

Big Question Is: Did Ruby Have Reason of Own to Seal Lips of Suspect?

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DALLAS, Tex., Nov. 25—The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Dallas police were at odds today on whether the shooting of President John F. Kennedy was "a closed case" with the death of the No. 1 suspect.

"As far as I'm concerned the case is closed," said Capt. Will Fritz, head of the homicide squad.

"We are conducting an active investigation," said Gordon Shanklin, agent in charge of the FBI in Dallas. Asked whether this was in co-operation with the police or independent, he said, "We are doing some independent investigating."

The bizarre killing of Lee Harvey Oswald, the prime suspect, by night club operator Jack Ruby in the basement of City Hall yesterday was deplored by many Dallas residents. Rather than settling any question it raised many new ones.

Foremost Question

Foremost was this: With the police in possession of evidence they said they were keeping secret, and with the evidence already made public piling up a strong case against Oswald, did Ruby, an unsavory person himself, have some reason of his own for sealing the man's lips in death?

Shanklin kept his comment to a minimum, but an FBI spokesman in Washington put it more fully. "There is very strong evidence that Oswald was the President's assassin, he said, "but we do not consider the case closed just because Oswald himself has fallen victim to an assassin. The FBI will not consider the case closed until we have obtained all the evidence we can."

An observer standing beside the pile of floral pieces near the spot where the President was shot down last Friday heard the news that Oswald had been shot and was in serious condition. "I sure hope he doesn't die, so he can tell his story," he said.

The police reported that Oswald did not utter a word after he was shot and until that moment he had been steadfast in his denial of the crime despite a

by the unflinching courage and devotion she has shown since her husband croupled at her side in Dallas, mortally wounded.

As the slow procession, pacing 100 steps a minute, passed through the capital, military aircraft flew overhead. In keeping with tradition, one plane was missing from the formation.

The cortege was almost breathtakingly impressive in color, grandeur and sound.

Marine Band

Behind a contingent of police officers and three small military guards of three to six men each came the Marine Band in brilliant scarlet coats, white hats and blue trousers. Sunlight glistened

"Unless we are specifically instructed otherwise from Washington, we believe it can and should become public information. At this time, we cannot designate when the release will be made."

As in other cities across the land, public offices, schools and many Dallas business establishments were closed today for the national day of mourning ordered by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Many advertisements in newspapers announcing the closing plans were heavily edged in black.

A newspaper columnist, Paul Crume, started today's column with this question: "As a tribute to John F. Kennedy, why don't we in Dallas set ourselves to behave in the next few days like John F. Kennedy?"

Dallas Called Sick City

Dallas was called a sick city by Allan Maley, secretary-treasurer of the Dallas AFL-CIO Council.

"There is no use beating around the bush," he said. "Powerful leaders have encouraged or condoned or remained silent while the preaching of hate helped condition a citizenry to support the most reactionary sort of political philosophy."

He said that Dallas labor was "ready to work with everyone in an effort to lift Dallas from the ashes of a great city, to restore a little sanity to make Dallas once again a great place where people can disagree agreeably."

Maley said the thought that kept going through his mind was that Mr. Kennedy "probably would have been safer in Berlin or Moscow than he was in Dallas."

"It has taken years to get

Dallas into this shape and I fear that it will take years for Dallas to recover," he said.

Seized, Then Released

Immediately after the shooting of the President last Friday, Oswald was stopped by a policeman who was checking occupants

of the Texas School Book Depository building, where a high-powered rifle was fired from the sixth floor. O. V. Truly, one of two owners of the book distributing center, was present when the officer pressed his revolver against Oswald's abdomen and demanded to know who he was. Truly said that Oswald was an employe, and the officer let him go.

Truly explained later, after Oswald had been caught in a motion picture theater and after he had shot a policeman to death, that Oswald was put to work as a temporary employe in mid-October without a detailed check of his background. He was a part-time handy man at \$1.25 an hour.

"He impressed me as a quiet, rather modest, nice appearing chap who was doing an extremely good job as far as I could tell," Truly said. "He gave us no trouble, was always on time and went about his work in such fashion that there was no indication of anything wrong in his mind."

News of Killing Cheered

Across the street from the book depository a small crowd milled

around a mass of flowers placed in the areaway, including many wreaths from citizens of Dallas and many from other cities.

Some had come to see Oswald moved into the nearby Dallas county jail, the trip he started but never finished. At the first bulletin, heard by radio, telling that he had been shot, there was a cheer. Later, when it became known that he was dead, some in the crowd were having second thoughts.

"He deserved to die," said a woman, "but he should have been tried and sent to the electric chair. What will the world think of Dallas?"