

Ruby Recording Contains Denials

By DAVID MORGAN

As Jack Ruby lay dying in Parkland Hospital, he made a 3-minute recording in which he denied that he was assisted or influenced before or during the time he killed Lee Harvey Oswald.

He said on the record, a 45-minute, long-play album by Capitol Records titled "The Assassination," that he remembered nothing of the shooting itself.

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

"I don't recall what happened between the time I walked down the ramp and was on the floor."

The Ruby statement was the closing sequence on the album, which began with a radio announcer's description of the shooting of President Kennedy and chronologically covered the events of that and the following three days, followed by a series of interviews.

Ruby's voice sounds muffled, as though the microphone was hidden or covered, and is difficult to understand.

The recording was made without the knowledge of Sheriff Bill Decker.

At a news conference Tuesday, Ruby's attorney Phil Bursleson said Ruby's brother, Earl, had "conferred with me about it," and said that taping the recording was "something Jack wanted to do."

He made a recommendation to the brother regarding making the recording, he said, but declined to specify what his advice was. "That's privileged."

Bursleson said he was "not present at the time the record was made."

In recounting the events that led to the shooting of Oswald, Ruby said he had just wired a money order to a friend from the Western Union office at 2034 Main and, instead of returning directly to where he had parked

his car, turned and walked toward the Municipal Building at Main and Harwood.

"I noticed a police squad car in the ramp and an officer leaning on the window," he said.

He then was asked if he recognized any of the officers.

"I recognized Lt. Sam Pierce and this other man was just talking to him.

"That's when the incident happened, at the foot of the ramp."

The unidentified interviewers then asked if he remembered shooting Oswald.

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

"It happened so fast I don't recall what happened."

He was asked whether he had known Oswald.

"I never had known him or

seen him before," Ruby said. He maintained that reports that Oswald had visited his nightclub, the Carousel Club, were a "complete fabrication."

He said he had been "emotionally upset" since the assassination of President Kennedy.

"I always carry a gun because of all the characters I had at my club," he said.

It was "ironic," he said, that he had made an "illegal turn behind a bus in a parking lot. Had I gone down Main Street like I was supposed to I would have never met this fate. The difference in meeting this fate was 30 seconds, one way or another."

He was asked if he had known when Oswald was scheduled to be transferred from the police department.

"He was supposed to move at 10 o'clock," he said. The shooting occurred at 11:20 a.m.

At that point, the interview apparently ends, because those talking to him — it sounds as if there were two — asked if he was comfortable. He said he was not.

"You've got sores?" one asked.

"My legs," he said. "I've been in bed so long.

"I'm in pain."

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