

Dec. 2, 1963

Mr. Jack Ruby
 Mr. Thomas Howard, Attorney for the Above

Gentlemen:

I read today in the New York Times of mail received at the Dallas County Jail praising Mr. Ruby for murdering Lee Harvey Oswald. According to the report, 70 out of 75 letters commended Mr. Ruby for his action. May I add my note here to the 5 letters condemning Mr. Ruby's action.

No matter what the circumstances, no matter how much anger and hostility we felt toward Oswald, the fact remains that none of us had the right to take his life. The man was not proven guilty; as an accused murderer, he was entitled to a fair trial. Moreover, his trial might have thrown further light on the whole question of President Kennedy's assassination. In lieu of these facts, Mr. Ruby's action is totally reprehensible.

I, for one, have my doubts as to Mr. Ruby's emotional involvement in this case. I am inclined to think that his involvement was much more than purely emotional. Of course, this is mere speculation; after all, Mr. Ruby (by the justice and charity of the law) is entitled to that very trial which he denied to his victim. However, I sincerely hope that the prosecution punctures your plea of temporary insanity, Mr. Howard; it doesn't seem to hold water in the face of the fact that Mr. Ruby was lingering around the Dallas jail for a day and a half prior to his "insane" act.

The whole affair is a discredit to us American people. Mr. Ruby has succeeded only in making matters worse. If he is concerned, as the Times article reports, about what the public thinks of him, he will not be comforted by the fact that a large segment of the American people heartily disapprove