

Attention Turns Briefly to Ruby

Jack Ruby, a man who has always loved the spotlight, got a chance Wednesday to stand briefly in its glare.

Ruby had gone almost unnoticed during selection of the jury which must decide whether he is guilty of murder because he shot Lee Harvey Oswald.

Opposing lawyers had commanded attention with their verbal outbursts and shouting matches.

Ruby's opportunity came seconds before testimony began.

Judge Joe B. Brown turned to the balding, 52-year-old manager of a downtown striptease club and said, "Mr. Ruby, will you stand up, please?"

DRESSED IN a neat blue suit, Ruby arose at his counsel table. He appeared pale from his confinement in county jail. Melvin Belli, the chief defense lawyer, stood beside him.

Judge Brown turned to Dist. Atty. Henry Wade.

"Mr. Wade, will you arraign the defendant?" Judge Brown asked.

Wade walked to the defense table and, standing two feet away, faced Ruby.

The district attorney started reading the indictment returned Nov. 26, four days after the presidential assassination and two days after the Oswald slaying.

"The State of Texas vs. Jack Rubenstein, alias Jack Ruby . . .," Wade began.

Belli interrupted to say, "He answers to the name of Jack Ruby."

Wade resumed reading the indictment:

" . . . Did unlawfully, voluntarily and with malice aforethought kill Lee Harvey Oswald by shooting him with a gun."

WADE FALTERED. Somewhat flustered, he told Judge Brown, "I can't make out the signature of the grand jury foreman."

Judge Brown glanced at the indictment.

"Durwood Sutton," the judge said.

Then Judge Brown turned to Ruby again.

"Mr. Ruby, what is your plea to that indictment?"

Ruby bowed slightly at the waist and, in a low voice, answered, "Not guilty."

BELLI SAID HE wanted the record to show that Ruby and his lawyers were entering a double-barreled plea—not guilty and not guilty by reason of temporary insanity.

"This court is interested only in whether his plea is guilty or not guilty," Judge Brown snapped.

Ruby sat down.

Western Union Figures Spur Ruby Trial Debate

Four numerals on a Western Union form provided a major issue in the Jack Ruby murder trial Wednesday.

The numerals — 11:17 — appear on the form along with the date Nov. 24.

Attorneys introduced it as evidence before the jury which must decide whether Ruby committed murder when he shot Lee Harvey Oswald in the City Hall basement.

Doyle Lane, a Western Union supervisor, said he stamped the form with an automatic timing device when Ruby wired \$25 to Karen Lynn Bennett. She stripped in Ruby's downtown nightclub under the name "Little Lynn."

Lane testified this meant Ruby was in the downtown Western Union office at 11:17 a.m. Nov. 24—about four minutes before he shot Oswald in the City Hall basement.

Ruby could have been in the office as late as one second before 11:18 a.m., Lane added, explaining that the timing device changes its numerals each minute.

The shooting took place about 11:21 a.m. Homicide Detective J. R. Lea-

velle said he measured the distance from the Western Union office to a ramp leading into the City Hall basement. It was 339 feet.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers differed immediately over significance of the testimony.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's assistants noted Lane testified Ruby appeared "cool, calm and outwardly collected" when he wired the money to the Fort Worth stripper. They said this would contradict the defense contention that he was in a state of "complete emotional collapse" as a result of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Defense lawyers said the testimony supported their contention that Ruby's mind "snapped" as he walked near the City Hall. Had he been planning to shoot Oswald, they argued, Ruby would have remained near the City Hall instead of going to the Western Union office.

The lawyers, Melvin Belli and Joe Tonahill, noted that Oswald could have left the City Hall, en route to the county jail, before Ruby reached the basement.