACK HOWARD had a music store in the Loop End Building, next to the Chicago Theater Building on State Street. Mr. BERKE stated that this business is no longer in existence. BERKE further stated that HOWARD had a brother, whose name he cannot recall, and who he believes was connected with the hoodlum element in Chicago. This brother was also associated with JACK HOWARD as a song plugger. Mr. BERKE stated that he believes the JACK RUBINSTEIN that he has reference to was connected with the HOWARD brothers.

BERKE advised that he has seen pictures of JACK RUBY from Dallas, Texas on both the television screen and newspapers and does not recall him as anyone whom he knew in Chicago. He advised that possibly if he saw a picture of JACK RUBY taken during the 1930's or 1940's he would be able to state definitely whether he had had any contacts with this man or if he was the JACK RUBINSTEIN whom he connects with the HOWARD brothers.

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Mr. BERKE advised that he married his wife, ROSYLLAN, in Chicago, Illinois in 1939. About one year after their marriage, Mrs. BERKE's parents, Mr. and Mrs. SAM JAFFE moved from Chicago, Illinois to Muncie, Indiana. Mr. JAFFE went to work for his nephew, LAWSON JAFFE, who owned a jewelry store in Muncie, Indiana. LAWSON JAFFE owned both the jewelry store and the building in which the jewelry store was located. After World War II, LAWSON JAFFE sold the jewelry store and SAM JAFFE opened up a small jewelry store on the second floor of the same building. He further advised that SAM JAFFE also managed this building and collected the rent for LAWSON JAFFE after LAWSON JAFFE sold the jewelry store business.

Mr. BERKE advised that he and his wife, during the 1940's prior to his entry into military service in about 1944 and for several years after his discharge, during the period approximately 1946 and 1947, did travel on numerous occasions from Chicago, Illinois to Muncie, Indiana to visit Mrs. BERKE's parents. He advised that on none of these occasions was he ever accompanied by a JACK RUBINSTEIN or JACK RUBY. He stated that he has never traveled from Chicago, Illinois to Muncie, Indiana with such a person.

Mr. BERKE did advise that there was some type of hall on the third floor of the building owned by LAWSON JAFFE and that this was a rather "miserable place". He stated that he knows of no meetings held in this hall that he ever attended or that LAWSON or SAM JAFFE attended.

Mr. BERKE advised that the names PHILLIP JASSER, MORTON STANDT and HERBERT and MORTON PAZOL are familiar to him as business associates of SAM and LAWSON JAFFE in Muncie, Indiana. He advised that he is not aware of any Communist Party activities on the part of any of these people or any communist type meetings ever attended by any of these people.

11/28/63 North Hollywood, California Los Angeles 44-895

On SA EUGENE J. TUGGEE, JR. :mjg File # 11/29/63

by Date dictated

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Mr. BERKE suggested the name of MARTY BRIN, who he believes is presently a salesman for a beer company in Chicago, as a person who knew many of the people in and around Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois during the late 1930's and early 1940's. He advised that BRIN during that period operated a tavern on the main floor of the 54 West Randolph Street Building.

IRWIN BERKE was reinterviewed at 5338 Laurel Canyon Boulevard.

He stated he recalls nothing in addition to information he furnished on November 28, 1963, except that the person known to him in Chicago as JACK RUBY or RUBENSTEIN was also known as "SPARKY." He said the name GEORGE WILLIAM FEHRENBACH is unknown to him. He said he recalls a young man, possibly age 16 in the early 1940's, worked for his father-in-law, SAM JAFFE, as an apprentice jeweler in Muncie, Indiana. He said he does not recall having any conversation with FEHRENBACH or showing him any photographs of girls. He said he does not recall any "tall blond show girl" or anyone in military service traveling with him in the mid-forties from Chicago to Muncie, Indiana.

BERKE stated BEN KENTER, a Chicago attorney, and his wife, PEGGY, accompanied BERKE and his wife to Muncie in the mid-forties on one trip. KENTER and wife proceeded on to Ohio to visit their son who was attending school in that state. BERKE related that HAROLD and JEAN SUGARMAN, presently living in Bel Air, California, also accompanied him and his wife on several trips to Muncie as did his brother-in-law, SEYMOUR CHAZIN, and wife, CHARLOTTE.

BERKE said he knew PHILLIP JASSER fairly well on a social basis. JASSER is now deceased and his wife, name unrecalled, has remarried. He was acquainted with LAWSON JAFFE, a cousin through marriage, and worked briefly for him in South Bend, Indiana, date of employment unrecalled. JAFFE, now living in Dayton, Ohio, recently suffered a stroke. He was well acquainted with MORTON STANDT, a business partner of LAWSON JAFFE, but knew HERBERT and MORTON PAZOL only casually. The PAZOLS were friendly business competitors on SAM JAFFE in Muncie, Indiana.

BERKE stated he was born May 2, 1912, is 5'9" tall, weighs 172 pounds, has blond, graying hair with a receding hairline, and blue eyes. He described his wife, ROSYLIN, as age 50, 5'5" tall, 118 pounds, blue eyes, dark graying hair, dark complexion.

On 4/17/64 at North Hollywood, California, File # LA 44-895
 by SA PHILLIP B. DEILY:vm 114 Date dictated 4/17/64
 DL 44-1639

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