

# Theories Conflict on Why Ruby Did It

Why did Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald?

Unless FBI and Secret Service Agents make more evidence available, lawyers will advance two conflicting theories when Ruby faces a jury at a sanity hearing.

Prosecutors will say:

Ruby thought he could become a "national hero" by killing Oswald after Oswald was charged with the assassination of President Kennedy.

Ruby envisioned customers flocking to his striptease club and lining up to shake his hand while the money poured in.

Fully aware of what he was doing, Ruby plotted the slaying and then carried it out while millions watched on television.

would be lauded throughout the nation.

The comment came from Joe Bonds, who is serving a prison sentence at Huntsville, during an interview with a Houston Press reporter.

Bonds said he believed Ruby only intended to wound Oswald.

"I think Ruby wanted everyone to see him and remember him," Bonds said.

Bonds said he and Ruby were partners in the Vegas Club here in the late forties.

"Ruby was a tough guy around the club," the convict said. "He even had his own little jail. He had a back room at the club and, after he would beat a guy up, he'd throw him in the back room

and lock the door. Later on, he'd call the cops and they'd take the guy to jail or something."

Prosecutors say a jury would have the legal right to convict Ruby of murder even if they advanced no theory for the slaying of Oswald.

They say they need only to prove that Ruby shot Oswald, that Ruby acted with malice and the intent to kill, and that Oswald died of the wound. But, they say, they expect to advance a motive in replying to the defense plea of temporary insanity.

Defense lawyers will say:

Ruby admired President Kennedy. When two bullets from a sniper's rifle killed the president, Ruby went into a state of emotional shock.

He thought of the president's grieving widow, who had cradled Kennedy's head in her arms, and of their two children.

Then, while so "emotionally numb" that he didn't know what he was doing, Ruby fired the shot which sealed Oswald's lips forever.

A small army of FBI and Secret Service agents is still working day and night to determine whether Ruby and Oswald were linked.

They have not turned over their evidence to the district attorney's office. But prosecutors say that, as far as they know, investigators do not have evidence which would prove Ruby and Oswald worked together in any conspiracy.

A former business associate of the striptease club owner said he agrees with those who believe Ruby thought—mistakenly—that he