

Give Ruby Test, Polygrapher Says

Los Angeles polygraph expert Chris Gugas admitted Saturday that Jack Ruby's physical condition makes it unlikely that the results of a lie detector test would be meaningful.

But he feels the test should be given anyway if Ruby's physicians feel the accused killer of presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald is able to stand the strain.

"It should be given in the interest of history," Gugas told The Times Herald. "There probably will be a question somewhere down the line when historians learn that Ruby asked for but was not given the test."

GUGAS, former president of the National Board of Polygraph Examiners, also urged that someone other than the Texas Department of Public Safety give the test.

If the DPS is to give the test, Gugas said, "impartial, outside observers" should be allowed to sit in on the examination session.

"There will be a lot of criticism of the Texas state police if they do it alone," Gugas said.

Gugas and New York polygraph expert Cleve Baxter sent a telegram to Texas Atty. Waggoner Carr Thursday urging that the test be given. They asked

that they be allowed to do the testing.

Carr asked DPS Director Col. Homer Garrison Jr. to arrange for the test if Ruby's physicians have no objections. Late Saturday no official request from Garrison had been received by Ruby's physicians at Parkland Hospital.

Ruby and members of his family have asked for the test. Ruby reportedly said he wants to settle the question of whether he was part of a conspiracy when he gunned down Oswald in the Dallas police station basement.

Gugas said he was asked to offer his services by "someone I don't care to identify publicly" in Chicago. Elraer Gertz, one of Ruby's defense lawyers, has offices in Chicago.

"We are not trying to inject ourselves into a Texas matter," Gugas said. "We are simply acting on a request made of us."

Gugas' admitted doubt that such a test would prove valid coincides with a number of other opinions offered by other polygraph operators following Carr's action.

Andrew L. Smith, head of Dallas' Truth Verification, Inc., said "it is too late" to give Ruby another test. The powerful drugs being used to combat Ruby's wide-spread cancer and

his physical condition would make such a test unreliable, Smith said.

"When you take drugs to kill cancer, you also kill the normal tissue," he said, adding that the polygraph measures "the response of these tissues."

"You can't even run a valid test when you have someone with a fever," Smith said. Ruby occasionally has had a low grade fever since he was hospitalized Dec. 9 with what was thought to be pneumonia.

Tests conducted following his hospitalization showed that cancer had spread to his lymphatic system and lungs and is suspected in other areas.

Detective Paul Bentley, chief polygraph examiner for the Dallas Police Department, said the "veracity of any test now would be very questionable."

"In my opinion, there's no licensed examiner in the state who would attempt an examination in Ruby's state of physical condition at this time."

Sheriff Bill Decker said he doubts that a polygraph test will be given Ruby. He indicated that Ruby's physical condition would not allow valid test results to be produced.

"I don't believe there is any way to get results," Sheriff Decker said.

Ruby's condition remained "essentially unchanged," his physicians reported Saturday. A condition report said he "is quite comfortable" and drug therapy to fight the tumor is continuing.