

3

Page 1 of 16

G.I.

H. R. WILLIAMS

Reel 29 Take 108

This is Sunday afternoon. We are at a deserted construction site near Arlington, Texas, about nineteen miles from Dallas .

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, USMss, 117AN "Rush to Judgment" Box 60, Folder 1

Q. Mr. Williams, what is your full name?

A. My full name is Harold Richard Williams.

Q. How long have you lived here in Dallas?

A. I've lived in Dallas scatteredly since 1952.

Q. Where were you born?

(starting again - throat trouble)

Reel 29 Take 109

This is Sunday afternoon. We are at a deserted construction site ~~near~~ at Arlington, Texas, about nineteen miles from Dallas with Harold Williams.

Q. Mr. Williams, what is your full name?

A. My full name is Harold Richard Williams.

Q. Do you live in Dallas?

A. I live in Dallas.

Q. How long have you lived there.

A. I've lived in Dallas since 1952 .

Q. Are you working there now?

A. I work at Wilson's Restaurant in downtown Dallas on the top of the National Bank Building.

Q. What's your present address in Dallas?

A. I live at 2920 Fifty-sixth Street. That's in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, Texas.

Q. Mr. Williams, have you ever met Jack Ruby?

A. Well, I've never met him. I've - uh - seen him and I'd know him if I see him .

Q. Would you be good enough to give us - tell us the circumstances of one of the occasions when you met Mr. Ruby?

A. Well in November, in the beginning of November in the ^{that} year/President Kennedy was assassinated, I did see Jack Ruby - although I didn't know him at that time - I did see - know him really at that time I did see him outside of a club in North Dallas. Uh - the circumstances were that this was a club - the name of it was the ~~McCluskey~~ ^{Mikado} Club which is now closed. I was in there having some fun ~~at~~ ^{at} the ~~same~~ party, you know, a gay party and we were to - uh - see some girls/ Mr. Jack Ruby was to furnish for us, and we were to a drink, sit around have a good time. Well, everybody has a good time so you know what a good time is. I have to say - uh - that/^{at}this was a club where both white and colored attended here in Dallas. And it was well known - uh - as an after-hours spot and - uh - I was in one of the various rooms that they have there with a girl - uh - talking and smoking, and when this - this - this guy dressed in plain clothes/^{came in} and very roughly told me to sit down. I didn't pay him any attention, although he was white I didn't pay him too much attention so he left the room and then he came back. And he came down, he came back and seen that I was still standing, well he told me to sit down. He told me very roughly to sit down, and - uh - I just looked at him again and then he pushed me down in the chair ^{I thought} (xx) I told

you to sit down" he said. So I began to talk for myself - -
 I - I attempted to get up and to say something for myself.
 And, from out of nowhere come a bunch of guys that began to
 rough me up. One of them hit me in the rear but I have a
 place (xxxxx) now where - uh - he hit me. And I believe I
 was choked into unconsciousness and when I awoke, I was on
 the outside of the Club on the porch. Uh - then I was taken
 and hand-cuffed - uh - to a car, an ordinary car. It was
 not a police car - I can use the word it was an off-duty car.
 Uh - myself and ^{the - uh} the guy who owned the place - uh - shall I
 say his name?

Q. Surely.

A. The guy that owned the place is known as "Beau Jack" and
 the bar-tender, we were taken to a car. We were put in the
 back seat of the car and - uh - but - uh - there was somebody
 already in the car when we got to it. And this guy was sit-
 ting in the front seat of the car. He's a big, heavy-set fel-
 - uh - low/only at first I didn't recognize ~~him~~ ^{him}. But then,
 ing - gettin' in the car, I was very much interested in getting
 all the information I ~~could~~ ^{could} ~~about~~ who was in the car, and who
 and so forth like that at last
 was drivin'/ because ~~usually~~ ^{usually} I wanted to do something about
 one of these raids that they were having because, in this town,
 whenever there's a raid on an after hours club, nobody ~~is~~ ^{'s} picked
 up in a regular police car, ^{its} always in a private car or something
 like that that belongs to one of the off-duty policemen, and you

can't very well prosecute if - uh - or get anything
on 'em unless you - uh - as I said, unless you ^{were} actually
in a police car, or something like that. And I began
taking notice of who was in the car, their faces and
trying to hear names. And from the driver of the car,
who was a fellow of rather small stature - I would say
about 4 - uh - 5' 8" - uh - called the guy that was sit-
ting on the right hand side - not on the driver's side,
but on the passenger's side of the front seat, called him
Mr. Aroet why we didn't get you in this. He ^{They} say "Well,
you gotta know somebody." They talked about various things
on the way - mostly - uh - the conversation was where I
couldn't too much hear it, but I never heard the guy called
"Rube" ^{other}
"Roet" call the/man's name, but I did get to see his face.
Well, when we - when we got down town, the - uh - the guy
that was called "Rube" whom I knew by then knew ~~that-it~~
it was the Jack Ruby who had funny stuff so many times with
funny girls for us - uh - at the various, at the various
clubs where we would have our - where we would have ^a party. Er-
Came on into the station with us, and he stopped down at
the desk and we were taken on into a room and - uh - beginning
to be - uh - asked our names and so forth like that and began
to be ~~booked~~ ^{booked.} Well, at that time, I was booked for - uh -
resisting arrest, violation of curfew, and investigation ~~for~~ the
use of narcotics, and subsequently I was put into a jail cell. I

stayed there a total of three days until I could get
 someone to - to get me out. On getting out I learned
 that the charge of - uh - investigation for narcotics
 was not even mentioned. All I had to pay for - or all
 that was paid for was the violation of the curfew and
 the - uh - uh - uh - resisting of arrest. Uh - a
 couple of weeks passed on to the assassin - Ruby assassi-
 the
 nation of/President Kennedy. And, after that time, a lot
 of things began to happen. We, of course, ^{would} discuss the- uh -
 various aspects of what reasons - why Kennedy did - the as-
 sassin^{and a}ation and so forth, and - um - as time went by/new
 development came in from the police department and so
 forth, and we'd always talk about those things. I was
 working at the (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) Restaurant at
 that time, and on the day that - that - the man who Jack
 Ruby was identified as being the man who shot Oswald in
 the - uh - in the jail, that particular day - uh - there
 was the evening preceding that day, I'd gotten off ^{from work} /at noon,
^{-uh-}
 and had walked up to Main and Harwood, which is/at the back
 side of the city jail ~~that's down~~ of Dallas, Texas, and - uh -
 I had seen this heavy-set guy-uh-standing on the corner and
 I had passed him right by. There's a liquor store there and
^{up there}
 he was just standing ~~right~~ gazing over - on the television
 and, and
 cameras-/things that were over there in front of the jail
^{-uh-}
 house, and I noticed him, and I walked on by being - uh, think-

ing about it, I thought I'd seen him before. And so I turned around and got a good look at him, and this was Jack Ruby. And I (~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~) he was one of the guys that was in the car and was not arrested at the time that I was ~~XXXXXX~~ arrested, and he had been free and I wasn't, so it made me kind of ^{he had been -} ~~kind of~~ angry, but I remember him standing there and just looking across the street. I went on to a party that night, and had a good time and - uh - oh about eleven o'clock - uh - the next day I was taken home from the party. And - uh - when I got home - uh - my room-mate was lookin' at TV and it was on about the fact that Oswald had been shot by Jack Ruby. And I was surprised, and I just set there, and I looked and I discussed with my room-mate, and I said "You mean this actually happened?" He said "Yes, it happened." I said "When?" He told me it happened about 9:30 that ~~even-~~ing, something like that. I say "Yeah?" I looked and I kept looking - and it begin to show various pictures of - of Jack Ruby and - uh - and of the - uh - killing and/all the incidents that surrounded the - uh surrounded the Kennedy assassination and the picture of Tippit was shown-picture of Tippit was shown

Reel 30 Take 110

(background conversation about having a cigarette- taking it on camera)
and my room-mate was watching TV, and as I came in, I began to watch TV also, and they were re-playing the killing of

Oswald. And I said, "Man, when did this happen?" He said
 first hetalked
 "Happened this morning, I guess"..... 'bout noon ~~xxxxxxx~~...
 really
 He didn't know/what time - he had just got watchin' himself
 actually
 and - uh - he said that - uh - I said "Man, did this guy ~~really~~
 kill him on TV?" He said, "Yes, right on TV." I said "Yeah?"
 So they begin to show - uh - different pictures of the people
 involved, Tippit, and all of them, and, as I set there I looked
 and I said "Why I've seen this guy before, this Tippit guy, why
 I've seen before. He said "Oh man you haven't ." "Yes, I
 have, I've seen him before ". I said "You remember the night
 when I was arrested over there at the Mika - at the Mikado Club?"
 Well,
 He say, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, I remember." I say, "~~thx~~, that guy,
 Tippit was the guy that was drivin' the car and Ruby was in
 the front seat with him." I said, "Man, they're friends." He
 said, "What?" I said "They are friends." I said "- or some-
 thin'" I said "One of them likes the other or somethin, something
 those, those were
 is going on there." I said "I swear, man, ~~they~~ ~~xxx~~ the same
 man,
 two people...." He say "Oh/ it couldn't be (~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~)
 that
 it is not the love behind the President/~~he~~ kill him for, it's -
 it's on account of that boy Tippit. I said, "Well, man I swear..."
 Well, being exciged over the story, you know, and over finally
 comin' up with a reason why ~~xxxx~~-uh - ~~xxxx~~ he would kill him,
 why-uh - Ruby would kill Oswald, I began to tell all my friends
 about it. Uh - and it got to my supervisor on the job who was
 the director - was the director of the new (~~xxxxxxx~~) Restaurant
 at that time, Helen Corbett. And she told me I should keep my

had
mouth shut, that whatever/happened that had any relation-
ship to the - uh - uh Kennedy assassination or (to) any of
the events connected with it, that I shouldn't say any-
thing about it. Well, that was just too much for me to
- to keep so I - uh - kept telling it everywhere I would
go. And - uh - I had a telephone at my house, where I
stayed, and - uh - one evening I got home, and the - uh -
the phone rang and - uh - it was - the person on the other
end of the phone said he was a representative from/the
-uh - Melvin Belli, ^{and} ~~from~~ his association, that they want-
ed to talk with me, and could I arrange for a place where
they could come and talk with me, and I told them "Yes."
So I then thought, I said "Well, I guess they could meet
me at the Green Gate". And so I told them, I said, "Well,
you'll find the Green Gable open (xxxxxxxxxxxx) meet me
there about 10:30. And if they want to talk there, we can
talk there. If they don't, we can go some place else. So,
this was about - uh - this was, this was, this was about
about - uh -uh- eight or nine in the evening, and then about
ten - ~~about~~ ten o'clock I got out of the house to - uh - go
down (xxxxxxxxxx xxx) to meet this guy, and I told him that
I would be around and so forth like that, well, as I walked
out of the house, there were a number of police cars out
there, and - uh - they were asking people and I understand
they had been knocking on doors, they just hadn't gotten to
mine yet - uh - uh - ^{who} who/they were, and one of them stopped

me and asked me who I was, and I told him who I was. My name was Harold Richard Williams. And so they told me to get in the car. ~~and~~ So I got in the car and we went downtown to the city, the City Jail, and - uh - ^{little} they took me upstairs into this (xxxx) room. And they were all sitting there - must be like eating at a dinner party were sitting there - and I waited for a while and then - uh - in walks Sheriff Decker, and I know this is Sheriff Decker because I have seen him on many occasions in person and I've seen - uh - uh -uh-uh- I've seen him on film, and I knew who it was. And then I was introduced to Sheriff Decker as "This is the guy who has been going around telling all those lies about - uh - knowing that - uh - Ruby and- uh - uh - uh - Tippit were friends. And so, knowing what that was about/I-I-I ^{I mean} got ~~plenty~~ scared, I ^{plenty} got/scared. So, the Secretary came in with the-uh- with the little instrument that - uh - records what he say. She takes down what he's sayin' the way - and t/- uh - they began askin' me a series of questions from a sheet of paper. And these questions were asked all in the negative form, and some of the questions were this - uh - "You don't - uh - you don't - uh - you don't - uh - you haven't ever seen - uh - Jack Ruby before, have you?" And I/said, "Yes." Said - uh "You haveN't seen Tippit before, have you?" And I ^{have} said, "Yes, I/~~x~~ seen him before."/He was the guy that was drivin' the car when I was arrested," I said, "you all got

on
that/- got that on record when I was arrested at the
NikadoClub." And - uh - they said - uh-uh - they never
did ask me did I know him, Jack Ruby, or did I know Tip-
pit, they just asked me had I - had I - in a negative
way, had I ever seen him before, and to each on of those
questions I replied "Yes." Well, uh 'den they hand me
this piece of paper to sign, and before I could sign it,
and I was thinkin' I wasn't going to sign it anyway, before
-uh -
I could sign it, /some ~~mtm~~body informed Decker well, no
we shouldn't get his signature, (xxxxx) this, we should just
get this for our information, so - uh - uh - about that time
uh - the conversation... And so then Sheriff Decker walked ov-
er to me and told me that - uh - that if I did say anything
about - uh - his interview, about any of the gvents that I
knew connectad with the assassination, that it would be very
easy for him to bring back up the charge ~~mtm~~ ^{for} investigation
for narcotics and make it work , and so with that they wanted
to let me go and I asked them to take me to the Green Gate
and they took me out there. When I got out there I met this
representative of uh - uh from -uh - uh the - uh Belli associ-
ate. Well, it was quite late. They asked me why I had been
late. I told them that I was late because I'd been down town
talking with Sheriff Decker. And he said, "Well if you've
been talking to Sheriff Decker, I don't think we want to talk
and he came told me
to you". So he made a hasty phone call ~~in~~ back and he said: "No,"

he said, "we don't want to talk to you." And so - uh- I - uh
I left then and went on home and/wasn't bothered any much too
more - too much more by - uh by these people, by the people
from down town , uh -'cept one day on the job -uh- during the
time that the Warren Committee was investigating I was intro-
duced to a man - uh - uh by Mrs.Helen Carter, Miss Helen Car-
ter who is Director of the restaurant down there, and when
he talked to me about (xxxxx) and I was reluctant to talk
to him about the-what I knew about it, but all he wanted to
know - uh - was, did I see Jack Ruby in jail while I was
there, on the night that I was arrested. And I told him: "No
I didn't see him ." Uh - anything else?

Q. Mr. Williams, are you sure that the two men in the front
seat of that unmarked police car early in November 1963 were
Officer J. D. Tippit and Jack Ruby?

A. I am sure. I have no doubt, and I have no qualms about this
at all. I am sure because I wanted to pay particular attention
to who was in the car, and who the officers were. And I tell
you something else: the officer in charge of the investigation
at that time, when I was arrested at the Mikado Club, was
Blankenship. And I got that information - I wanted to know
to town -
who I was going/down town with because I wanted to - for one
time - to do something about these investigations which were
just netting them some money - and, and - nothing for us. So
I - I - I- I'm sure it was ~~because~~ because I wanted to remember the
faces and get

names if I possibly could, because I wanted to do some-
 from that
 thing about it, and I remembered (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Reel 30 Take 111

Q. Mr. Williams, did Jack Ruby have any relationship with
 the Mikado Club?

A. Yes, he had a relationship with the Mikado Club. He
 furnished girls for a show that we had at the Club. Uh - he -
 when you
 uh - this was, this was his usual job. I mean ~~we~~ wanted some
 why you /Well,
 girls, ~~we~~ got Jack Ruby. / I mean we had a standing contract
 with - whith - w/ith Ruby to have us furnish, to have him
 furnish us girlsover there for - for our show. And- and - uh
 some of the police officers, they'd drop by and , and come in
 and see the show. I mean it was after hours, you know, after
 the places down town were closed, well, they come out there in -
 in our neighborhood, and to our Club and - uh - they'd have
 these shows and have these gay times, and - uh - just about
 anything you wanted to go on, would go on, and the police
 were
 officers ~~would be~~ right there...some of them we knew, some
 of them we didn't.

(background conversation)

Reel 31 Take 112

Q. Mr. Williams, what was Jack Ruby's relationship to the
 Mikado Club?

A. Well, he - he was a - furnish girls for the show that we
 had over there - uh - everybody would - um - that was one of

things that he would do, I mean - ev - everybody would come in, including police officers - off-duty police, they would come in and see the show. Practically everything went on over there - uh - like - uh - I mean dope, I mean you could you know, I mean, you could, you could light a weed, you know, if you wanted one. Uh - you could get booze, or you could buy a girl if you wanted to buy one - you could buy one there, any kind you wanted. You could buy a colored or you could buy a white one. Some of them were show girls, and some of them were know all about this, and - uh - the interesting thing, though, was the conversation - to me - ---- the conversation between Ruby and - uh - Tippit on the way down town when I was arrested that night. I mean, not only did these guys act like they were friends - well they had to be when he was in the car with them; they had to be friends - he was in the car with Tippit - they had to be friends, but I - I think, really, that maybe they were a little bit more to it than just friends, maybe they knew each other intimately, you know. They could have because uh - uh - I mean, after all, the car is just so wide, you don't have to sit in the middle of the seat, where Ruby sat, you know; you don't have to do that. Uh- when first we got in the car he was against the window, but then he moved over, I mean and they talked in some hushed tones, and I didn't get to hear everything that they had to say, but I do know that his relationship ^{with} at the Club was, at that Club and several other

clubs: he would furnish rooms; anybody could come that wanted to come there after hours and see ^{the} a performance if that's what they want to see, uh - drink some booze, if they wanted to drink the booze; be with the women later on if they want to be with 'em 'n which - whatever you want you could get there. (That's about that.)

Q. Since November 24th, of course/ you've seen pictures of Jack Ruby, and of course you've seen pictures of Officer J. D. Tippit, is there any doubt in your mind that the two men you saw in the car that evening in November were Jack Ruby and Officer J. D. Tippit?

A. I'd have to say this again: there is no doubt in my mind that these were not the two people. There's no doubt in it, these - the - the - were, they were Jack Ruby and Officer J. D. Tippit. And, as I said before, the reason why I remembered so well, the reason why I got put it together so well in my mind wa... I wanted to remember who it was in this car so I could ask them if everything - to uh- uh - to show somebody. That's really what I wanted ~~them~~ to do because I was tired of being uh - uh - of paying out my money, you know -for - for the different offenses and - and - and it never being brought to trial or anything - nobody else being given... Some time I'd go - uh - be - uh - uh - in another club, and they'd ^{don't} bust the club and I ~~didn't~~ even know who paid my bail - my bond who got me out -/I'd just be out, you know. Then some time later some guy would come up and say "You owe me 45 or 50 dol-

lars from the time we got you out of jail" or something like that. I just got tired of payin' that money, so this time I was gonna get me some evidence. And I saw J. D. Tippit drivin' the car; I saw Jack Ruby sitting in the car with him; and this happened all the way from the Mikado Club on Thomas Avenue to the City Jail downtown Main and Harwood. And I had plenty of time to observe; and these are the men that I observed.

Reel 31 Take 113

Q. Mr. Williams, what is your full name? Do you live here in Dallas? Are you working in Dallas now? Did you ever meet Jack Ruby? Would you tell us the circumstances regarding one occasion when you did see Jack Ruby? Would you tell us about one time when you did see Jack Ruby. What is your present address in Dallas, Mr. Williams? Are you sure that the two men in the front seat of that unmarked police car were Officer J. D. Tippit (Do that one over. Yeah) and Jack Ruby? ...Sure that the two men in the front seat of that unmarked police car were Officer J. D. Tippit and Jack Ruby? Mr. Williams, did Jack Ruby have any relationship with the - () Mikado Club? What was Jack Ruby's relationship with the Mikado Club, Mr. Williams? What was Jack Ruby's relationship with the Mikado Club? Since November 22nd and November 24th of course you have seen many pictures of Officer J. D. Tippit and Jack Ruby. Is there any doubt in your mind at all that the two men you saw in that unmarked police car in November 1963 were Officer Tippit and Jack Ruby?

Since November 22nd and November 24th 1963 of course
've
you ~~xxxx~~ had opportunities to see many pictures of
Officer Tippit and of Jack Ruby. Is there any doubt
in your mind now that the two men in the front seat
of the car that evening in November '63 were J. D.
Tippit and Jack Ruby? (background conversation)

Q. Has anyone in the Dallas police establishment
asked you not to talk about what you saw in Novem-
ber?

A. Well, sure Decker didn't ask me not to talk to
-uh- anybody about it. He put it where that I just
wouldn't hardly talk about it. He said that he
could very easily bring up the investigation of -
uh - uh - using narcotics against me. He could
prove that and - uh - well you know how that is,
you know. Uh - supposed to be a free country
in this case I hope it is

(background conversation - We'll just look at
each other - nod occasionally. Don't move your lips.)