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Ruby's Sanity ¹⁴⁷ Hearing Opens

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—The question of whether Jack Ruby was sane or insane when he killed Lee Harvey Oswald is to be decided by a district court jury this week.

The sanity hearing—first requested and then opposed by defense attorneys—gets under way today with the selection of a jury.

Ruby's lawyers, claiming their client's constitutional rights would be violated by having to present witnesses who might be called for a possible second murder trial, are expected to ask for a postponement. Judge Louis T. Holland indicated at a pretrial hearing Friday that he would not grant any delays.

Ruby, 55, former strip joint operator, is under the death penalty for killing Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. The slaying in the basement of the Dallas police station occurred before a nationwide television audience Nov. 24, 1963.

After they were unsuccessful in forestalling the sanity hearing, two groups of lawyers, each representing Ruby, said they would not call their client to the stand nor would they present witnesses or evidence to support their earlier contentions he is insane.

The Court of Criminal Appeals ordered the sanity hearing May 18, saying it would not consider an appeal of his conviction until his mental condition had been determined.