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Joe Tonahill Dismissed as Ruby's Counsel

Slayer Testifies Against Attorney, Denies Insanity

By JOHN GEDDIE

Veteran attorney Joe Tonahill was dismissed Monday as counsel for Jack Ruby after a long, heated hearing in which Ruby testified against him.

Ruby, who called attempts to save his life a "lost cause," claimed during voluntary testimony that his reactions were apparently stimulated, by numerous pills taken the morning he shot Lee Harvey Oswald in the basement of City Hall.

Ruby insisted that he is sane and predicted history will erroneously link him in a conspiracy to kill the late President Kennedy.

Dist. Judge Louis Holland of Montague

complimented Tonahill in his representation of Ruby, but told him Ruby is presumed sane until a jury finds him insane, and he has a right to select his own attorneys.

TONAHILL, the Jasper lawyer, said he planned to ask the State Court of Criminal Appeals to allow him to re-enter the case when it returns to Austin. Judge Holland did not oust him from that capacity and said the matter would be left to appeals judges.

A motion to disqualify Dist. Judge Joe B. Brown, who presided at Ruby's murder trial, will be heard in a week or two. Judge Holland said. The Ruby sanity trial is expected in July.

Judge Brown testified earlier in the hearing he would not have appointed Tonahill had he seen an affidavit against Tonahill from Ruby and his family filed with a motion March 8. Judge Brown overruled the motion as "premature" and admitted Monday he did not read the affidavit.

RUBY'S TESTIMONY came after he rose, stopped proceedings and asked to take the stand. "If I'm an insane person at the moment," he said, "then the rest of the world is crazy."

He said he took 30 antibiotic pills and some other pills that "stimulate you" before he entered the City Hall basement.

"I should have never tried to be heroic," he said. "I wasn't clean enough. I had been to Cuba . . . I know I'm going to die a horrible death."

RUBY SAID he was invited by a friend for a few days in Cuba. This friend later called him and asked another man to send him four pistols to Cuba, he said.

This act, he said, "was the blowup of Jack Ruby." He said his name will be linked to a conspiracy.

"All I did was relay a call," he said.



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Joe Tonahill . . . as he leaves the courtroom after being dismissed as Ruby's attorney.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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