

NEWS EXCLUSIVE

Story Backed By Testimony

Testimony from psychiatrists during the Jack Ruby murder trial confirmed a Dallas News story which defense lawyers repeatedly attacked as false.

The exclusive story, published Jan. 31, discussed results of laboratory tests given Ruby as he awaited trial on a charge of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald.

The story quoted an informed source as saying:

Dr. John Holbrook and Dr. Robert Stubblefield, Dallas psychiatrists who served on the 3-man team which evaluated the tests, agreed they did not show significant organic brain damage or psychomotor epilepsy.

—Dr. Martin Towler of Galveston, the third member of the team, who was called as a defense witness, wanted to let an out-of-state expert examine results of "brain wave" tests before reaching a conclusion.

—A spinal tap showed no evidence of brain pressure or inflammation.

Defense attorneys termed the story "a malicious lie."

Testifying as a prosecution witness, Dr. Holbrook told jurors he "disagrees very strongly" with the contention of defense lawyers that Ruby has organic brain damage. He also ruled out psychomotor epilepsy and said he is convinced Ruby was legally sane when he shot Oswald.

Prosecutors also called Dr. Stubblefield as a witness. He said he concluded Ruby was sane when he examined the slayer.

Dr. Stubblefield said that, while he has read numerous electroencephalograms (results of "brain wave" tests), he does not consider himself an expert in this field.

The psychiatrist said he uses the services of Dr. Sheff Olinger of Dallas and accepts his conclusions.

Dr. Olinger, also called as a state witness, was present when Ruby underwent tests in the Dallas Neurological Clinic.

Assistant Dist. Atty. William F. Alexander asked Dr. Olinger:

"Will you tell us whether or not these two electroencephalograms (from Ruby's tests) indicate any organic brain damage?"

"Not in my opinion," the witness replied.

Dr. Olinger said he detected "minor" variations in Ruby's brain wave patterns, but considered them of little significance.

(The Dallas News story said these variations were found.)

Dr. Towler said he sent the results to Dr. Frederick Gibbs in Illinois since he regarded Dr. Gibbs as "the father of American electroencephalography" and wanted the benefit of his opinions.

Dr. Towler said Dr. Gibbs felt the tests showed "psychomotor variances" indicative of a form of epilepsy and he agreed with this conclusion.

Prosecution and defense witnesses agreed the spinal tap analysis showed no evidence of brain pressure or inflammation.