
World Journal

VOL. 1, NO. 111

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1967

Tribune

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JACK RUBY

IS DEAD

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 3 (AP)—Jack Ruby died today of cancer,

Ruby has been under guard in Parkland Hospital suffering from widespread cancer since Dec. 9, when he was removed from his Dallas County jail cell.

The former Dallas strip-tease joint owner was convicted and sentenced to death for the slaying before a national television audience of Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald was identified by the Warren Commission as the assassin of

Ruby's Last Statement: A Smuggled Tape.

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President John F. Kennedy. Ruby was first reported to have pneumonia when Sheriff Bill Decker ordered him taken to the hospital, but doctors quickly diagnosed cancer that they said was widespread.

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JACK RUBY

World Journal Tribune, New York, Tuesday, January 3, 1967

Jack Ruby Talks to Hidden

Tape Recorder

Jack Ruby, in his dying days, reportedly has broken through Dallas police security again—this time to secretly tape record a denial of any conspiracy in the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The recording, purportedly the only one ever made of Ruby's own story, was arranged by Capitol Records. The Hollywood record firm is expected to announce today in New York:

- The recording, in which Ruby implies the slaying occurred during an emotion-triggered blackout, was made within the last few weeks at Parkland Hospital, where Ruby is dying of cancer.

- An unwitting Dallas policeman was in the hospital room and two were outside the door when the recording was made.

- The tape recorder was hidden in an attache case.

- The policeman did not know what was happening because Ruby's brother, Earl, told Ruby in Yiddish:

"Jack, in the briefcase, the tape recorder is hidden here."

Ruby, speaking haltingly in English, gave an account of the events of Nov. 24, 1963—two days after Oswald killed President Kennedy.

On that day, Ruby walked past police guards and into the basement of Dallas City Hall. Then—as millions of television viewers watched Oswald being transferred to the County Jail—Ruby stepped forward and fatally shot him.

Ruby insisted in the recorded interview that it was purely a coincidence, partly caused by his making an illegal turn into a parking lot, that brought him into the City Hall at the instant Oswald was being transferred.

"... the difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds one way or the other," Ruby lamented.

"All I did is walk down there, down to the bottom of the ramp and that's when the incident happened—at the bottom of the ramp."

Ruby said in the recorded interview.

"... it happened in such a blur that ... before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground."

Someone in the hospital room can be heard asking, "Did you realize you had done anything?"

"Well," Ruby replied, "really it happened so fast and everything else I can't recall what happened from

the time I came to the bottom of the ramp until the police officers had me on the ground."

QUESTION: "Have no recollection?"

RUBY: "No, but I know that they were holding my hand and one grabbed for the gun."

QUESTION: "Did you ever know Oswald before?"

RUBY: "Never have known him or seen him before"

QUESTION: "Did you ever

plan anything like this?"

RUBY: "I was so emotionally upset for three days."

QUESTION: "Is there any truth at all to the stories that Oswald had been in your club?"

RUBY: "None whatsoever. It's a fabrication."

Later in the interview, Ruby observed:

"The ironic part of this is, hadn't I made an illegal turn behind the bus to the parking lot, had I gone the way I was supposed to go straight down Main St., I'd of never, I would never have met this fate because the difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds one way or the other."

QUESTION: "Did you know when Oswald was going to be moved, Jack?"

RUBY: "He was supposed to be moved at 10 o'clock."

[It was widely known in Dallas that Oswald was supposed to have been moved at 10 a.m., but the actual transfer—and shooting—did not occur until 11:20 a.m.]

This is about half of the three-minute, 55-second interview with Ruby on a Capitol record titled "The Controversy, the Death, the Warren Report" which is scheduled for release Jan. 6. The interview is copyright 1967 by Alskog Inc., which produced the documentary record.

Capitol has a press conference planned today at the Americana Hotel to introduce the record, an hour-long series of interviews with persons involved in the Kennedy assassination and its controversial aftermath. It is understood other voices heard are those of Oswald, Gov. John Connally, of Texas, and members of the Dallas police force.

According to a source close to Capitol Records, the interview with the 55-year-old Ruby was arranged through Ruby's relatives and their at-

torney, Elmer Gertz, of Chicago.

Gertz and Earl Ruby, 51, who lives in Detroit, were among those present when the recording was made. They conducted the questioning of Ruby. Also in the room were a nurse and two of Ruby's sisters.

Gertz said profits from the record would go to the Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass.

HIDDEN IN CASE

The tape recorder was concealed in an attache case, which appeared to be one of the lawyer's normal possessions.

The version of the interview on the record reportedly was edited down from an original tape of about 12 minutes.

The recording was made after those close to Ruby reportedly became convinced that his critical illness and hospitalization have brought him an unexpected period of lucidity.

Ruby reportedly has said that he never slept well during three years under constant guard in a lighted, windowless cell. During that period, he often was described as mentally confused.

New, despite constant pain, Ruby supposedly has been able to sleep better and has clarified his thoughts. He reportedly has attributed this to the hospital room's windows, which enable him to tell night from day.

'NO CONSPIRACY'

The recording was made about Dec. 18.

Gertz and Earl Ruby visited the hospital that day and later told newsmen that Ruby is obsessed with the desire to make clear before he dies that there was no conspiracy in the shooting of Oswald.

In all versions of his story since the slaying, Ruby has insisted there was no conspiracy and that the shooting was the result of fantastic coincidences.

Ruby was convicted of Oswald's murder and sentenced to death, but the Texas Court

of Criminal Appeals ordered a new trial.

Doctors at Parkland Hospital, the same hospital where President Kennedy and Oswald were pronounced dead, have expressed little hope that Ruby will live to face another trial.