

DENIES CONSPIRACY

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Secret Recording by Ruby Reported

BY ART BERMAN
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Jack Ruby, in his dying days, reportedly has broken through Dallas police security again — this time to secretly tape record a denial of any conspiracy in the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Times has received information that the recording, purportedly the only ever made of Ruby's own story, was arranged by Capitol Records. The Hollywood record firm is expected to announce today in New York:

1—The recording, in which Ruby implies the slaying occurred during an emotion-triggered blackout, was made within the last few weeks at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, where Ruby is dying of cancer.

2—An unwitting Dallas policeman was in the hospital room and two were outside the door when the recording was made.

3—The tape recorder was hidden in an attache case.

4—The policeman did not know what was happening because Ruby's brother, Earl, told Ruby in Yiddish:

"Jack, in the briefcase, the tape recorder is hidden here."

Gives Lucid Account

Ruby, speaking haltingly in English, gave a lucid account of the events of Nov. 24, 1963—two days after Oswald killed President John F. Kennedy.

On that day, Ruby walked past police guards and into the basement of Dallas City Hall. Then—as millions of television viewers watched Oswald being transferred to the County Jail—Ruby stepped forward and fatally shot him.

Ruby insisted in the recorded interview that it was purely a coincidence, partly caused by his making an illegal turn into a parking lot, that brought him into the City Hall at the instant Oswald was being transferred.

"... the difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds one way or the other," Ruby lamented.

"All I did is walk down there, down to the bottom of the ramp and that's when the incident happened



'FATE,' HE SAYS—Jack Ruby, who reportedly said that the coincidence of illegal turn brought him to Dallas City Hall when Lee Harvey Oswald was being transferred.

UPI photo

—at the bottom of the ramp," Ruby said in the recorded interview.

"... It happened in such a blur that ... before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground."

Someone in the hospital room can be heard asking, "Did you realize you had done anything?"

"Well," Ruby replied, "really it happened so fast and everything else I can't recall what happened from the time I came to the bottom of the ramp until the police officers had me on the ground."

Question: "Have no recollection?"

Ruby: "No, but I know that they were holding my hand and grabbed one for the gun."

Question: "Did you ever know Os-

wald before?"
Ruby: "Never have known him or seen him before."

Question: "Did you ever planned (sic) anything like this?"

Ruby: "I was so emotionally upset for three days."

Question: "Is there any truth at all to the stories that Oswald had been in your club?"

Ruby: "None whatsoever. It's a fabrication."

Later in the interview, Ruby observed:

"The ironic part of this is, hadn't I made an illegal turn behind the bus to the parking lot, had I gone the way I was supposed to go straight down Main St., I'd never, I would never have met this fate because the difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds one way or the other."

Question: "Did you know when Oswald was going to be moved, Jack?"

Ruby: "He was supposed to be moved at 10 o'clock." (OVER)

Transfer Delayed

(It was widely-known in Dallas that Oswald was supposed to have been moved at 10 a.m., but the actual transfer — and shooting—did not occur until 11:20 a.m.)

This is about half of the three-minute, 55-second interview with Ruby on a Capitol Record titled "The Controversy, the Death, The Warren Report" which is scheduled for release Jan. 6. The interview is copyright, 1967, by Alskog, Inc., which produced the documentary record.

Capitol has a press conference planned for 1:30 p.m. today at the Americana Hotel in New York City to introduce the record, an hour-long series of interviews with persons involved in the Kennedy assassination and its controversial aftermath.

According to a source close to Capitol Records, the interview with the 55-year-old Ruby was arranged through Ruby's relatives and their attorney, Elmer Gertz of Chicago.

Gertz and Earl Ruby, who lives in Detroit, are among those present when the recording was made. They conducted the

questioning of Ruby. Also in the room were a nurse and two of Ruby's sisters.

The tape recorder was concealed in an attache case, which appeared to be one of the lawyer's normal possessions.

The recording of Ruby is of good quality, marred only by the hum of an air conditioner in the background.

The version of the interview on the record reportedly was edited down from an original tape of about 12 minutes.

The recording was made after those close to Ruby reportedly became convinced that his critical illness and hospitalization have brought him an unexpected period of lucidity.

Ruby reportedly has said that he never slept well during three years under constant guard in a lighted, windowless cell. During that period, he often was described as mentally confused.

Now, despite constant pain, Ruby supposedly has been able to sleep better and has clarified his thoughts. He reportedly has attributed this to the hospital room's windows, which enable him to tell night from day.

The recording evidently was made about Dec. 18.

Gertz and Earl Ruby visited the hospital that day and later told newsmen that Ruby is obsessed with the desire to make clear before he dies that there was no conspiracy in the shooting of Oswald. **END**