

# Ruby's Cancer Is Widespread; Drugs Called His Only Chance

12/14/66

By MARTIN WALDRON  
Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, Dec. 13.—A physician who is treating Jack Ruby had been charged with murdering President Kennedy, said today that Ruby's cancer was too widespread to be successfully treated by surgery or by radiation.

The primary source of the cancer still had not been found, but Dr. Jack Barnett, associate professor of internal medicine at Southwestern Medical College here, said the lining of Ruby's chest was found to contain cancer cells, indicating that the cancer was more widespread than had been previously thought.

Another physician said privately that both of Ruby's lungs also appeared to be involved, and possibly his pancreas.

Final tests may not be made until Thursday, Parkland Memorial Hospital said. Ruby, slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy, has been under guard in the hospital since Friday. Doctors discovered on Saturday that he had cancer.

Dr. Barnett said that Ruby would be treated with drugs that have been developed in recent years.

### Ruby's Spirits Are Good

He declined to speculate on the prognosis. The hospital reported that Ruby was in good spirits and was watching television and was reading.

Details of his condition have been withheld from the public for 24 hours so that doctors could inform Ruby and his family. Physicians said they had given Ruby all the information they had about his condition. The hospital listed him today as being in serious condition.

Ruby had been kept in the Dallas County Jail since Nov. 24, 1963, the day he shot Oswald in the basement of the

Dallas City Jail after Oswald had been charged with murdering President Kennedy. Ruby, who said he shot Oswald so that Mrs. Kennedy would not have to return to Dallas to testify in Oswald's trial, was convicted of murder and sentenced to be executed in the electric chair.

While his case was on appeal, he successfully fought against efforts of his lawyers to have him declared insane.

### Conviction Set Aside

Ruby's murder conviction was set aside in October and State District Judge Louis T. Holland set a new trial tentatively for next February and moved the trial to Wichita Falls, in line with a Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruling that the trial should not be in Dallas.

Ruby was hospitalized last Friday night after complaining of a "binding" in the chest. He said that he had had a cold for about a week.

Doctors discovered the cancer when they did a biopsy on a lymph node in his neck on Saturday. A physician who treated Ruby over the weekend said that he may be near death.

"It could be a month, it could be five years," said Dr. Walt F. Webb, a professor of surgery at Southwestern Medical College.

Sheriff J. E. Decker of Dallas County, who had custody of Ruby, has refused to allow newsmen to talk to him or photograph him.

Ruby is a nonsmoker and a nondrinker. His attorneys, who conferred last week with Judge Holland, may meet again late this week or next week, one of them said privately.

He said they may seek bond for Ruby if doctors agree that his death is imminent.