

U.S. Assumes Jurisdiction in Ruby Case

DALLAS (AP)—Jack Ruby technically became a federal prisoner Thursday as lawyers petitioned a U.S. District Judge to transfer the complicated case to federal jurisdiction.

"As of now, it's a federal case and Ruby technically is a federal prisoner," said Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander.

Although the full implications of the action were not clear late Thursday, it's conceivable that the federal court may hold Ruby's fate in hand for an undetermined period.

U.S. Dist. Judge T. Whitfield Davidson held an afternoon closed court session with lawyers. The session was recessed until today so that defense lawyer Joe Tonahill of Jasper, Tex. could be present.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Tim Timmins, who was present at Thursday's session, said that by Judge Davidson's very consideration of the case, jurisdiction passed from state to federal court.

Dist. Judge Joe B. Brown, Ruby's murder trial judge, said that the case "is now out of my jurisdiction. Judge Davidson has it."