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Full Deathbed Tape by Ruby Made Public

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The complete tape recording of Jack Ruby's secret deathbed interview was made public Thursday by Capitol Records, but it contained no startling revelations.

The Hollywood record firm previously had released a 3-minute, 55-second edited version of the 14-minute, 12-second tape which was made in Parkland Hospital, Dallas, two weeks before Ruby died of cancer.

In both versions, Ruby maintains that he acted on the spur of the moment in fatally wounding Lee Harvey Oswald Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Oswald killed President John F. Kennedy.

Some Digressions

The longer tape reveals that Ruby, who was considered emotionally disturbed, digressed at least twice from questions posed by his brother, Earl, and attorney Elmer Gertz. Once Ruby talked about money he owed and at another point he talked about a friend he once had in Cuba.

But the full tape was consistent with the edited version in which Ruby described walking from a Western Union office to Dallas City Hall, where, he contended, he shot Oswald during an emotional blackout.

On the tape, Ruby denied planning the murder and talked of the coincidence in timing that brought him together with Oswald.

Distance Cited

"If you checked the walking distance from the Western Union to the bottom of the ramp, you know it would have to be synchronized so perfect to the second, and to plan something you had in your mind premeditatedly," Ruby said.

"In that sense I didn't even allow myself one second of interval time. I never accepted a call at the Western Union. I never accepted a call for somebody to let me know what is happening." In other words, Ruby said he had no way of knowing he would arrive at the building at the moment Oswald was being transferred.

Attorney Shocked

The tape was played at a Statler-Hilton press conferences by Gertz, a Chicago lawyer, and Lawrence Schiller, producer of the record. "The Controversy," which contains the edited tape.

Gertz said he was "shocked" at seeing Ruby in jail before he was moved to the hospital, and called for "an inquiry into whether adequate care was given Jack Ruby and if not, why not?" Gertz said Ruby was pale, losing weight and throwing up constantly in the jail.

The attorney said Ruby

was given good care once he was moved to the hospital Dec. 9. The recording was made Dec. 16, Gertz said. Ruby died Jan. 3.

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