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RELATED' HOSPITAL TREATMENT

Relatives Believe Ruby Lacked Care in Jail

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DALLAS—The handful of relatives and lawyers who saw Jack Ruby just before he was admitted to Parkland Memorial Hospital were convinced Dec. 9 believe that he did not receive adequate medical attention in the Dallas County jail.

Inquiry by The Times ran against inconclusive answers from officials responsible for Ruby's care in the jail and their refusal to permit examination of Ruby's jail medical records.

However, The Times found that Ruby was not taken to the hospital until after Sheriff Bill Decker expressed grave concern about Ruby's condition after visiting him in his cell.

Ruby was transferred to the hospital one day before a private physician, called by Ruby's brother and sister, was scheduled to see him.

Dr. John W. Callahan, assistant county health officer, apparently saw Ruby frequently, but Dr. M. Pickard, chief county health officer who has responsibility for the prisoners, had not examined or seen Ruby from 1964 until Dec. 9 when he came at Sheriff Decker's request.

When a Times reporter asked Dr. Pickard if he thought Ruby looked as if he needed hospital care when he saw him Dec. 9, the doctor quickly replied: "You're damned right, I do."

A Dallas night doctor,

was convicted and sentenced to death for shooting President John F. Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, Nov. 24, 1963, but has been granted a new trial. He began having coughing spells about two months before he was taken to the hospital and had been unable to keep food down much of the time.

Dr. Callahan had treated Ruby for a week and thought he might have pneumonia. The day after Ruby was taken to Parkland Hospital, doctors there announced he was suffering from inoperable cancer. Since then he has grown progressively weaker. A long series of medical tests is expected to be completed this week.

At the press conference Dec. 10, Parkland Drs. Jay Sanford and Watts Webb said Ruby was "in need of medical attention" when brought to the hospital, but declined to say whether he should have been admitted sooner.

Other medical experts contacted by The Times in Dallas said it would be "speculation" to attempt to determine if Ruby's cancer should

have been detected earlier if his treatment in jail was adequate.

However, while almost everyone who saw Ruby during his last weeks in jail agrees that he looked very ill, apparently no one is willing to explain who was chiefly responsible for seeing that Ruby was given a more thorough medical examination or that he was transferred to a hospital where specialists could treat him.

Contacted Doctor Ruby's brother, Earl, who lives in Detroit, and his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant of Dallas, had visited Ruby in jail on Dec. 3 and 5, and, believing him to be seriously ill, had asked a private physician to examine him. Dr. Pickard, the chief

health officer, said he hadn't seen Ruby since 1964. Callahan has been taking care of him. He treats the physical illnesses and I treat the mental illnesses.

Dr. Callahan, who has a private practice in Dallas besides attending to the prisoners daily, described Ruby as "very incommunicative."

"I thought he might have pneumonia," Dr. Callahan

said. As we found out our dismay, it was more than that. It's kind of discouraging, but that's the way the ball bounces.

We had him on a diet. He was having some trouble with gagging. It was a soft bland diet. There wasn't much more we could do about it."

Dr. Callahan said Sheriff Decker was concerned

Because he had Ruby's re-

the sheriff said he had long held that Ruby's medical condition was the responsibility of Drs. Pickard and Callahan, and refused to make public Ruby's jail medical records with the comment: "You're not going to put me in the medical profession."

Decker said it is Dr. Pickard's duty to permit inspection of the records. Dr. Pickard said it is up to the sheriff, and added: "We don't keep any records as such. We record medications given."

Apparently, Dr. Callahan was the only physician to examine Ruby after two doctors visited Ruby in the spring of 1964 when he attempted suicide.

Ruby told one of his lawyers, Elmer Gertz of Chicago, he had not had a thorough medical examination since November, 1963, when he was jailed.

Gertz said Ruby had an "unnatural pallor" and was sick to his stomach when he saw him about two weeks before Dec. 9. But the lawyer said:

"Looking back, it surprises me it didn't occur to me that he was seriously ill." **END**