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MEMORANDUM

Regarding

Testimony of Harry Haler

Harry Haler appeared as a witness before the Subcommittee on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy on Thursday, March 16, 1978, at which time the veracity of his testimony was seriously questioned by several Members of the Subcommittee due to certain internal inconsistencies in his presentation and specific variances with a previous statement given to Federal agents on November 30, 1963 at the Terminal Island Federal Institution, Los Angeles, California.

This memorandum contains several gross examples illustrating the problems inherent in accepting Haler's testimony which the Committee Members might wish to pursue during Haler's next appearance under oath.

ISSUE I - When did Harry Haler first meet Jack Ruby?

A. Previous Statement

1. November 30, 1963

S/A Nolan and S/S Spaman

- First met Ruby in latter part of 1952-53 in Dallas through Marty Schwartz (Field).

vs.

2. Testimony

p.11 - Met Ruby in Chicago when Haler was 16-17 years old during 1950 or '52.

pp.56-57 - Met Ruby in Chicago through Marty Field - "anywhere from 16-18 years old."

ISSUE II - What was the last date of contact between Harry Haler and Jack Ruby?

A. Previous Statement

1. November 30, 1963

S/A Nolan to S/S Spaman

- No direct contact with Ruby since 1955
- Visit in '62 to Carousel Club but Ruby not in town.

vs.

2. Testimony

p.52 a) Last contact with Ruby 1958-59.

pp.53-63 b) Not in Dallas after 1958; does not recall visiting Carousel.

p.59 c) FBI report re 1955 incorrect

- p.70 d) Did not see Ruby in 1959-60 due to relationship with Truman Gibson, Jr.
- pp.75- e) Possibly saw Ruby after 1961.
77-
*83

ISSUE III - Did Harry Haler discuss John F. Kennedy and/or Robert Kennedy with Jack Ruby?

A. Testimonial

Quote at issue:

p.24 Mr. Haler: He was the most fanatical person I ever seen about the Kennedys. I never seen anything like it in my life. We nearly came to blows. He loved the Kennedys so much. If you said anything about them he would want to fight you. He was just a -- just loved them like somebody would love Babe Ruth or something. Because one time I told him what I thought of Bobby Kennedy and he just jumped up like he was going to fight with me. But I think I kind of convinced him, so he didn't do it.

Relevance:

If Jack Ruby was "fanatical...about the Kennedys" to the point of offering to fight over a derogatory statement concerning Robert Kennedy, and Haler was able to convince Ruby that the derogatory information was

true, then the information per se and the underlying circumstances relating to that information are relevant to:

- (1) Jack Ruby's true state of mind and feelings concerning the Kennedys, and
- (2) the credibility of Haler as his testimony relates to the time he last had contact with Ruby and the nature and extent of those contacts.

B. Previous Statement

- (1) November 30, 1963; JFK exhibit #81

S/A Nolan and S/S Spaman

-Haler's statement makes no mention of Jack Ruby's feelings toward the Kennedys and the only reference to Ruby's state of mind is the following:

"Hall(Haler) advised that it was his opinion from his contacts and knowledge of Ruby that Ruby had some strong motivation for his shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald and that the only motivation that he, Hall, could contribute to Ruby was money or the fear that Oswald possibly might involve Ruby in the assassination of the President of the U.S. He admitted this was pure speculation on his part and made the offer that he would be willing

to go to Dallas, Texas and meet Ruby and he was sure that from such a meeting that he could learn from Ruby what motivated him to shoot and kill Oswald."

- (2) JFK exhibit 82 - U.S.S.S. Report re 11/30/63 interview; p. 3.

"He (Hall) said he could not conceive of Ruby doing anything out of patriotism."

"...he stated that he was close enough to Ruby... that...he could persuade him to tell the whole story."

C. Testimony at 3/16/78 hearing

- (1) p. 60 - J.R. loved the Kennedy family;"...absolutely adored them."
- (2) p. 61 - JFK "...was the President of the United States and he was the first Catholic elected... ."
- (3) p. 24 - "...the most fanatical person I ever seen about the Kennedys. ... We nearly came to blows. He loved the Kennedys so much. If you said anything about them he would want to fight you."

Did Haler tell Jack Ruby about his antipathy for
RFK?

A. Previous Statements -

FBI and U.S.S.S. reports: no reference

B. 3/16/78 hearing

1. p. 24 - Ruby started to fight when Hall said negative things about R.F.K.; Haler: "But I think I kind of convinced him, so he didn't do it."
2. p. 62 - Haler "sure" Ruby knew of his antipathy for R.F.K.
3. p. 62 Around time of inauguration.
4. p. 62 "...could have had to do when he was running against the fellow from Tennessee. ...when he lost out as vice president."
5. p. 74 - Haler's dislike was generated by RFK's activities as Attorney General; p. 75 - not because of the Hoffa probe, or, p. 76 - because of Ruby or teamsters.

6. p. 83 - Haler's dislike began around time he was indicted.
7. p. 88 - Haler "...got in a very terrible squabble with him on the Marilyn Monroe issue, if I have to bring it up ... because I was friendly with Joe DiMaggio at the time."
8. p. 88 - Called RFK from Mexico City "...a week or two..." before Haler's Federal indictment, in 1962.
9. p. 90 - Haler broke with RFK earlier than the phone call from Mexico, when he "knew" RFK "...wouldn't go to bat..." for him on that indictment.
10. p. 93 - Haler then says his break with RFK started before that, when he "...went to him and asked him if he would consider someone for a Federal judgeship..", "... after his brother was elected..." when he thought RFK "...was (p. 94) going to be Attorney General."

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Goal #2 To determine Hall's involvement with and knowledge of Organized Crime.

Goal #3 To determine whether Harry Hall had knowledge of Jack Ruby's involvement with Organized Crime, or obtained knowledge of Jack Ruby's shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

- Exhibits
1. FBI interview of Harry Hall, dated November 30, 1963.
 2. Secret Service interview of Harry Hall, dated November 30, 1963.
 3. FBI report regarding an incident between Jack Ruby and Vincent Lee, Branch Manager, American Guild of Variety Artists.

Chronology - Antonio de Varona

Goal #1 Background

Goal #1 To determine Antonio de Varona's role in the activities of Central Intelligence Agency-sponsored and privately funded anti-Castro Cuban groups, including all assassination attempts.

Goal #2 Background

Goal #2 To determine de Varona's role in the CIA/Mafia Castro assassination plots and to determine de Varona's relationship to and involvement with organized crime figures.

PROCEDURE
KENNEDY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

1. The Chairman should recognize Elizabeth Berning, Clerk of the Committee, to read for the record those Members who are officially designated to be on the Subcommittee today, pursuant to Committee Rule 12.3.

2. The hearing should go into Executive Session.

There should be a motion:

that today's hearing and one subsequent day of hearing be held in Executive Session since on the basis of information obtained by the Committee, the Committee believes the evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate people, and consequently Section 2(K) (5) of Rule 11 of the Rules of the House and Committee Rule 3.3 (5), require such hearings be in Executive Session.

There must be three Members present to vote on this motion.

A rollcall vote should be taken.

3. The Chairman should swear the witness at this time. He should state that he understands a copy of our Rules have already been given to the witness. He should ask the witness if this is true. The Chairman should

state that the witness is appearing pursuant to subpoena.

4. The Chairman should give a brief statement concerning the subject of the investigation. He should state that House Resolution 222 mandates the Committee

"to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the assassination and death of President John F. Kennedy including determining whether the existing laws of the United States concerning the protection of the President and the investigatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments are adequate in their provisions and enforcement, and whether there was full disclosure of evidence and information among agencies and departments of the United States Government, and whether any evidence or information not in the possession of an agency or department would have been of assistance in investigating the assassination, and why such information was not provided or collected by that agency or department, . . . and to make recommendations to the House . . . if the Select Committee deems it appropriate for the amendment

of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation.

5. The questioning of the witness may now proceed.

Fifth Amendment

6. If the witness takes the Fifth Amendment to a question, and the Committee desires to immunize the witness, the Chairman should give the witness a copy of Judge Bryant's order immunizing the witness and compelling testimony from him. The witness should now be directed to answer the question that was propounded.

If the Witness Continues to Object

7. Pursuant to Committee Rule 3.5, any objection of the witness or witness' counsel must be specifically ruled upon by the Chairman. Should the witness object on the grounds of pertinency, he should be given a brief explanation of the pertinency of the question and then be directed to answer it.

8. At the conclusion of the questioning of the witness, pursuant to Rule 3.6 of the Committee, the Chairman should offer the witness and/or his counsel five minutes to explain or amplify the witness' testimony.

9. The witness should be informed that he is under the continuing subpoena of the Committee, and subject to the call of the Chair at a future date.

BIOGRAPHY

Harry Hall

AKA Harry Helfgot
Harry Halfgott
Harry Hunt
Harry Mills
Sidney Brin
Harry Sinclair, Jr.
Ed Pauley, Jr.

Harry Hall, a reputed confidence man and gambler, has an extensive arrest record dating from 1942. Hall's arrests range from gambling, grand theft robbery, forgery, and conspiracy to commit robbery and forgery.

During 1950, Hall became a paid informant, providing information at various times to the IRS, Department of Justice, FBI, Secret Service, Department of Treasury Intelligence Division, and Los Angeles Police Department Intelligence Division. Hall provided information to the Secret Service which resulted in the seizure of a counterfeiting plant. Information provided to IRS Intelligence resulted in several indictments for income tax evasion.

Hall attempted to further his own schemes as a confidence man through his association with the various law enforcement agencies. On occasion when Hall met known criminals under Federal investigation, he would allude to alleged important contacts with Federal agencies and could obtain information that would benefit their cases. Through these confidence schemes, Hall became acquainted with known organized crime figures and associates of organized crime figures.

During 1952, Hall was in Dallas (using the name Harry Sinclair, Jr.) looking for high stake gambling games and to place bets on football games or horse races. Hall's uncle, Marty Fields (alias Marty Schwartz), introduced Hall to Jack Ruby. At that time Ruby ran a small, cheap bar and nightclub in Dallas.

Hall's method of operation at that time was to use the name of a well-known person and ingratiate himself with persons with money. On occasion, Ruby provided Hall with a bankroll and introduced him to likely victims. Ruby got forty percent of any deal and Hall took sixty percent. Ruby's cut was for his influence with the Dallas Police Department. During the course of their relationship, Hall and Ruby obtained large sums of money from wealthy oilmen, including H. L. Hunt, Dick Andrade and gamblers in the Dallas area. Their activities extended beyond the Dallas area including Montreal, Shreveport, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Oklahoma City.

The following identification of Harry Hall was obtained from an FBI report:

Date of Birth: January 3 or 13, 1919
Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois
Sex: Male
Race: White
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 205 pounds
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Complexion: Faintly pock-marked, cheeks stocky.
Gait: Walks with a limp, has deformed right ankle.
Handwriting: Right-handed
Occupation: Salesman
FBI Numer: 2956-393
Social Security Number: 358-10-2658
Los Angeles P.D. Number: H 111887
Spouse: Betty Hall

To determine Hall's involvement in and knowledge of illegal activities.

Nature and extent of Hall's involvement in illegal activities

1. Gambling - bookmaking setups
2. Confidence schemes
3. Nonsufficient funds
4. Grand theft robbery
5. Forgery

Between 1942 and 1966, Hall was arrested on nine separate occasions on charges of Nonsufficient Funds, Gambling, Grand Theft, Robbery, Forgery, and Conspiracy to Commit Robbery and Forgery. On January 18, 1955, Hall was convicted of Forgery in Los Angeles and sentenced (on April 14, 1955) to 1-14 years; Hall was paroled from the California Institution for Men at Chino on April 23, 1956. On September 14, 1966, Hall was arrested as Harry Mills in Los Angeles on charges of using White House stationery and the name of Jack Valenti in a scheme to sell surplus military equipment.

About February 1, 1960, Harry Hall, using the name of Sidney Brin, was employed as an investigator by Truman K. Gibson, Jr., an attorney from Chicago. Gibson was under indictment for Anti-Racketeering violations. In the course of his employment, Hall prepared (or caused to be prepared) false documents, purporting to be authored by officials of the Justice Department, indicating the charges against Gibson would be dismissed. Hall was indicted on April 4, 1962 for False Personation of a Federal Officer, Obstruction of Justice, and Fraud by Wire. On October 1, 1962, Hall was convicted of Obstruction of Justice and Fraud by Wire and sentenced to 30 months.

To determine Hall's involvement with and knowledge of Organized Crime.

A. Nature and extent of Hall's relationship with known Organized Crime figures and associates of known Organized Crime figures.

1. Truman K. Gibson
2. Mike Coppola
3. George Beckley

Truman K. Gibson, Jr.

An attorney from Chicago, Ill. and a former executive of the National Boxing Enterprises, Inc. and the International Boxing Clubs of New York and Illinois. Gibson was indicted in Los Angeles, on September 22, 1959 with Paul John "Frankie" Corbo, Frank "Blinky" Palermo, Joseph Sica, and Louis Tom Dragna, for conspiracy to violate the Anti-Racketeering Statutes, by extorting control of the then-world's welterweight boxing champion Don Jordan from his licensed manager. All defendants were found guilty on May 30, 1961.

Michael Coppola - "Trigger Mike"

New York gangster. Coppola was part of the Lucky Luciano organization; he shared the leadership when Luciano was incarcerated in 1939.

George Lee Beckley

Newport, Kentucky. Allegedly owns a federal wagering tax stamp. Beckley does not consider himself a bookmaker, but merely a commission man handling action from bookmakers all over the country.

B. Nature and extent of Hall's connections with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union and individuals connected with it.

1. Business dealings with James R. Hoffa; personal relationship with Hoffa.
2. Discussions and/or meetings with Paul Dorfman regarding offer to Hall to collect derogatory information on the Kennedy family. Knowledge of Ruby's association and/or contacts with Dorfman.
3. Knowledge of and relationship with Barney Baker. Knowledge of Ruby's association and/or contact with Baker.
4. Knowledge of and relationship with Irwin Weiner.

James R. Hoffa

Former President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Hoffa disappeared in August, 1975.

Paul Dorfman

A major figure in the Chicago underworld and labor unions, Dorfman allegedly introduced Hoffa to the Chicago underworld. Grew up with Jack Ruby.

Robert Baker AKA "Barney"

Served as Jimmy Hoffa's "roving organizer and ambassador of violence". Baker was regarded as one of Hoffa's key lieutenants, particularly in dealing with the Mafia. Baker called Ruby on November 7 and 8, 1963. Baker called Dave Yaras on November 21, 1963. Yaras is allegedly a top syndicate gambler with Teamster and Cuban connections. He is also considered the Miami representative to the Chicago Mob.

Irwin Weiner

7345 North Damen, Chicago, Illinois

AKA "Stucky" A Teamster bondsman. During 1959 he operated American Bail Bond Company and was president of Summit Fidelity and Surety Company. Weiner served as a top Hoffa advisor. Ruby called Weiner October 26, 1963 and talked for 12 minutes.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

During an FBI interview on June 14, 1961, Hall said he was first introduced into the circle of nationally known individuals involved in criminal activities by Truman K. Gibson, Jr. In 1960, Gibson stated in Miami that Hall had formerly been connected with the Internal Revenue Service and had good sources of information within the government.

Hall stated he was recommended to Mike Coppola by Jim Norris to assist Coppola following his indictment for income tax evasion. Hall met with Coppola twice in 1961. The first meeting was around Easter in New York City, to discuss the charges against Coppola. After the meeting Hall met Marty Weiss, who he claims is Coppola's money man in New York. During May, Hall stopped at O'Hare Airport in Chicago and transported \$7,500 in currency to Coppola in Miami from Weiss. Hall advised the FBI that Coppola told him that if he helped in the matter, Hall would get a good deal involving a trip to Rome. Hall claimed the deal would involve "carrying something over to talk to the 'Boys', one of whom he was to attempt to arrange to get back into the United States on a legitimate basis."

Coppola introduced Hall to George Lee Beckley, a gambler who was also having tax difficulties. When Hall met with Beckley in Newport, Kentucky, Beckley expressed an interest in determining whether gamblers were to be called before grand juries and whether the IRS was interested in

him. Beckley arranged a \$25,000 line of credit at the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, and gave Hall a telephone credit card in the name of Sidney Brin.

During an FBI interview on June 7, 1961, Hall said he set up a betting account for Beckley through Allied Meat Company, 3311 North Main, Los Angeles. Beckley thought he was getting the "lay off" (when there is an imbalance in betting, a bookmaker will distribute the unbalanced portion of the bets to even the books), but Hall was giving him straight bets.

