

TV Viewers Witness
Shooting of Kennedy
Murder Suspect in
Dallas City Hall

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Post-Dispatch

DALLAS, Nov. 25—Police held the hoodlum operator of a striptease joint without bond today in the killing of the man charged with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The second assassination has stamped a seal of permanent doubt on the identity of Mr. Kennedy's killer. Authorities in Dallas had developed a net of circumstantial evidence against Lee Harvey Oswald and claimed to be certain that they held the right man. However, they lacked an eyewitness and had been questioning Oswald through much of two days in hope of a confession.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, meanwhile, contradicted the assertion by Dallas authorities that the case against Oswald was air-tight and closed.

The self-appointed executioner, Jack Ruby, was seized and charged with murder yesterday after he had stepped from a crowd of reporters and photographers in the basement of Dallas City Hall and shot Oswald in the left side of the abdomen.

Will Seek Indictment

District Attorney Henry Wade said he would go before a grand jury within the next week to seek a murder indictment. He said he would set the case for trial in mid-January.

Officers are guarding Ruby around the clock, taking extraordinary precautions, such as removing his belt and shoes. Police Sgt. M. O. Rogers said Ruby told him this morning that he had slept well in his city jail cell through the night.

Two detectives took Ruby from city jail to the county courthouse today. He pressed down on the automobile seat so passersby would not see him.

It was on such a mission that Oswald was shot fatally.

An hour and 46 minutes after the shooting, Oswald died in Parkland Hospital, in an emergency room 10 feet from where the President died.

A 12-man surgical team, alert-

ed in advance to the possibility of violence, tried in vain to save his life through open-heart massage and forced blood transfusion.

Millions of television viewers across the country, watching for the scheduled transfer of Oswald from the city hall to the county jail, had a clear view of the shooting.

This correspondent witnessed it from a ramp where an armored truck waited to carry the accused man 15 blocks to a high-security cell that happened to overlook the spot where the President was shot.

Chief of Police Jesse E. Curry told reporters Saturday

thought his phrase meant that he would have Oswald slipped out in the night. Curry said afterward that he had "promised reporters and photographers throughout the free world" that he would make the transfer by day.

By 10 o'clock, about 200 persons had gathered quietly across the street from the basement exit of the police garage, under the city hall. Police officers stopped pedestrians on the sidewalk past the entrance but permitted automobile traffic to continue.

At 11:08, two armored vehicles arrived. The smaller was parked in readiness on the street, and the armored truck was backed part way down the ramp into the building.

Ceiling Too High

Officers had measured the ceiling height outside a jail office door in the basement and had found the car too high to be backed directly up against it.

In preparation for the shift, officers had searched the entire basement twice and inspected the interiors and trunks of police vehicles coming in.

They checked the identities of most persons entering the basement but did not search them for weapons.

Ruby is believed to have walked into the basement with the crowd of newspaper, television and radio men that gathered there with about 30 police officers.

Ruby had many friends among Dallas police officers and had been standing around the building much of the time Oswald was being escorted. He

been in the crowd that several times watched Oswald being escorted along a third-floor corridor to and from his cell, and he had attended a press confrontation with Oswald that police had arranged Friday night.

'The Boys Knew Him'

As Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva L. Grant, had told the homicide chief, Capt. Will Fritz, yesterday after the shooting, "you know yourself no one else could have gotten in that building — but all the boys knew him."

But no police officer could be found who would admit having seen him in the basement until just before the fatal shot was fired.

Policemen opened the back doors of the armored truck. The inside was fitted with a cot and straps in the event the prisoner became violent.

Reporters were ordered back to one side of the 50-foot space from the office door to the back entrance of the truck.

As tension mounted, the crowd was startled when a glass bottle rolled out the back door of the armored truck and smashed on the concrete ramp.

Sounds from inside the jail office indicated that the prisoner was about to be escorted out to the waiting truck. Television cameras were turned on.

Oswald Handcuffed

Oswald walked through the door. His hands were handcuffed in front of him, with a chain to a handcuff on the wrist of one of the two plain clothesmen walking beside him, each holding one of Oswald's arms above the elbow.

They walked at a normal

between rows of police officers and started past the waiting reporters and photographers.

Suddenly a man in a dark suit and felt hat rushed forward a few steps, held out a pistol a few inches from Oswald's body, pointing it a few inches below the heart, and fired. There was a pop, like that of a firecracker, and a puff of blue smoke.

An instant before the shot, homicide detective B. H. Combest, standing about two feet behind Oswald, saw Ruby and shouted, "Jack, you son of a bitch."

Combest said afterward, "When I saw Ruby run out toward Oswald, there was noth-

ing I could do but shout at him. I just couldn't have gotten to him."

Falls to Floor

Oswald shouted a wailing "oh" and fell to the floor, pulling the handcuffed officer down with him.

In the turmoil that followed, a dozen officers, some in uniform and others in broad-brimmed hats, jumped on Ruby, subdued him and grabbed his pistol.

Someone shouted for all entrances to the building to be sealed. Officers carried Oswald moaning back into the jail office, laid him on the floor and called for an ambulance. His face was ashen, his eyes were rolling, and he was moaning in pain.

There was a delay of four minutes while a police ambulance was rushed into the basement and a further slight delay while the armored truck was driven out of the blocked exit.

The ambulance raced up the ramp, Oswald lying inside with an oxygen mask on his face, and took him to the hospital.

A spokesman for the hospital said afterward: "We anticipated a slight possibility that this might happen and alerted our emergency room just in case."

Then he corrected himself and said: "Our job is to be prepared. We had received word there was quite a crowd down there. I do not mean to imply that we had anticipated this shooting."

Guards Around Hospital

The spokesman said Oswald was unconscious, extremely pale, ashen colored, and was breathing with an oxygen mask when he arrived in the emergency room.

Police threw a triple ring of guards around the hospital, checking the identity three times of each person who had business inside. They ordered all visiting of patients canceled.

Surgeons gave Oswald much the same treatment they had given Mr. Kennedy two days earlier in efforts to save his life, with the exception that they had massaged the President's heart without opening his chest.

In both cases, they ran an air tube down the windpipe, gave emergency blood and attached an electrocardiograph machine to measure heartbeat.

The blood was pumped into Oswald's body under pressure. Oswald died at 1:07 p.m., about 48 hours after the death of President Kennedy. Doctors were too busy to notice the precise time

of the President's death but fixed it arbitrarily at 1 p.m. Friday.

3 Lawyers Volunteer

Three lawyers had promptly offered to represent Ruby. Oswald had no lawyer through his two days of interrogation. He complained that he did not have one but rejected an offer by the Dallas Bar Association to provide one. He said he preferred to be represented by John Abt of New York, who often has defended left-wing clients, or the American Civil Liberties Union.

District Attorney Wade, announcing that he had ordered murder charges filed against Ruby, said:

"Nobody deplored the assassi-

nation of President Kennedy and the murder of officer J. D. Tippit more than I. They were cold-blooded crimes. But this was also a cold-blooded murder—an assassination.

"Here we had Lee Harvey Oswald manacled and unable to protect himself and a killer shooting him down while he was defenseless. I think this kind of premeditated murder calls for the death penalty and I intend to ask for it."

Insanity Plea Indicated

An attorney for Ruby indicated today that he would plead temporary insanity for his client.

Tom Howard, the attorney, said: "He was in a state of emotional collapse at the time of the shooting. He was probably temporarily out of his mind."

Howard said he expected to ask today for a hearing before Judge Joe B. Brown, and that a hearing would be set for several days from now, but after Thanksgiving.

Asked whether he believed there had been any previous contact between Ruby and Oswald, Howard said: "I'm absolutely certain there was not."

He said he was satisfied with precautions being taken to protect his client, observing: "Our Police Department is a good department."

Howard described Ruby's state of mind since the assassination of President Kennedy last Friday as being "one of emotional collapse."

On Verge of Tears

"He was very sad, very nervous, almost on the verge of tears," Howard said.

The attorney said he would apply for bail at the time of the hearing. He said committees had been organized in Chicago and

San Francisco to collect money for Ruby's defense, and to post bond.

"The only time a court is justified in denying bail is when a man, if convicted, very probably would receive the death penalty," Howard said.

He said that if he does decide on an insanity plea, it would be not guilty by reason of temporary insanity.

After the President's death, Ruby quickly announced that he was closing the Carousel for three days.

George Senator shares a four-room apartment with Ruby, also a bachelor. Senator told reporters that Ruby had been in a state of shock since Mr. Kennedy's assassination. He said Ruby mourned particularly for the Kennedy children.

Senator said Ruby told him yesterday morning, after they had breakfasted together, that he was going to take Sheba, one of their four dogs, over to the Carousel because it was warmer there.

Body Under Guard

In Fort Worth, two policemen stood guard today outside the room where Oswald's body lay in a funeral home.

Funeral home personnel last night delivered Oswald's body to Fort Worth from Dallas.

"We don't anticipate any trouble," said Lt. S. D. Pruitt, heading the police guard, "but, we're here to protect the peace."

Policemen B. R. Everett and R. E. Denton, who were stationed outside the room, called their job ironic.

"We were helping guard the President here Friday," they explained. "Now we're guarding the body of the man accused of killing him."

The funeral home said that, with Secret Service approval, it would take the body to Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth for a simple service in the cemetery chapel and immediate burial.

Opinion in Dallas is divided over Ruby's act. Some cheered Oswald's death. Others condemned Ruby for taking justice into his own hands.

A frequently heard comment was that evil comes in threes and that the next victim of an assassin's bullet would be Ruby.