AGENCY: HSCA
RECORD NUMBER: 180-10078-10466
RECORD SERIES: NUMBERED FILES
AGENCY FILE NUMBER: 009415

ORIGINATOR: HSCA
FROM: PIERCE, RIO S.
TO:
TITLE:

DATE: 05/29/1978
PAGES: 4

SUBJECTS:
DALLAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT
RUBY, JACK; BACKGROUND
PIERCE, RIO S.
OSWALD, LEE; MURDER BY RUBY; TRANSFER TO COUNTY JAIL

DOCUMENT TYPE: SUMMARY
CLASSIFICATION: Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS: Open in Full
CURRENT STATUS: Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 07/22/1909

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS: Box 173.
INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:
   Name RIO S. PIERCE
   Address RT #3
   City/State ENNIS, TEXAS 75119
   Date of Birth 7-26-23
   Social Security 454-26-7994
   Date 5-29-78 2 PM
   Place RESIDENCE
   Telephone 214/875-8300
   M or S M
   Spouse Dorothy L
   Children 3

2. Physical Description:
   Height 5'-9"
   Weight 160
   Color Eyes _______ Hair _______
   Ethnic Group __________
   Special Characteristics ______________

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. BASTER
   Date 5-29-78 Form #4-B
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 retired 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  

By:  Ross  Form #4-A
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.