

Defense Reports Test Showed Brain Damage

A Galveston psychiatrist believes a "brain wave" test shows Jack Ruby suffered organic brain damage, defense lawyers told Judge Joe E. Brown Monday.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Martin Towler of John Sealy Hospital, was one of three who analyzed results of neurological tests given Ruby in a Dallas clinic Jan. 28-29.

A defense lawyer, Joe Tonahill of Jasper, said Dr. Towler's report supports their contention that Ruby suffered from a form of epilepsy marked by "explosive conduct of a violent nature."

Assistant Dist. Atty. William F. Alexander later charged that defense lawyers tried to paint a false picture of Dr. Towler's status.

"They want people to think he is a psychiatrist for the court, but he isn't," Alexander said. "He is a psychiatrist for the defense. He was hired for the defense."

Tonahill said Dr. Towler consulted with an Illinois specialist before preparing his report.

"They are in agreement," Tonahill added.

Tonahill made no mention of two Dallas psychiatrists who also analyzed results of the tests. They are Dr. John Holbrook of Beverly Hills Hospital and Dr. Robert Stubblefield of Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Towler represented the defense; Dr. Holbrook, the prosecution; and Dr. Stubblefield, Judge Brown.

The Dallas News reported at the time that informed sources told it:

— Dr. Towler requested a second electroencephalographic (brain wave) test in which electrical impulses are measured.

— Dr. Holbrook and Dr. Stubblefield concluded Ruby had not suffered organic damage which could have led him to kill Oswald, but Dr. Towler said he wanted to consult with a specialist before announcing his diagnosis.

Defense lawyers termed the report inaccurate.

Prosecutors refused to comment Monday on findings of Dr. Holbrook and Dr. Stubblefield, but did say they still believe Ruby was legally sane when he shot Oswald.