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NEW YORK POST

Sanity Verdict Speeds Ruby Murder Appeal

Dallas, June 14 (AP)—The Jack Ruby murder case, plagued by legal complications and wrangles among defense lawyers, finally appears to be on its way to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Ruby's conviction and death sentence for the Nov. 24, 1963, killing of Lee Oswald has not yet technically progressed beyond the trial court level. Oswald was named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy.

A major obstacle to the progress of Ruby's trial was removed yesterday when a Dallas district court jury ruled that the former strip joint operator was legally sane.

The Court of Criminal Appeals—highest court in the state for noncivil cases—had indicated that it would not take up the appeal of the murder conviction until the sanity issue was settled.

Ruby, 55, was convicted of murder March 14, 1964. The de-

fense, claiming Ruby was insane, requested a sanity hearing a month after the conviction. It was repeatedly delayed for various reasons.

The Texas appeals court ordered last May 18 that Ruby's sanity be judicially determined without delay. It took a seven-man five-woman jury only 10 minutes yesterday to rule Ruby was sane.

The defense had asked that the sanity trial be put off. Reasons given were that such a proceeding at this time would violate Ruby's constitutional rights and slow down the appeal of the murder conviction.

But Dist. Judge Louis Holland denied formal motions to that effect yesterday and the jury was selected in 42 minutes.

The state put on five witnesses—four jailers and the jail doctor—to back up its contention that Ruby is of sound mind.

Ruby Denies Pretense

Ruby himself took the witness stand for one minute to say:

"Never at any time have I tried to make anyone believe that I was of unsound mind. I never tried to camouflage my mental capacities."