

Stripper Testifies Her Call Got Ruby to Death Scene

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Dallas, March 6—Though upset by a jailbreak in the courtroom building, a pregnant 19-year-old stripteaser took the stand today as the first defense witness in the Jack Ruby murder trial and told about putting the arm on Ruby for rent money the day Lee Harvey Oswald was shot.

Red-haired Karen Lynn Bennett, was the petite dancer who phoned Ruby the morning of Nov. 24 to ask him for \$25 rent. The phone call, the defense contends, started a chain of events ending with the murder of President Kennedy's accuser assassin, Oswald, and to Ruby's trial.

Karen was called after Police Sgt. Patrick T. Dean, the final state witness, testified that Ruby admitted plotting for two days to kill Oswald to show "that Jews have guts."

Alarm Sounded

As Karen approached the courtroom to testify, alarm bells clanged throughout the building, which also houses the county jail.

Karen, who expects a baby any time now, cried out in alarm at the jailbreak commotion. She was escorted by defense counsel Melvin Belli into Judge Joe B. Brown's courtroom, where smelling salts were administered.

Tears in His Eyes

Dean testified that 10 minutes after Ruby killed Oswald in the City Hall basement, he spoke to him on the fifth floor of the building in a jail corridor. Stripped to his shorts, barefoot, and with tears in his eyes, Ruby rambled on to Dean about "not wanting Mrs. (Jacqueline) Kennedy to come back to Dallas" for the Oswald trial, the sergeant swore.

After District Attorney Henry Wade rested, these statements and many others presented by police witnesses to show that Ruby planned Oswald's murder were labeled as constitutional violations by Belli and his aid, Joe Tonahill.

Ask for Acquittal

They asked for a directed verdict of acquittal because Ruby's statements were made after his

arrest and he was not advised of his constitutional rights.

Denied this by Judge Brown, Belli made a brief opening statement telling the eight men and four women jurors he will prove Ruby was insane, that he was near City Hall by coincidence, and that he killed Oswald in a blackout caused by psychomotor epilepsy.

Karen's testimony showed that Ruby went to the only Western Union office open on Sunday, where a money order could be obtained, to send her \$25 rent money. She lives in Fort Worth. This office was near City Hall, and that's how Ruby was on the scene, the defense said.

Defense Is adamant

The defense fought virtually every word spoken by Dean.

Twice the defense called on Judge Brown to cite the district attorney for misconduct in his questioning of Dean. Wade asked: "What else did he tell you, sergeant, with reference to his (Ruby's) plans to kill him?"

Outraged howls came from the defense for such a "grossly suggestive" and leading question. Wade said: "I'll change the leading part of it." He then rephrased the question. Again came a request to cite him for misconduct, denied by the judge. But he ordered the first question stricken.

During Dean's testimony the



(Associated Press Wirefoto)
Lt. Jack Revill

Narrated film of shooting

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

- 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 2
- 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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defense demanded a mistrial four times. The objections were based on a violation of Ruby's Constitutional rights, because he was under arrest at the time he was being quoted by Dean.

They charged the testimony also was a "violation of due process of law, incompetent, hearsay, prejudicial, immaterial," among other things. Each time Judge Brown denied the mistrial request.

Dean, a dark-haired young man, got into his testimony by telling the district attorney he was in uniform on security duty in the City Hall basement for the Oswald transfer to the county jail.

Tells of Hearing Shots

He heard the shots but did not get into the police scuffle with Ruby. About 10 minutes later, he said, he was ordered by Police Chief Jesse E. Curry to take a secret service agent to the fifth floor jail in City Hall, where they found Ruby under guard, stripped to his shorts.

The agent spoke to Ruby about four or five minutes, Dean said. Then, over objections from the defense, Wade asked the sergeant to tell what he and Ruby said, after the agent was through.

Arrives in Basement

Ruby, Dean said, told how he came into the basement "as a car had driven out" and had been there "for two or three minutes" when Oswald came into view.

"He said that he thought about this about two nights prior when he saw Oswald at the police show-up," Dean said. Here, a mistrial motion interrupted testimony.

"He said he believed in due process of law," Dean continued, "but he was so wrought up over the events — he and his sister

both — his sister was just out of the hospital and very emotional . . ."

The sergeant continued testifying about what he said Ruby had told him: "he knew the outcome of the trial was inevitable, that there would be a death penalty, but he didn't see why there should be a long and lengthy trial and have Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy subjected to coming back (for the trial)."

Again Dean was interrupted by objections and mistrial calls from the defense.

Sarcastic Sneer

Then, after that subsided, Dean said Ruby told him:

"He noticed a sarcastic sneer on Oswald's face two nights prior at the show-up. That's when he first thought if he had the chance, he would kill him.

"And also, he wanted the world to know Jews do have guts."

"What was that?" Wade asked.

"Jews . . . J-E-W-S," Belli spelled out; and then called for a mistrial, which was refused. That ended Dean's testimony in the morning session.

Police Chief's Aid Heard

Before Dean took the stand, Capt. Glen D. King, administrative assistant to the Dallas police chief, testified that during the shooting he was at the rear of the armored car parked in the basement ramp, and first saw Ruby lying on the floor in the basement jail office.

"I heard him say: 'You didn't think that I'd let him get by with it, did you?'" King testified.

Denied by Capt. King

Tonahill asked: "Didn't you ask Ruby why he did it, and didn't he say: 'Do what?'" King denied this.

The two state's witnesses testified after the jurors saw an hour of films of the murder, in slow motion, regular speed and frames.



(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Karen Lynn Bennett, 19, known as Little Lynn when she was a stripper in the Carousel, Jack Ruby's night club in Dallas, leaves courtroom after testifying. Attorney Belvin Bell is with her.