



—Dallas News Staff Photo by Bill Whitrey.

Dr. Webb, right, points to spot where lymph node was removed from Jack Ruby as Sheriff Decker, standing, and Dr. Sanford look on.

Outlook 'Serious' For Jack Ruby

"He's having a little discomfort from the chest tube," said Dr. Jay Sanford, one of Jack Ruby's doctors. "But when we left the hospital, he was watching a football game on TV."

Dr. Sanford and Dr. Watts Webb announced in a press conference Saturday that Ruby is suffering from a malignancy.

Dr. Webb removed a cancerous lymph node from Ruby's neck and inserted a tube in his chest to drain off fluid.

The doctors agreed that the "immediate outlook" for Ruby is "good." The "long term" outlook is "serious," said Dr. Sanford.

AN "INCH LONG" INCISION was required to remove the lymph node. The doctors indicated that the lymph node just above the collarbone was "one of the first" lymph nodes that would be affected by a spreading cancer.

Dr. Sanford reminded reporters that entertainer Arthur Godfrey successfully recovered from chest surgery for cancer.

Dr. Sanford said tests to try to locate the site of a suspected major tumor in Ruby will begin "early in the week."

Told of Ruby's condition, Assistant Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander who, with Dist. Atty. Henry Wade had sought the death penalty for Ruby, said "I feel sorry for him and for anybody who has anything like that. I'm sure he'll get the best of treatment."

DIST. JUDGE LOUIS T. HOLLAND of Montague, who had ordered a second trial for Ruby in Wichita Falls in February, said by telephone that he was "sorry indeed to hear that Mr. Ruby has a malignancy."

He said "only time will hold the an-

swer" to what changes the development will bring in the case. Judge Holland said he will talk with Sheriff Bill Decker and Ruby's attorney, Phil Burleson.

Burleson said Saturday: "We are very upset about the announcement. Naturally at this time we're not even thinking about the trial.

"We were concerned with the way he looked when we visited him last Tuesday. We (Burleson and Ruby's other lawyer and relatives) arranged immediately for private doctor to see him. But the earlier that this could be arranged was this morning (Saturday)."

"Jack has been complaining for about a month, as I recall, about not feeling well. He said he was not able to keep food down and that his chest hurt him."

BURLESON SAID that one of Ruby's brothers has had two operations for cancer.

Sheriff Bill Decker sent Ruby to Parland Hospital Friday after consulting with Dr. J. M. Pickard, county health officer.

"Dr. Pickard said he thought Jack had chest congestion and should go to the hospital," the sheriff said. "He had been complaining of a cold."

Mrs. Eva Grant, Ruby's sister, waited at the hospital Friday. She told reporter "That guy's dying."

RUBY WAS FREED from his death sentence Oct. 5 with the ruling of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The ruling held that certain testimony in the trial should have been permitted. It also called for change of venue in the case.

Some observers had predicted that Ruby would get a lighter sentence, if convicted in a new trial.