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- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
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His Own Lawyer Lied, Ruby Tells Warren

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN
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"Boys," said Jack Ruby to Chief Justice Earl Warren and his assorted assistants, "I am in a tough spot, I tell you that."

Which for the admittedly explosive Jack Ruby was stating his predicament in rather mild terms.

He has been condemned to die for the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's alleged assassin. He will be spared only if a higher court overturns his conviction of murder with malice.

MAKES PITCH

So Jack Ruby decided to make his pitch for clemency to the man at the top—Chief Justice Warren.

That the Chief Justice has disqualified himself from Ruby's case because of Mr. Warren's involvement with the investigation into President Kennedy's murder made no difference to the desperate little man languishing in a cell at the Dallas County Jail.

Jack Ruby had his plan—a plan of personal if indirect appeal to the Chief Justice.

He meant to carry out that plan, no matter what.

And this explains why he suddenly lashed out at Joe Tonahill, one of the lawyers who defended Ruby at his trial for murder.

What Mr. Tonahill did last June 7, while Ruby was being questioned by the Warren Commission, was to suggest that the party-faced club owner had been goaded into killing Oswald because of a conversation with a Dallas cop and a stripper named Kathy Kay.

The tall, beefy attorney expressed this view in a note which he scribbled and then tried to pass to someone in the interrogation room.

ASK FOR NOTE

But Ruby, displaying shrewdness and instinct for self-preservation that many might have thought him incapable of, spied the note and

- 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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asked Mr. Tonahill to let him read it.

"This (the conversation with the cop and the stripper) is the thing that started Jack in the shooting," Mr. Tonahill had written.

"You are lying," Ruby shouted at his attorney. "You are lying, because you know what motivated me. You want to make it that it was a premeditation."

And despite Mr. Tonahill's feeble protests, Ruby was right. The conversation with Kathy Kay and her policeman friend had taken place 36 hours before Oswald's murder. If Ruby had brooded



JOE TONNEHILL
Ruby's Lawyer

AP Photo

over the idea for that length of time, then the killing would have been premeditated.

So score one for Jack Ruby.

And notice how carefully Ruby reconstructs the actual shooting of Oswald as he was being led through the basement of the Dallas City Jail on his way to a waiting police van.

"I didn't sneak in (to the basement)," Ruby explained.

"I didn't crouch or hide behind anyone . . .

"I walked down those few steps, and there was the person (Oswald) that — I wouldn't say I saw red — I was a feeling I had for our beloved President and Mrs. Kennedy . . .

"Not that I wanted to be a hero . . ."

No, not a hero, something more than a hero. For as he told the Chief Justice a few minutes later:

"Now all these things of my background, I should have been the last person in the world to want to be a martyr. It happens, doesn't it, Chief Warren?"

Throughout Ruby's testimony to the Warren Commission there is the cultivation of one idea — that he murdered Oswald only because of his great admiration for President Kennedy and to spare Mrs. Kennedy the heartbreak of returning to Dallas for Oswald's trial.

As was brought out in that portion of the transcript printed yesterday in The Journal-American, Ruby did not bother to watch the Presidential motorcade.

And to see the President and First Lady, Ruby had only to walk out of the Dallas Morning News building, where he was busy placing an ad for his Carousel Club. The News building faced out onto the motorcade route.

"In the first place," he explained, "I don't want to go where there is big crowds. I can't explain it to you. If I was interested, I would have seen it on television, our beloved President and all the parade that transpired."

And early Saturday morning, the balding striptease club owner did something else rather strange for a man as emotionally shattered by the President's death as Ruby claimed to be —

He went to the office of a local newspaper and demonstrated a "twist board" for one of the employees.

I find it hard to reconcile the picture of Jack Ruby performing on a twist board less than 24 hours after the President's assassination with the bereaved figure of a man who walked around in a state of emotional shock