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Another Act in the Dallas Tragedy

WAT-114/67

History is seldom the product of design or orderly progression. Chance, accident, the unforeseen are as much involved in the making of events as reasoned intent.

The murder of President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 was, evidence overwhelmingly indicates, the result of one man's awful plan. And the subsequent murder of that man, evidence again shows was as much as anything else the result of chance.

Jack Ruby, who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald in a Dallas police station is now dead, though the drama in which he played a major role continues to echo and to stir passions.

Ruby did not know Oswald nor, it appears, did he work out any careful scheme to kill him. His presence at the police station and the opportunity he found to fire his pistol seem to have been determined for the most part by whim, and by the blundering of police officials more concerned with publicity than proper procedure.

The Warren Commission, in its investigation of the assassination, could find no evidence of any link between Oswald and

There is no shred of substantive evidence to contradict this statement that Jack Ruby in death at least does not know Oswald. E-19

emotional, unstable, ambivalent, who was deeply affected by the murder of the President, acted from sudden impulse but connected with motives either political or conspiratorial.

Let this pathetic man unwittingly lay the foundation for rumors of a sweeping conspiracy, in which the "blending" of Oswald was a major part. Had Oswald lived to stand trial it is probable that most of the popular doubts about his role would have been resolved. With Oswald dead the doubters, sincere and self-serving alike, have been free to speculate endlessly.

Jack Ruby's death, of cancer detected so late for treatment by those in whose charge he was, will probably refuel the fires of rumor. Ruby himself knew this. In his deathbed he sought once again to dispel all doubts about his part in the tragedy in Dallas, reaffirming that he had acted alone.