

Sergeant Says Ruby Indicated Slaying Plotted for Two Days

A Dallas police sergeant quoted Jack Ruby Friday as saying he killed Lee Harvey Oswald "to let the world know that Jews have guts . . . and to spare Jacqueline Kennedy from having to testify."

Police Sgt. P. T. Dean said Ruby also indicated he plotted the slaying for two days.

Dean's testimony electrified the courtroom, where Ruby is standing trial on a charge of murdering Oswald in the City Hall basement Nov. 24 while millions watched on television.

Defense attorneys Melvin Belli, Joe Tonahill and Phil Bursleson shouted objections to the testimony. They claimed it violated Ruby's constitutional rights.

JUDGE Joe B. Brown ruled, however, that jurors had a right to hear the testimony.

Despite warnings from Judge Brown, attorneys clashed repeatedly throughout the officer's testimony.

Belli implied that prosecutors told Dean what to say while on the stand and that the officer had "memorized" his testimony.

Assistant Dist. Atty. William F. Alexander accused Belli of trying to distort Dean's testimony and of making "dirty remarks" while the officer was on the stand.

Dean said Ruby was asked, "Jack, why did you do it?" after he shot Oswald. This was two

days after Oswald's arrest as the No. 1 suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy.

DEAN SAID Ruby replied that he "was shaken and emotional and despondent since the assassination of President Kennedy and the shooting of the police officer (Patrolman J. D. Tippit) and that his sister was just out of a hospital and was nervous and emotional and that he could see no sense in a long and lengthy trial, which was sure to bring the death penalty, even though he believed in the due process of law."

The sergeant said Ruby also stated in his rambling answer that he wanted to spare President Kennedy's widow the emotional strain of returning to Dallas to testify in Oswald's trial.

ACTUALLY, before Oswald was slain, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade had stated it was unlikely he would need Mrs. Kennedy as a witness while prosecuting the 24-year-old assassination suspect.)

Dean said Ruby, the 52-year-old manager of a downtown striptease club, gave one other reason for appointing himself as executioner:

"I guess I wanted to let the world know that Jews have guts." Ruby is a Jew.

Dean also quoted Ruby as saying he first "thought he would

kill him (Oswald)" on Nov. 22, the day of the assassination.

RUBY WENT to police headquarters that night and saw Oswald there.

"He said that, when he noticed the sarcastic sneer on Oswald's face . . . that's when he decided to kill him," the officer related.

Dean said Ruby appeared relatively composed after shooting Oswald, but broke into tears when he mentioned President Kennedy.

"He appeared very remorseful when he talked of President Kennedy," the police sergeant told jurors. "There were tears in his eyes."

"Big tears were rolling down his cheeks?" Belli asked.

"No, sir, but there were tears in his eyes," the officer replied.

DEAN SAID he questioned Ruby after escorting Forrest Sorrels, chief of the Secret Service office here, to the jail area where Ruby was taken after he shot Oswald.

Belli emphasized that Dean testified he went to this area about 11:30 a.m. Nov. 24—some 10 minutes after the shooting—but stated in a report to Police Chief Jess Curry that he went there at "approximately 12 noon."

Alexander argued that the words "approximately 12 noon" were broad enough to cover 11:30 a.m. Dean said he "lost track of time" in the turmoil which followed the shooting.