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Witness Tells A Misty and Strange Story

[Full Q. and A.—Pages 6, 7, 8]

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN

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The transcript of Jack Ruby's testimony to Chief Justice Earl Warren and other members of the Warren Commission probing the assassination of President Kennedy concludes today.

Previous portions of the testimony were printed Tuesday and yesterday.

In the testimony published today, there are these new facts:

1—Ruby told the Chief Justice that the murder of the President was the result of a plot, but said he wasn't part of it.

2—He evaded a direct answer when asked if he, Police Officer J. D. Tippit and two other men met in Ruby's Carousel Club "shortly before the assassination." Officer Tippit was shot and killed by Lee Harvey Oswald less than an hour after his alleged assassination of the President.

3—Ruby denied widely circulated reports that he visited Parkland Hospital, where the President died, on the day of the assassination.

4—Continuing to intimate that sinister forces, (Ruby mentioned the John Birch Society in this connection) are at work in Dallas, Ruby told Mr. Warren:

"You have a lost cause, Earl Warren. You don't stand a chance.

"They (not further identified) feel about you like they do about me."

No Identity for 'Plotters'

In his own rambling, sometimes vague way of testifying, Ruby dropped his bombshell towards the end of his interrogation by the Chief Justice and other members of the Warren Commission probing the President's murder.

"... At this moment," he told Mr. Warren, "there is a certain organization in this area that has been indoctrinated, that I am the one that was in the plot to assassinate our President."

The key words are Ruby's reference to "the plot."

The Washington Post and _____
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star _____
 New York Herald Tribune _____
 New York Journal-American
 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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AUG 20 1964

NOT RECORDED

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Handwritten notes:
30 to 40
at 8/2/64

Handwritten notes:
H. J. ...
R. L. ...

Handwritten initials:
F. B. I.

He is definite about this—that the plot did exist. Ruby does not identify those who conspired to murder John F. Kennedy in Dallas last Nov. 22.

But he is mortally afraid of being linked with them.

He is certain, for example, that the John Birch Society believes he was involved. This was brought out in his statement referring to the "certain organization in this area that has been indoctrinated . . ."

J. Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission's General Counsel, then asked Ruby:

"Would you tell us what this (the organization) is?"

"The John Birch Society," Ruby replied.

MR. RANKIN: Can you tell us what basis you have for that?

RUBY: Just a feeling of it.

Throughout his testimony to the Warren Commission, Ruby steadfastly denied that he was part of any plot to assassinate Mr. Kennedy. And he denied as well that he was acting as part of a conspiracy when he shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's alleged assassin.

"I am as innocent regarding any conspiracy as any of you gentlemen in the room," Ruby said at one point.

Fears Assassination Charge

But time and again he returned to the idea that such an accusation might be leveled against him.

"The people that have the power here . . . they already have me as the accused assassin of our beloved President," Ruby stated.

Then, turning to the Chief Justice, Ruby inquired:

"That goes over your head, doesn't it?"

"Well, I don't quite get the full significance of it, Mr. Ruby." Mr. Warren answered. "I know what you feel about the John Birch Society."

"Very powerful," Ruby declared.

"I think it is powerful, yes I do," the Chief Justice agreed. "Of course I don't have all the information that you feel you have on that subject."

"Unfortunately," Ruby countered, "you don't."

At still another point in his testimony, Ruby cried out:

"I have been used for a purpose, and there ~~will~~ be ~~certain~~ tragic occurrence happening if you don't take my testimony and somehow vindicate me . . ."

"But we have taken your testimony," Mr. Warren assured him. "We have it here. It will be in permanent form for the President of the United States and for the Congress of the United States, and for the Courts of the United States, and for the people of the entire world."

"You have lost me though," Ruby answered. "You have lost me, Chief Justice Warren."

It is evident then that as he sits in the Dallas County Jail under a sentence of death for killing Oswald, Jack Ruby has for daily company his own private demons.

And while Ruby, who once prided himself on being a tough little guy, fears being linked directly to the President's murder, he also lives in terror of a nameless "they."

"They" are after him and his family.

"My brother who has a successful business, I know he is going to be killed," Ruby told the Commission with certainty.

And when the Chief Justice promised Ruby that he would be allowed to take a polygraph test, the balding, pasty-faced killer said:

"These things are going to be promised, but you see they aren't going to let me do these things. Because when you leave here, I am finished. My family is finished."

Later, he said:

"You won't ever see me again, I tell you that. And I have lost my family . . ."

And finally, in a moment of naked fear, Ruby called out to Mr. Warren:

"No, no, you don't believe me, do you?"

With that, the disintegration of Jack Ruby was complete.

'Let's Not Break Up Too Soon'

It was a disintegration that occurred late in the proceedings. But once started, there was nothing Jack Ruby could do to stop it.

For a better part of the three hours and five minutes that he was interrogated, Jack Ruby had dominated.

He had demanded to be taken to Washington. He had lashed out angrily at his defense attorney. He had addressed the Chief Justice on friendly, almost familiar terms.

But then there came the point where Ruby thought the Chief Justice and his aides were about to leave him.

"You can get more out of me," Ruby pleaded.
"Let's not break up too soon."

So they stayed for a while longer. But finally the moment came when they did leave the Dallas County Jail.

And Jack Ruby was left behind—in the company of his own private demons.

Though the Warren Commission will not make public the findings of its investigation into the death of the President until sometime next month, I obtained a copy of the original transcript through sources close to the Commission in Washington.

In that portion of the transcript printed yesterday, Ruby's testimony drew to a close with the Chief Justice asking him if he had ever been "interested in shipping jeeps down to Cuba."

RUBY: No . . . I never had the facilities or capabilities of knowing where to get jeeps.



Chief Justice Warren Was Patient