

Ruby Trial Work Reported Halted

No further preparations will be made to try Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald "unless a miracle should occur" and Ruby is cured of cancer, a reliable source told The Dallas News Tuesday night.

The source, who asked not be identified, confirmed that doctors who are treating Ruby at Parkland Hospital have declined to estimate even unofficially how long the former night spot operator might live.

The source said that the district attorney's office has stopped all work for the second Ruby trial, but noted that most of the preparatory work already was complete.

"The district attorney's office is in a state of flux," he said. "They can't turn loose of the case and, at the same time, they can't go ahead with it."

DIST. ATTY. HENRY WADE declined to comment on the status of the case but noted that "I said last week I was ready for trial."

Assistant Dist. Atty. William E. Alexander, who aided Wade in prosecuting the first Ruby trial, said, "We are waiting for the medical reports and will be guided by what they say."

Meanwhile, Ruby was reported in reasonably good spirits and spent much of his time Tuesday watching television.

Further evidence of cancer-ridden areas was reported by the medical team probing for the exact nature of the cancer, which apparently is throughout his body.

The spread of the disease has taken the convicted slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald beyond the point where surgery could help doctors said.

Because of the wide extension of the disease and resistance of this type of cancer to irradiation, this form of therapy also has been ruled out. Whole body irradiation has been tried in other such cases, but without success, doctors reported.

USE OF DRUGS IS the only weapon against the disease left to the doctors. Their selection will be made as soon as the precise diagnosis is available.

Meanwhile, sources indicated the search for the primary tumor, which will yield that important information, is now apparently focused on the lung.

In Tuesday's reports, doctors said "Small nodules (knots of cells) occupying what would be clear space" in both lungs have been detected.

A tumor mass similar to that found in the initial lymph node has been found in the outer lining of the lung.

And pathologists have discovered malignant cells in the fluid which has been removed from Ruby's chest.

ONE OTHER POSSIBLE site was removed from consideration. Studies by X ray of the lower intestinal tract showed no evidence that the primary tumor is in the colon.

Doctors indicated that accumulation of the fluid in Ruby's right chest cavity—which has necessitated the placement of another drainage tube—may be caused by rubbing of the lung against the tumor in the lung lining.

The small nodules which have invaded his lungs are believed to be malignant, although this can be confirmed only by surgical probe.

In view of the over-all situation, surgery is not considered necessary.

As to his condition, this "remains essentially unchanged," said a bulletin issued late Tuesday from Parkland Hospital. "He is reasonably cheerful and continues to be free of pain except for mild discomfort associated with the chest tubes. During periods when he is not involved with diagnostic procedures, he reads and watches television."

The Dallas Morning News

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1966

Local News

Editorials

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