

HOPES SLENDER FOR RUBY CURE

By **BILL McADA**
Staff Writer

A physician assigned to select the drugs which will be used against the cancer in Jack Ruby's body admitted Wednesday that hopes for a cure are slim.

"A cure with drugs is not often possible," said Dr. Eugene Frenkel, head of the cancer chemotherapy unit at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

He emphasized, however, that chemotherapy has been known to cure some cases and has apparently retarded the tumor spread in others.

DR. FRENKEL declined, as have others on the case, to make any prediction on how long the accused killer of presi-

dential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald might survive.

"That is impossible to predict," Dr. Frenkel told a press conference. "You'd almost have to be God."

The team treating Ruby was scheduled to decide by late afternoon which of several tumor-fighting drugs will be used in the case. The type of malignancy and its spread have ruled out surgery or radiation as treatment techniques.

Dr. Frenkel indicated that most of the anti-cancer agents are administered by injection, though some such agents are in pill form.

Meanwhile, Ruby "is being brought to the best physiological state" preparatory to the beginning of the trial. See **RUBY** on Page 22

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ning of the chemotherapeutic program, Dr. Frenkel said.

Dr. Frenkel, making his first public statements in the case, declined to speculate on whether Ruby will be able to face the new murder trial now tentatively scheduled in about 45 days.

A medical recommendation which undoubtedly will weigh heavily in the decision on whether the trial is held is not expected for a week or 10 days.

Dr. Jack Barnett, an internist who heads the team of physicians working on Ruby, said Wednesday he doubts that the cancer-riddled patient will be able to keep his date with a new jury.

"But I have not definitely made up my mind at this time," Dr. Barnett said. "There are more tests to be run and those of us on the medical team must discuss the matter to come up with our recommendation."

RUBY'S PRINCIPAL, defense attorney, Phil Burleson, has said he is making no further trial plans until he hears from the medical team.

"It's in the hands of Mr. Ruby's doctors," Burleson said.

The district attorney's office is waiting for word also. "We are ready to go to trial now," prosecutor Bill Alexander says.

However, new evidence of the spread of cancer through the body of the 55-year-old former nightclub owner seems to further narrow the possibility of a retrial.

found to lurk in the bronchus tissue and in the fluid leaking into Ruby's right chest cavity. A second tube was inserted through the right chest wall Tuesday to vacuum the persistent fluid excretion.

The fluid is believed to be coming from a rubbing action occurring between the pleura lining of the chest and a sac covering the lung. A biopsy taken of the pleura lining already has shown it to be cancerous.

Four and probably five of the areas upon which biopsies have been performed have proved to be cancerous.

Other than malignancies in the pleura, bronchus tissue and fluid, cancer also has been found in at least a part of the lymph system and possibly in both lungs.

NUMEROUS UNCLASSIFIED nodules up to a half-inch in diameter were discovered by X-rays of the lungs. Surgery, which is not planned, would be required to determine whether these are malignant.

Only one suspected area studied thus far has proved to be free of tumor. X-rays taken of the lower intestinal tract Tuesday showed no cancer there.

Dr. Barnett said X-ray examination of the upper intestine, the stomach and the pancreas will be conducted Wednesday morning.

Doctors have said that all of the malignancy discovered thus far could be coming from a primary tumor which is yet undetected.

TUESDAY NIGHT cancer was