

Jack Ruby's Family Fires 5th Attorney

DALLAS (UPI) — Jack Ruby's family Wednesday fired their brother's fifth chief defense lawyer. Two other Ruby lawyers later agreed to try to get the family to "eliminate the future entry and exits of the stream of attorneys" for the condemned slayer of President John F. Kennedy's accused assassin.

The family dismissed Clayton Fowler, chief defense counsel, and J. H. Tonahill of Jasper, Tex., an assistant who had been on the case since Melvin Belli was hired.

The lawyers said they would try to get the Ruby family to reconsider and not dismiss Tonahill and Fowler. Tonahill and Fowler said they had not been notified of their dismissal.

Ruby's family accused Tonahill and Fowler of "negligence and squabbling over details."

Fowler had taken over direction of the case after Dr. Hubert Winston Smith of the University of Texas Law-Science Institute resigned. Smith had replaced criminal lawyer Percy Foreman of Houston, who quit because of what he called family interference.

Foreman had replaced Belli, who was fired.