

Security Stringent For Ailing Ruby

Painfully taught lessons in prisoner security—taught bullet-quick before the eyes of a horrified nation three years ago—are being stringently applied to protect the life of ailing Jack Ruby.

"We'd be fools not to," a person inside Parkland Hospital said.

The procedural orders came directly from Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker. He is making certain they are carried out to the letter.

A sheriff's deputy stands guard outside Ruby's room. Another is inside, never more than a few steps from Ruby's bedside.

NOBODY WHO KNOWS will say which room Ruby is in or which hospital wing, for that matter. "Sheriff Decker's orders," a hospital spokesman explained, "and we are not about to violate them."

A hospital employe told a Times Herald photographer that Ruby was on the seventh floor, but the employe did not know the room number. A hospital security guard turned the photographer away as he attempted to leave the elevator at the seventh floor.

"He's not in the intensive care unit, but you can say his case is intensive," a spokesman said.

Anybody attempting to enter the room must show a hospital

identification badge as well as state his authority and business, it was reported. The guard tolerates no exceptions.

"THERE IS NO other way to do it and be certain," a spokesman said. "There are a lot of people in Dallas—and the world, for that matter—who would like to see Ruby dead."

The old scar — a breach of security which led to the pistol slaying of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald — is sensitive.

"Just think what it would be like if it happened again," a hospital employe said. "It must not be allowed to happen again."

C. Jack Price, administrator of the hospital district, has stepped out of his usual role as occasional advisor to the press in matters concerning Parkland patients. So has his assistant, Peter Geilich.

"WE HAVE GUARANTEED Sheriff Decker every assistance possible not only for the medical care of the patient, but for his personal safety as well," Price said.

Asked if there is any possibility that an unauthorized person might slip into Ruby's room, Price said, "There better not be."

Visitors to Ruby's room are limited to his immediate family, sister Mrs. Eva Grant, and bro-



—Staff Photo

Drs. Jay Sanford, left, and Watts Webb discuss details of Jack Ruby's illness, diagnosed cancer.

ther Earl Ruby, his rabbi, lawyers, and a handful of authorized hospital medical and paramedical personnel.

News media requests for photographs in Ruby's room have been flatly denied by Decker. There is no appeal.

Jack Ruby, the obscure tavern

owner who once shook the world with a single pistol shot, remains isolated. There are no bars on his window, but drawn blinds block out the clear sky.

His surroundings are different, but his only constant companion remains unchanged — a watchful sheriff's deputy.