

JACK L. RUBY - PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION:

Despite an outwardly friendly and ingratiating manner, this patient seethes with hostility. Much of the time he is able to keep it under control, but his controls are brittle and when they break, the hostility erupts with volcanic force.

He appears to be incapable of establishing deep and meaningful relationships with others. The patient impresses this Examiner as an individual who does not recognize subtleties or nuances in personal relationships; people are likely to be either friends or foes.

Because of his deep-seated feelings of inadequacy he is acutely aware of his position as a member of a minority group, against which bigotry and prejudice is frequently directed. Doubtless, this was an important factor in the high regard which he had for President Roosevelt and President Kennedy. The fact that President Kennedy was, himself, a member of a minority group and his determined stand on civil rights had a special impact on this patient.

There is no evidence of psychotic thinking at this time - no actual breaks with reality are discernible. He impresses me, however, as an individual whose adjustment is tenuous and in whom, under overwhelming stress, a dissociative state could readily develop, which would permit unconscious needs and impulses to assume complete momentary dominance.

The patient's psychological relationship to President Kennedy was a very unusual one. Apparently he was not merely the idealized and idolized father figure as the head of State, but he was, in addition, seen as the leading member of the perfect family group. The patient, in all probability because of his own wretched early family life, became, in a sense, a vicarious, participating member of this group. This type of identification with a nation's ruling family group was formerly seen commonly in many European and Oriental countries. It is far less usual in the United States.

An effort has been made to reconstruct the actions and reactions of the patient, following the President's assassination, from his own account and those of his sister Eva and his roommate, George Senator. He was in the newspaper office when the tragic announcement was made. He had already been greatly disturbed that day by the black bordered advertisement in the Dallas Morning News, over the signature of Bernard Weisman.

According to the patient, when he heard the news of the President's murder a lot of fragmented ideas came into consciousness, - he would have to leave Dallas, the town was ruined, "I felt like a nothing person, like the world ended - I did not want to go on living anymore." He telephoned his sister Eva, who was crying hysterically. He then called several