

Ruby Says Pills Made Him 'High' Day He Shot Oswald

By The Associated Press
DALLAS.

Jack Ruby declared yesterday that he had taken numerous pills—"they stimulate you"—shortly before he gunned down Presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

He made the admission—the first such revelation—at a court hearing during which his veteran counsel, Joe Tonahill, was removed from Ruby's forthcoming hearing.

Judge Louis T. Holland of Montague, Tex., ruled that Mr. Tonahill should be removed as Ruby's counsel for the sanity hearing. After that, said the visiting judge, the question of Ruby's representation will be decided by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Judge Holland also said he would hold a hearing today on whether Judge Joe B. Brown, who presided at the original Ruby murder trial, should be disqualified from presiding at the sanity hearing.

But the sensation of the trial was Ruby's fresh testimony that he took pills which "make you want to do positive things" before gunning Oswald to death and that he fears there will be an attempt in future years to link him as a conspirator with Oswald against President Kennedy's life.

CONSPIRACY

"To the American people and the world . . . I'm going to be branded a part of a conspiracy with Oswald," he declared in an emotional courtroom scene.

"You're going to forget how I felt about the beloved President Kennedy. There has been so much torment, so much hardship . . ."

The Warren Commission sought for months to determine if a conspiracy existed between Ruby and Oswald but found none.

Ruby, in his sometimes rambling discourse, appeared to have given up hope of escaping the death penalty.

GIVES UP HOPE FOR HIS LIFE

"I know that I am a lost cause as far as saving my life . . . don't believe Joe Tonahill (one of his original trial lawyers) . . . I know there is a whole conspiracy behind it."

TOOK PILLS

He said that after getting up the day he killed Oswald he took 30 antibiotic pills and some other pills that "stimulate you and make you want to do positive things."

This was the first time Ruby had referred to taking any pills that morning.

"I walked into a trap when I walked down the steps onto the City Hall basement where Oswald was killed. I am going to die a horrible death (in the electric chair)."

Yesterday's hearing was called to determine which set of lawyers will represent Ruby at his sanity hearing and in any further appeals procedures.

Ruby, when he talked about matters pertinent to the hearing, declared he would have been better off had he dismissed his attorneys and thrown himself on the mercy of the court.

Until he arose in court, Ruby, his jail pallor very evident, had seemed a disinterested spectator.

"I'd have done better if I'd thrown myself at the mercy of the court without (Melvin) Belli and Tonahill and Phil Burleson," he said.

The hearing was called to determine whether Mr. Tonahill should be ousted from the case as sought by the Ruby family and Ruby himself. Mr. Tonahill claims that Ruby signed a valid contract making him his attorney while the

defendant was sane. Ruby since has become insane and is incompetent to determine whom his counsel will be.

SNEAK PICTURES

"When Joe Tonahill and Melvin Belli were in my cell (after his conviction)," said Ruby, "they were like two little snakes sneaking pictures of me."

The pictures Mr. Tonahill and Mr. Belli are alleged to have taken have figured in charges and counter-charges that each set of attorneys sought to capitalize financially on the Ruby case. The family claimed that Mr. Tonahill sought to sell the jail pictures to a magazine.

Ruby, looking directly at the judge, asserted of that chaotic Sunday morning when he killed Oswald, "I shouldn't have tried to play the part of a hero."

Then the former galle show-night club operator added: "My background wasn't clean enough to play the part of a hero."

Mr. Belli was discharged shortly after Ruby was convicted. Phil Burleson, the hard member of the original defense team, is still on the case and apparently with the approval of the Ruby family.

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