

A Warren Lawyer Says Ruby's Death Can't Alter Report

Special to The New York Times
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3 —

Joseph A. Ball, who was senior staff counsel to the Warren Commission, said today that he did not see how the death of Jack Ruby could have any effect on the validity of the commission's report on President Kennedy's assassination.

"But I'm sure the scandal-mongers who have been writing scurrilous books about the report will spread the word that there was something sinister about Ruby's death," he added sardonically.

The Long Beach lawyer denounced as "literary scavengers" the recent procession of authors of books challenging the commission's conclusions. He named Mark Lane, Harold

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Welsberg, Edward Jay Epstein and Leon Sauvage as writers who had raised doubts about the findings on the basis of "no new evidence whatsoever" but through what he called distortion or disregard of data set forth in the Warren Report.

The commission said that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed the President on Nov. 22, 1963. Two days later Ruby killed Oswald.

Mr. Ball said he saw no reason to reopen the Warren inquiry unless new evidence developed. He said he had received no communication from any commission officials about any such review.

He cited as an outstanding refutation of critics of the Warren Report an analysis by Dr. Jacob Cohen of Yale University published here recently by Frontier Magazine.

Mr. Ball suggested that publication of the autopsy of President Kennedy might be dispelled if X-rays and other medical data that relatives re-

cently placed under seal in the National Archives in Washington could be examined by "an objective panel of scholars."

The lawyer had spent months in Dallas and elsewhere investigating the circumstances of the shooting of the President, questioning witnesses and reviewing thousands of official reports. The commission's report was issued in October, 1964.

Mr. Ball spoke today at a luncheon of Town Hall, a civic organization, which was attended by 400 persons. He amplified his views at a news conference.