

Against Ruby in Oswald Killing

From Post-Dispatch Wire Services

DALLAS, Nov. 26—Jack Ruby was indicted by a county grand jury today for murder with malice in the killing of President John F. Kennedy's accused assassin.

District Attorney Henry Wade said he would ask for the death penalty and requested that Ruby be held without bond. District Judge Joe B. Brown will rule on the request.

Tom Howard, Ruby's Dallas attorney, said he would apply next week for a writ of habeas corpus and will ask that his client be freed on bond.

Trial has been set for Dec. 9, but Howard said he will probably seek a postponement until mid-January.

Meanwhile, a Dallas police lieutenant described a night club here once owned by Ruby as a hangout for Chicago hoodlums when they were in the city.

Visitors in the Silver Slipper, when it was owned by Ruby, included hoodlums Paul Rowland Jones, Patrick Manno, Paul (needlenose) Labriola and James S. Weinberg. Lt. George Butler of the Dallas force asserted today.

Ruby, 52 years old, who killed suspected assassin Lee Harvey Oswald Sunday, moved from Chicago to Dallas some years ago as a contact man for a Chicago crime syndicate takeover of vice and gambling in Dallas county, police said. Oswald was accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

Ruby, born Leon Rubenstein on Chicago's west side, was once a boxer under the name of "Sparkling Ruby," which was later shortened to his nickname, "Sparky."

Lt. Butler, a former investigator for the Kefauver crime committee, said that the Chicago syndicate failed in an earlier attempt in 1947 to take over the vice and gambling rackets in Dallas.

Jones, a former Chicago hoodlum now living in west Texas, went to Ruby's night club almost every time he was in town, Butler said. Jones was convicted of opium smuggling in 1947 in the Mexican border town of Laredo, Tex.

Ruby was reported also to have been run out of San Francisco in the 1940s for placing gambling punch cards in restaurants, then having his men follow to punch out the winning numbers.

Luis Kutner, Chicago attorney, said that Ruby was fired by Paul Dorfman for alleged rough methods as an organizer for the White Material Handlers union in Chicago.

The lawyer said that about three years later, in 1950, Ruby told him he had some information he wanted to turn over to the Senate rackets investigation committee. Kutner said he told the committee's chief counsel, Rudolph Halley, where he could reach Ruby.

Kutner said that Ruby boasted of his connections with members of the Chicago crime syndicate.

Jake Ehrlich, prominent west coast criminal lawyer, said today that he is willing to consider defending Ruby on charges of murdering the President's accused assassin.

Ehrlich is the San Francisco attorney on whose life the television series Sam Benedict was based.

Ruby told Howard yesterday that he had a "spur of the moment" urge to kill Oswald to avenge the Kennedy family and because he thought Oswald was part of a Communist plot.

Howard planned to have him plead temporary insanity and stressed that he felt Ruby had been "emotionally disturbed."

Ehrlich said he got a telephone call from Mrs. Eva Grant, Ruby's sister, and that she asked him if he would defend her brother.

Because Ruby already has retained Howard, Ehrlich said she should have him call his San Francisco office.

If the attorney asks Ehrlich to head or organize a defense for Ruby, would he accept?

"I would give it a hell of a lot of thought," he replied.

Howard was not available for comment, but his wife said that someone from Ehrlich's office in San Francisco had been in contact with her husband.

Yesterday Ruby was examined in his jail cell by Dr. John Holbrook, a Dallas psychiatrist who is often used by the district attorney to determine the sanity of criminal suspects.

Howard said Ruby told him that he drove several times around the spot where the President was assassinated and shortly afterward slid into a crowd of reporters, leaped out with a curse and shot Oswald "on the spur of the moment."