

MIND EXPERT SAYS RUBY WAS INSANE

He Asserts Defendant Had a 'Psychotic' Experience

By HOMER BIGART

Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, March 10—A leading psychiatrist testified today that in his opinion Jack L. Ruby was legally insane when he shot Lee H. Oswald.

Dr. Manfred Guttmacher, of Baltimore, was the strongest witness the defense had produced.

The jurors succumbed to drowsiness and distraction during previous hours of medical testimony. But they listened with apparent fascination as the elderly psychiatrist gave them a tour of what he depicted as the tortured mind of the defendant.

The prosecution could not shake Dr. Guttmacher from this flat statement:

"I don't think he [Ruby] knew the difference between right and wrong or understood the nature and consequences of his act" — the killing of President Kennedy's alleged assassin.

Dr. Guttmacher called the 52-year-old night-club operator "a very abnormal individual with a very abnormal personality structure, a very weak ego structure."

Big Emotional Impact

The assassination of President Kennedy imposed on Ruby a tremendous emotional impact, Dr. Guttmacher said.

"He was struggling to keep his sanity during this period. He felt an unusual degree of involvement in the events," the psychiatrist said.

"When he came upon the perpetrator, Oswald, disintegration began and he experienced a psychotic episode," he testified.

Dr. Guttmacher said he could not be sure that Ruby had suffered a seizure of psychomotor epilepsy, as other defense alienists have indicated. His diagnosis was that Ruby suffered "a fragmentation of the ego, an episodic discontrol," and was in a state of "diminished consciousness" when he shot Oswald Nov. 24.

"All his defenses crumbled," Dr. Guttmacher said. "The hostile aggressive part of his make-up, which is very strong, became focused on this individual [Oswald]."

The prosecution interrupted frequently in an attempt to discredit Dr. Guttmacher.

Explains a 'Facade'

"A what?" Assistant Prosecutor William F. Alexander demanded in drawing incredulity when the psychiatrist said that Ruby's swaggering and boastfulness were only a "facade."

Tolerantly, Dr. Guttmacher explained that a facade meant a mask.

Similar interruptions, plus charges that Dr. Guttmacher was "rambling on," gave the chief defense counsel, Melvin M. Belli, a chance to depict the prosecution staff as being unlettered and unworthy "of a sophisticated city like Dallas."

Disruptive Attorney Henry M. Wade finally rose, pointed a finger at Mr. Belli and addressed Judge Joe B. Brown.

"Are you gonna let that lawyer refer to us as ignorant, as ignoramuses?" he cried.

"This man called the people of Dallas peasants," Mr. Belli retorted, pointing at Mr. Alexander.

"And he took the Lord's name in vain." Mr. Belli's assistant, Joe H. Tonahill, shouted.

"Everybody sit down," Judge Brown ordered.

Dr. Guttmacher testified that Ruby was "a mental cripple" who "was carrying an insufferable emotional load."

Ruby felt crushed by the assassination of the President and spoke of the President "in terms that a person in love would use," Dr. Guttmacher said. He recalled that Ruby had twice told him, "I feel for that man."

"Does this indicate a latent homosexuality?" Mr. Belli asked.

"There is a suggestion of it, but I hesitate to remark upon it because it is not really germane to the issue," Dr. Guttmacher said.

Could Ruby take the witness stand this week, Mr. Belli asked the psychiatrist.

"I wouldn't want to predict his reaction," Dr. Guttmacher replied. "He is a very vulnerable individual and he might either crack up on the witness stand or present a more normal aspect than I would expect."

"I think this man could become flagrantly psychotic," he said.

May Not Call Ruby

"Self-destructive?" Mr. Belli asked.

"Well, I can't predict that, but he might become self-destructive after going on the stand," Dr. Guttmacher replied.

Dr. Guttmacher said that Ruby's brothers and sisters, "with perhaps one exception, have all exhibited an abnormal degree of emotional instability."

"They are a quarrelsome, inflammable group—at one time feuding, at another making sacrifices for one another," he testified.

He said that he believed Ruby's shooting of Oswald was "a sudden momentary impulse," unpremeditated, committed while Ruby was in "a fugue state," his consciousness so dimmed as to preclude any memory of the crime.

"When did Ruby enter this fugue state?" Mr. Alexander asked sarcastically.

"When he walked down into the glare of the lights and Oswald suddenly appeared before him," Dr. Guttmacher replied.

Joined Corridor Crowd

Four minutes before the shooting, Ruby was in a Western Union office half a block away and seemed quite normal to the clerk who sold him a money order.

Ruby joined a crowd of newsmen in the basement corridor of the city police station just as Oswald was being transferred to the county jail.

Tonight Mr. Belli said that he had just about decided on the basis of Dr. Guttmacher's testimony not to call Ruby as a witness. He hopes to finish the case for the defense by tomorrow night.

This morning Oswald's mother attempted to enter the courtroom. She was promptly served with a subpoena as a state witness, a move designed to prevent her from being in the courtroom or commenting on the trial.

The jury, apparently fighting against boredom, heard medical testimony all day.

Dr. Martin L. Towler, University of Texas neurologist, testified that an examination of Ruby's brain waves proved Ruby had a psychomotor variant of epilepsy.

The defense contends that Ruby was in the throes of a brain seizure when he shot Oswald and that he was insane under the laws of Texas because at that moment he could not tell right from wrong.

Dr. Towler, under cross-examination by Mr. Wade, said he could offer no opinion whether Ruby was aware of the consequences of his act when he shot Oswald.

But he insisted the electroencephalograph tests proved that Ruby's brain was definitely abnormal, that the brain waves showed "seizure activity" and that during a seizure Ruby might have suffered a mental blackout.

The defense insists that Ruby has no memory of shooting Oswald.

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- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
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- Sullivan _____
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- Trotter _____
- Tele Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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 H. B.
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- The Evening Star _____
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