

Doctors, Officers There

Death Came Quietly With No Last Words

By JOHN GEDDIE

Jack Ruby made no deathbed pronouncement.

He died quietly, surrounded by a roomful of medical specialists and lawmen.

Once Tuesday morning, he was reportedly told, "Jack, you're dying."

"I know it," reportedly was his only reply.

Phil Burleson, his Dallas attorney, said he decided Monday night to visit Ruby then instead of waiting until Tuesday.

"We just talked about acquaintances," he said, "and friends who had asked about him."

Ruby's known last words about the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald were made into a concealed tape recorder Dec. 17.

As he had insisted since Nov.

24, 1963, he said he acted on impulse during an emotional "blur" over the assassination of President John Kennedy.

His last words were basically unchanged from prior rambling accounts of the shooting.

A former Ruby attorney, Joe Tonahill of Jasper, told The News: "I don't believe Jack Ruby carried any secret to his grave."

"It couldn't have been a conspiracy. He was a loner all the way."

Burleson, quiet and apparently still stunned when he received Ruby's personal effects from deputies Wednesday, also indicated that no plot rumors died with Ruby.

He was given two parcels which contained a toothbrush, a checkerboard, books and other items.

Seven floors above the courthouse basement where Burleson discussed the death of his client, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade proceeded with routine office work.

Upon questioning, he answered, "I have absolutely no feelings and no comment."

The case against Ruby will be dismissed routinely, he explained.

Dist. Judge Joe B. Brown, who walked into nationwide publicity when he presided at

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Ruby's trial and later left the case in a controversy over a book he was writing about the case, stopped by Wade's office and waved.

"I don't have anything to say," Judge Brown replied to a questioner. "I'm sorry about it."

Tonahill said that several "rumor-mongers" called him shortly after Ruby's death with stories of conspiracy in the death.

"They insinuated that he died too quick," Tonahill said.

He suggested that medical records be made available and that a group of scientists from M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston — where Tonahill wanted Ruby moved before his death — be invited to study Ruby's body and records of his treatment.

He said it was a "damn shame" that Ruby's last brief words were made into one tape recorder. He said a panel of newsmen should have been allowed to question him.

"I don't care if they did get a fabulous sum of money for the record," he said. "He should have been allowed to talk before a lot of witnesses.

"The rumors have already started."