

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

# Story of the Shocking Moment

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN

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Shortly before noon on Sunday, June 7, Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, sat down opposite Jack Ruby, the convicted killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy.

For the next three hours and five minutes, the august and distinguished Chief Justice and the little guy from Chicago's slums—the little guy who never made it—talked about what happened that terrible weekend of last Nov. 22—

The weekend that started with the murder of the President on Friday and ended 48 hours later with Ruby firing a bullet into Oswald's abdomen in the basement of the Dallas City Jail.

From sources close to the Warren Commission in Washington, I obtained the transcript of what was said last June 7 in a neat but clinically cold interrogation room of the Dallas County Jail.

### THE THINGS UNSAID . . .

It is a fascinating document—fascinating for what it leaves unsaid, as well as for what it says.

~~person~~ persons including Ruby and Chief Justice War-

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- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American 1
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
- Date \_\_\_\_\_

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ten—were present in the interrogation room when Ruby began his recital. But eventually it was Jack Ruby who dominated.

He was told to tell his story, and he did, in thousands of words and hundreds of sentences, some of which rambled on to the point of being without sense.

But in the end, Jack Ruby told much about himself that day.

He opened the floodgates of his mind and unloosed a stream of consciousness that would have dazzled a James Joyce buff and enraptured a psychiatrist.

#### SMALL MAN, LARGE EGO

Jack Ruby bared to the Chief Justice his emotions, his fears, his triumphs and his ego—a large ego for such a small man.

And what of those who listened to him?

I read the transcript three times in one sitting. And it seemed to me that the Chief Justice and the Warren Commission's General Counsel, J. Lee Rankin, were acutely aware of the talk both here and in Europe that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy.

They took pains to prove to themselves and the world that no conspiracy existed. So perhaps the most important question contained in the 102-page transcript is this:

**CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN:** May I ask you this question, and this is one of the questions we came here to ask you. Did you know Lee Harvey Oswald prior to this shooting?

**RUBY:** That is why I want to ~~ask the~~ lie detector test. Just saying no isn't sufficient.

#### STICKS TO POINT

~~Through~~ his entire testimony Jack Ruby stuck to one theme: He had shot Oswald because he didn't want Mrs. Kennery, the President's widow, to be forced into the ordeal of testifying at the accused assassin's trial.

"I was never malicious toward this person (Oswald)," Ruby told the Chief Justice at one point. "No one else requested me to do anything.

"I never spoke to anyone about attempting to do anything," he continued. "No subversive organization gave me any idea. No underworld person made any effort to contact me. It all happened that Sunday morning."

The hint of conspiracy was very much in the air again when Mr. Rankin asked Ruby if he knew Officer J. D. Tippit, the policeman allegedly shot and killed by Oswald some 45 minutes after the assassination.

"I knew there was three Tippits on the force," Ruby replied. "The only one I knew used to work for the Special Services, and I am certain this wasn't the Tippit, this wasn't the man."

#### PUZZLING STATEMENT

So Jack Ruby swears he didn't know Officer J. D. Tippit. And this is rather strange. Because according to the Dallas police, Ruby knew every cop on the force.

Didn't Dallas authorities explain that it was because Ruby was so well known within the department that he was able to get so close to Oswald that Sunday morning? Didn't Dallas authorities explain that no policeman would think of questioning the presence of good old Jack Ruby?

Yet, Officer J. D. Tippit was a complete stranger to the man who prided himself on his close association with the Dallas police.

Despite Ruby's statement that he wasn't acquainted with Officer Tippit, Mr. Rankin pressed on.

"There was a story," Mr. Rankin told Ruby, "that you were seen sitting in your Carousel Club with Mr. (Bernard) Welsman, Officer Tippit, and another man who has been called a rich oil man, at one time shortly before the assassination. Can you tell us anything about that?"

#### WHO WAS IT?

Ruby answered the question with a question of his own:

"Who was the rich oil man?"

MR. RANKIN: Can you remember? We haven't been told. We are just trying to find out anything that you know about him.

RUBY: I am the one that made such a big issue of Bernard Welsman's ad. (The ad, extremely critical of President Kennedy, appeared in a Dallas newspaper the day of the assassination.) Maybe you do things to cov-

er up, if you are capable of doing it.

Ruby then launched into an account of visiting a Dallas club Saturday afternoon. But Mr. Rankin and Chief Justice Warren pressed him about reports of the meeting.

#### QUERIES WARREN

"How many days prior to the assassination was that?" Ruby asked.

"My recollection is that it was a week or two," the Chief Justice replied.

"Did anyone have any knowledge that their beloved President was going to visit here prior to that time, or what is the definite time that they knew he was coming to Dallas?" Ruby countered.

"Well, I don't know just what those dates are," Chief Justice Warren replied.

"I see," said Ruby. And at that point it almost appeared as if Ruby and Mr. Warren had changed places—that Ruby was the interrogator and the Chief Justice his witness.

#### UNAWED BY WARREN

Ruby then skipped on to his life in Chicago. And while he never admitted that the reported meeting took

place, he never directly de-  
nied it either.

If you get the impression  
from reading the transcript  
that Ruby wasn't the least  
bit awed by the Chief Justice  
of the U.S. Supreme Court,  
you are absolutely right.

About a third-of-the-way  
through his testimony, the  
ex-striptease impresario  
turned to the Chief Justice  
and asked:

"Is there any way of you  
getting me to Washington?"

One can almost picture the  
look of surprise and con-  
sternation that passed across  
Mr. Warren's face. For he  
said, quite simply:

"I beg your pardon?"

#### DOMINATED BY RUBY

At another point Ruby  
asked Mr. Warren if he knew  
a local disc jockey.

"I think I do not," the  
Chief Justice replied rather  
coolly.

Yes, indeed, Jack Ruby  
dominated—

dominated to the point  
where he engaged in an ar-  
gument with Joe Tonahill,  
one of his defense lawyers.

"You are lying, Joe Tona-  
hill," Ruby accused. "You are  
lying."

dominated to the point  
where Sheriff Bill Decker  
and the other law enforce-

ment officers left the room  
so that Ruby would con-  
tinue with his story.

dominated to the point  
that Mr. Warren promised  
Ruby he would have a lie  
detector test. And the Chief  
Justice made good on his  
promise. The test was ad-  
ministered last month.

#### 'I AM FINISHED'

Yet, there was a great deal  
of fear inside Jack Ruby  
that Sunday in June. He  
feared for his own life; he  
feared for the lives of his  
brothers and sisters.

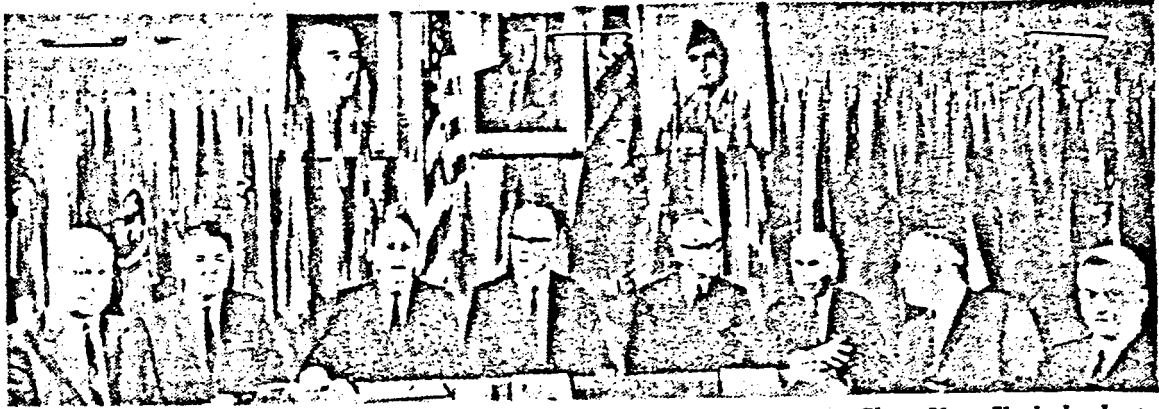
"When you leave here,"  
Ruby told Mr. Warren at one  
point. "I am finished. My  
family is finished."

And then, in perhaps his  
strangest statement of all,  
Jack Ruby, who had finally  
achieved the notoriety he al-  
ways longed for, said:

"You have a lost cause,  
Earl Warren. You don't  
stand a chance. They feel  
about you like they do about  
me, Chief Justice Warren."

But perhaps that state-  
ment wasn't so strange after  
all. What Jack Ruby had  
done was to put himself in  
the same boat as the Chief  
Justice of the U.S. Supreme  
Court.

Not bad for a little tough  
guy from Chicago's slums.



The Warren Commission. Left to right: Rep. Ford (R-Mich.); Rep. Boggs (D-La.); Sen. Russell (D-Ga.); Chief Justice Warren; Sen. Cooper (R-Ky.); John J. McCloy, New York banker; Allen Dulles, former CIA director, and J. Lee Rankin, counsel. Wirephoto from AP



As Ruby Fired Fatal Shot at Kennedy's Assassin

1963 the Dallas Times-Herald and Photographer Bob Jackson via AP Wirephoto