

'Time Running Out,' He Said

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Jack Ruby was often wrong but he was deadly right when he indicated to startled news-

men nine months ago that he was not long for this world. "My time is running out," he blurted out to reporters at a hearing March 31, 1966.

Did he then have a premonition of his pending fatal illness?

OR DID HE feel that he would die in the electric chair for the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy?

"I am breathing toward my last breath. I was set and tried the moment I walked down that ramp," Ruby said. He meant the ramp into the basement of Dallas police headquarters where he gunned down Oswald Nov. 24, 1963.

No one will never know for sure just what Ruby meant when

he said his "time was running out" nine months ago. His time ran out Tuesday when he died of cancer at Parkland Hospital.

MARCH 31, 1966 was the last time Ruby talked to reporters. Interviews with Ruby were refused at a later hearing in June, 1966, during which he was found sane.

Ruby lived on the edge of the underworld but he had never been in real trouble before he killed Oswald. And some who knew him said he longed for a brighter place in the sun.

There are those who believe he hungered for headlines and a niche in history and that's why he killed Oswald. His irrational act in killing Oswald earned him both, but the headlines and his place in history lack the heroic quality Ruby was seeking.

Heroism may be what Ruby sought but what he got was notoriety. And he dearly paid for it.