



Jack Ruby is escorted from the Dallas County jail Monday on the way to a hearing on his sanity. His escort is Sheriff Bill Decker. (AP Wirephoto)

Ruby Declared Sane After Jury Hearing; Clears Way For Appeal

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—The Jack Ruby murder case, plagued by legal complications and wrangles among defense lawyers, appears finally to be on its way to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Ruby's conviction and death sentence for the Nov. 24, 1963, killing of Lee Harvey Oswald has not yet technically progressed beyond the trial court level. Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963.

But one major obstacle to the movement of Ruby's trial was removed Monday when a Dallas District Court jury ruled that the 55-year-old former strip joint operator was legally sane. The Texas Court of Criminal

Appeals—the highest court in the state for noncivil cases—had indicated that it would not take up the appeal of the murder conviction until the sanity issue was settled.

Ruby was convicted of murder March 14, 1964, in the same court—Criminal District Court No. 3—that adjudged him sane.

It took a seven-man five-woman jury only 10 minutes Monday to rule that Ruby was sane.

Ruby himself took the witness stand for one minute during the trial to say: "Never at any time have I tried to make anyone believe that I was of unsound mind. I never tried to camouflage my mental capacities."

The defense put on no witnesses, conducted no cross-examination and gave no final arguments.



Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, attended the sanity hearing Monday for Jack Ruby. She said she attended "in the interest of justice." (AP Wirephoto)