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Document Information

ORIGINATOR : HSCA  
FROM : PIERCE, RIO S.  
TO :  
TITLE :  
DATE : 05/29/1978  
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SUBJECTS :  
DALLAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT  
RUBY, JACK; BACKGROUND  
PIERCE, RIO S.  
OSWALD, LEE; MURDER BY RUBY; TRANSFER T40  
COUNTY JAIL  
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OPENING CRITERIA :  
COMMENTS : Box 173.

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:

Name RIO S PIERCE

Date 5-29-78 2 PM

Address RT #3

Place RESIDENCE

City/State ENNIS, TEXAS 75119

Telephone 214/875-8300

Date of Birth 7-26-23

M or S M

Social Security JFK Act 6 (3)

Spouse Dorothy L.

Children 3

2. Physical Description:

Height 5-9

Color Eyes \_\_\_\_\_ Hair \_\_\_\_\_

Weight 160

Special Characteristics \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Group \_\_\_\_\_

3. Personal History:

a. Present Employment: DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

Address ENNIS, TEXAS

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

b. Criminal Record

1. Arrests \_\_\_\_\_

2. Convictions \_\_\_\_\_

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

b. Area frequented: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator Joseph J. Basteri  
JOSEPH J. BASTERI

Date 5-29-78

KENNEDY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Name Rio S. Pierce Date May 29, 1978 Time 2 PM  
Address Route #3 Place residence  
Ennis, Texas 75119 214 875 8300

Interview: Staff Investigator Joseph J. Basteri interviewed Rio S. Pierce who entered the Dallas Police Department in 1946 and re-tired January 8, 1974. He is now employed part-time with the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Pierce was a member of the Uniform Patrol Division and on Sunday, November 24, 1963 was working from 7AM to 3PM. He held the rank of Lieutenant and on that day supervised 8 to 10 men and 2 sergeants detailed to the basement and adjoining rooms. Mr. Pierce then stated that he was then assigned the responsibility to escort the armored truck out of the basement. Pierce explained that there were two ramps in and out of the basement. The Main ramp was the exit. The armored truck, which was going to be used as a decoy, backed into Commerce Street, but because of its height could not back completely into the basement causing the ramp to be blocked. Pierce stated that he then decided to exit the Main Street ramp so that he could get out and then back his car into the Commerce Street ramp and place it in position in front of the armored truck. He then proceeded to exit the Main Street ramp and in doing so he

Interviewer Signature



Typed Signature Joseph J. Basteri

Date transcribed June 15, 1978

noticed P. O. Vaughn, who was stationed at this ramp, taking one or two steps off the sidewalk and into the street to safely direct him out into the traffic. Pierce, who was with two other members of the force did notice several persons standing at the entrance of the ramp, but did not know if they were waiting there or just walking by and waiting for his car to pass them so that they could continue to walk. Pierce stated he knew Ruby and Napoleon Daniels, but did not see them. In fact, Pierce remarked that he was not aware of who was standing at the entrance because his concentration was to maneuver his vehicle in front of the armored truck. Pierce does recall Vaughn being in the gutter and he was either motioning his hands or blowing his whistle to stop the traffic in order for him to get out of the ramp. After leaving the ramp, he drove to Harwood Street and made a left to Commerce Street where he made another left turn. Pierce then said that as he arrived at Commerce Street ramp, he does not recall whether he parked the vehicle at the curb or backed it into the Commerce Street ramp, but at about this time, they were aware that something had happened inside the basement. They immediately ran into the basement and learned what had happened. After LHO had been taken to Parkland Hospital, Pierce decided also to go there as a precaution for security reasons. He was not ordered to go there, but took the action as a supervisor. He does not recall entering the hospital.

Pierce admits knowing Ruby from the late forties or early fifties as the Silver Spur was on his post. He described

Ruby as wanting to know people of influence, even if it was only a casual meeting. Pierce said that he would never be afraid to go into any one of Ruby's places without a nightstick or gun as Ruby ran a place where one could not get hurt. Pierce did say that he would not trust Ruby and always had the feeling that he had something to do with mob people, but could not prove it. Pierce said he had the feeling that Ruby did something wrong to some Chicago bad guys and had to flee to Dallas. He denied that Ruby had told him this, merely stating he just had that feeling. Pierce believes that Dallas had no organized crime that had eastern and northern influence. Pierce did state that Dallas did have a criminal element, but he was never in a position to determine how organized they were. He stated that he was always assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division which made it very difficult for him to make his own observations concerning the organization of these groups. Pierce did say that from his own knowledge, he did not believe Ruby was linked with these criminal elements.