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JACK RUBY RULED SANE

Jury of Seven Men and Five Women Requires
Only Few Minutes to Reach
Verdict

A DENIAL HEARD

Defendant Declares That
He Never Claimed
Insanity

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Dallas — A state court jury yesterday ruled that Jack Ruby, convicted slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald, presidential assassin, is sane. The jury of seven men and five women deliberated less than 15 minutes after hearing testimony from four jailers and a prison doctor that Ruby appeared to them to be of sound mind.

Two competing sets of defense attorneys, both present in the courtroom, did not offer any evidence or question any of the five state witnesses.

Agree, Yet Compete

Both groups, although competing, contended that Ruby's civil rights were being violated by the sanity hearing because a family request for such a hearing had been withdrawn.

Wearing a dark blue suit and a gray tie, Ruby took the witness stand to deny that he is insane or that he ever has claimed to be.

"I never tried to make anyone believe I was of unsound mind," Ruby said.

The insanity trial was ordered last month by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to settle a question of whether Ruby was competent to hire and fire his attorneys.

Ruby and his relatives several times have fired Joe H. Tonahill of Jasper, Tex., one of his defense attorneys during his murder trial in March, 1964. Tonahill refused dismissal, claiming

that Ruby was of unsound mind. Tonahill, a 6-foot-4-inch-tall, 350-pound criminal lawyer, yesterday led one of the two teams of defense attorneys.

The jury's verdict that Ruby is sane has no connection with his state of mind on November 25, 1963, the day Oswald was killed. Ruby shot Oswald with a pistol in the basement of Dallas city jail as Oswald—labeled the assassin of President Kennedy by a special commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme court—was being transferred to the county jail.

Sentenced March, '64

A nationwide television audience witnessed the scene as Ruby, then a nightclub owner, darted out of a crowd of onlookers and fired a shot into Oswald's chest. Ruby was sentenced to death in March, 1964, after a turbulent trial during which he was defended by Tonahill and by Melvin Belli of San Francisco.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, watched Ruby's sanity hearing from a back-row seat yesterday. She was accompanied by a lawyer. "Certainly, I am interested," she told reporters. "This man shot my boy and deprived the world of the truth."

Ruby's sister and brother also were on hand. The sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, said the family is insisting that Tonahill disassoci-

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ate himself from any of Ruby's appeals.

Tonahill said that he considers himself to be Ruby's attorney and will continue to act in this capacity.

The other teams of attorneys, hired by Ruby and by his family, include Phil Burleson of Dallas, Sam Houston Clinton, jr., of Austin, Sol A. Dann of Detroit, and William Kunstler of New York City.

The Texas Appeals court had ruled that Tonahill could participate in yesterday's sanity hearing, and Judge Louis T. Holland of Montague, Tex., permitted the two sets of attorneys.

"This proceeding may have seemed a little odd to you," the judge told the jury. But he said he held it because he was ordered to by a higher court.