

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
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March 5, 1970

Mr. Richard C. Allen  
Professor of Law  
Director, Institute of Law  
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National Law Center  
The George Washington University  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dick:

It was a pleasure seeing you again at the convention.

Enclosed please find a copy of my examination of Jack Ruby, which you desired.

Your presentation was excellent and I only regret that you could not be allotted more time.

Let's keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,

*Werner Tuteur*  
Werner Tuteur, M.D.  
Clinical Director and  
Forensic Psychiatrist.

WT:GB

Encl.

PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION OF JACK RUBY

BY: Werner Tutear, M.D.

Dates of Examinations:

July 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th, 1965.

Place of Examinations:

Dallas County Jail, Dallas, Texas.

Reason for Examination:

The purpose of this examination is to determine the present state of sanity of the defendant. *Competency*

Introduction:

Ruby's history covering his early development, his general activities, the reason for his arrest and trial have been extensively covered by many news media.<sup>1</sup> They will not be repeated here, although reference will be made to them later under the heading of "Interpretation."

Length of Interviews:

The first interview lasted for two hours and fifteen minutes, the second for one hour, the third for one hour and a half, and the fourth for half an hour. All interviews took place in an examining room containing a table and two chairs, located on the same floor as the defendant's quarters. For reasons of proper ventilation the door was kept somewhat ajar.

Attitude and Behavior:

*Jail!*

→ The initial encounter with Mr. Ruby was of interest. The interview room was not immediately available and our mutual introduction took place in the hall. Ruby had been informed by his sister about my pending arrival. He shook hands willingly and was friendly. He was disappointed that we could not immediately enter the examining room, looked at me and said, "Du bist von Deitschland?" (Deitschland is Yiddisch,

meaning Germany. What he asked was, "Are you from Germany?") I answered in the affirmative, which seemed to have Ruby's approval. Soon later we entered the interview room. Here Ruby rather circumstantially and ritualistically placed the only two chairs close to each other, facing the wall. He placed them at a considerable distance from the table, since he was convinced of the presence of a microphone immediately below the table. All four interviews were practically conducted in a whisper. Ruby became considerably upset when I greeted him during the second interview, using usual speaking voice, asking him how he had slept. He responded by saying, "I told you not to talk so loud, since everything here is being recorded....." I was always sitting to Ruby's right and he would whisper into my left ear.

His attitude of secrecy and circumstantiality prevailed during all of our meetings. Yet, Ruby was by all means friendly, but not always cooperative. He was to be the one to do the talking by giving endless orations. Attempts at interrupting him were met with, "Please hear me out, you must listen to me." He then proceeded by indicating that he was sane and that his mind was functioning adequately. He promised that after having given such proof, he would make me acquainted with a conspiracy which I was to guard with the utmost secrecy. He had already mentioned this conspiracy in the hall. At the end of the third interview he insisted he was going to obtain the book "Who Killed Kennedy?" written by the ~~Englishman~~ Buchanan, from another inmate for me. I replied that I would neither remove from nor introduce anything into this building, to which he reacted very angrily, asking me never to return. When I, nevertheless, reappeared the next morning, he was pleased to see me again. Ruby invited me to dinner during the first interview, which

took place during late afternoon hours. It so happened that he became so engulfed in the examination that he forgot about his own dinner. //

Emotional Tone:

Throughout the examinations Mr. Ruby remained depressed and at times agitated. There was also undue excitement and there were suicidal preoccupations. The two suicidal attempts which he had committed since confined to his present residence were discussed. He gave as a reason that he did not want to be tortured to death. -There were silences during the interviews, when Ruby would hold his head in his hands and would carefully listen to incidental noises, such as the squeaking of a door or the shuffling of feet by other inmates. He would then look at me, moving his chair somewhat, have a mournful expression, and say, "Hörst Du weinen.....?" (Do you hear crying?). He was convinced Jewish women and children were being slaughtered right there and then. This came to a climax when during the last interview a crew of plumbers began to dismantle a piece of equipment with heavy hammer blows, creating a great noise. Here Ruby had found "proof" of his allegation of the manslaughter of Jews on premises. At other times he would repeatedly say with great feeling, "What a terrible thing I did by killing that man...."

Mental Content:

Presently Ruby is very much preoccupied with his death sentence and his fear of dying. This became particularly pronounced when I made preparations to leave the interview of one hour and a half. Both of us had noticed an attorney who obviously needed the examining room for a client. Ruby exclaimed, "You are leaving a man who has been sentenced to death.....?" Practically all his statements were colored by marked fear. -He considers himself the victim of a conspiracy and was "framed"

{ to kill Oswald, so that Oswald could never say who made him kill President Kennedy. This "framework," of course, is very complicated and must be guarded with the greatest secrecy. It involves the strip teaser, his employee who, on the fatal morning of November 24, 1963, "made him go to Western Union to wire her money." She had just timed it right so he had to shoot Oswald. It involves also high government agencies and his attorneys whom he considers to be members of the plot. They wanted then and want now to harm him seriously. It is in these areas where the patient's grasp of reality is completely absent. Such ideas are fixed false beliefs, where argumentation and even proof of falsehood are in vain.

Ruby is extremely sensitive in matters referring to antisemitism; there are many fixed false beliefs in this area. Usually there is a fragment of truth in his false ideas. However, this fragment is then magnified and misapplied by the patient. It so happened that on July 12, 1965, the day of the first interview, the Dallas Morning News had published a news item referring to recent outbreaks of antisemitism in Bamberg, Germany. Ruby, an avid reader, had read the item and referred to it. It follows:

The Dallas Morning News.....Monday, July 12, 1965

LATEST INCIDENT OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN WEST GERMANY SEEMS TO BE WORK OF DIFFERENT CULPRITS.

Bamberg, West Germany (AP)--A new manifestation of anti-Semitism, the ninth in this area in less than a month, was discovered Sunday.

A placard with anti-Jewish slogans "next" to swastikas and SS symbols painted in red was found attached to a bridge over the autobahn 22 miles from Bamberg.

The placard, similar to one found fixed to the wall of a U.S. Army munitions depot a week ago, said: "Death to the Jews, Germany awake."

IT WAS SEEN by passing motorists, who informed the police.

After examination by a special police commission, Bamberg's chief

prosecutor, Josef Ostheimer, said the latest placard was the work of a new culprit--not the same person or group which has been spreading anti-Jewish-hate in Bamberg.

Ostheimer said the commission found a difference in the style of lettering on the placard and previous smearings. He said the newest outbreak was primitive work, citing an incorrectly drawn swastika on the placard.

Police were unable to explain how the culprits had carried out their work without being noticed by any autobahn users.

THE AUTOBAHN between Nuernberg and Wuerzburg, which the bridge crosses, was full of holiday traffic at the time and was choked by a 4-mile traffic jam the previous day at a point a few miles south of the bridge.

A team of 50 detectives are hunting the neo-Nazis, who first struck June 13. They have smeared a Jewish monument, desecrated a Jewish graveyard and fixed hate slogans to the U.S. Army munitions depot.

Characteristically, the news item acted upon Ruby's vast and unlimited system of fixed false beliefs like a match on a keg of dynamite. Now he was convinced that Jewish women and children were being killed in the adjoining room and all over the United States. Another example completely void of logic and showing poor critical thinking, if any, was the following: "They are trying to make another Dreyfuss Affair out of me." (Captain Dreyfuss was an officer in the French peacetime army. During the 1890's he was falsely accused of high treason and espionage which he had never committed. Nevertheless he was tried, found guilty, dishonorably discharged and exiled. Several years later, after a new investigation, he was found innocent and fully rehabilitated.) The only parallel between Ruby and Dreyfuss is that they both belong to the Jewish faith. Dreyfuss was not involved in any antisocial activity. -He finally stated that there was absolutely no difference between the United States, Auschwitz, Treblinka and Maidanek, all infamous Hitler extermination camps. What Ruby is doing here is popularly called applying "mental shortcuts." It is a sign of severe malfunctioning of his mind. According to him, all Jews are presently being tortured and killed on account

of his misdeed. He is convinced that his family has been annihilated on account of him. Repeatedly he asked me to call members of his family - he provided me with the telephone numbers in writing - to convince me that they were dead. Again his false beliefs expanded rapidly: I was also to call New Yorkers bearing Jewish sounding names, which I was to select from the telephone book, and convince myself that they were dead because "there will be a goyish (gentile) voice" answering the phone, making evasive statements about the whereabouts of those people who, according to Ruby, had been murdered. "Call Senator Goldwater and have him make a geschrei (noise) to save the Jews." Most members of the government are mamсорim (literally translated: illegitimate children, bastards). As long as they have the Army behind them, they can do as they please.

He considers the present government antisemitic because it sent arms to Egypt. When reminded that even Roosevelt was friendly to the Arabs during World War II, to provide oil for the United States, he would not listen to reason. Here again his lack of logic becomes very apparent. - The noises made by trains and planes are frequently heard in the jail, since it is located in the vicinity of the railroad station and the airport. Ruby is convinced that the sole function of these trains and planes is to remove Jews to death camps.

[ All this does not prevent Ruby from also turning his feelings of being innocently persecuted against the Jews themselves: his sister Eva was working against him during the years prior to the assassination and there were Jews who had undermined his business during that period. They put the "squeeze" on him. ]

The call from Fort Worth on the morning of November 24, 1963, directing him to go to the Western Union, was his "Nemesis." He then drew a sketch of the downtown street system of Dallas, demonstrating how he could or should have taken another route which would have delayed him and would have prevented the murder of Oswald. [There is considerable guilt about the fact that he sent guns to Cuba; he feels he "helped the enemy" and incriminated himself. "They got what they wanted on me." ]

Ruby insists he knows who had President Kennedy killed. They want him (Ruby) to be insane so no one will believe his story. For him the assassination was an act of overthrowing the Government. -Then followed, as is so frequently the case in disorders of this nature, a discourse on his supernatural powers. -Ruby is not able to follow a logical stream of thought and he frequently jumps from one subject to another. At one time he states that the war in Vietnam is merely a diversion maneuver distracting the American people from the things that were happening within the United States, such as the mass slaughtering of Jews, then he suddenly related that he cannot possibly divulge how he was framed into killing Oswald. He becomes annoyed by questions asking for explanations because he cannot produce them. A veil of secrecy then descends on the statements he has just made.

There are, of course, many islands of reality left in Ruby, as is so frequently the case in his particular mental illness. It must be remembered that only a part of his person is insane at this time. He relates well about his early development and other circumstances available from the Warren Report. He avidly reads the newspaper every day and



carries on a reasonable conversation as long as he or others avoid his sensitive areas where the mental illness is located: antisemitism, the murder of Oswald, and the conspiracy regarding the Presidential assassination. His judgment and decision making are greatly impaired, as is his critical thinking.

→ He did not fail to warn me and instruct me that I would be followed the moment I would leave the jail and that my phone would be tapped henceforth. [At other times, particularly during the third interview, he would at times only communicate in writing.] He closed the series of interviews with the statement, "I am doomed. I do not want to die, but I am not insane. I was framed to kill Oswald." // *I am R. Ruby*  
*He said this on 7/15/75 //*

Interpretation:

Ruby is the son of a Cossack, the type of Russian soldier known for his courage and inclination toward violence. Ruby was practically born into violence. The home was early disrupted on account of the father's drinking and the mother's mental illness.<sup>1</sup> There were eight children and Ruby ranked fifth among them. All of them at one time had to be placed into foster homes. Eventually the mentally ill mother had them returned to her, sometime after the father had left the home. Such an environment during childhood makes for insecurity then and in later life. The growing human personality resembles a sapling which needs a pole on which to lean in order to grow straight. In the absence of such support it frequently grows crooked and remains weak and unable to weather the storms which are yet to come. Insecurities nurtured in a youngster render him extremely vulnerable for the reverses of later life. From here on it depends on him how he is going to master his fate, whether by fight or flight, whether he will rebel and act out or retreat and resign himself.

Our mental institutions bear ample witness to both types of behavior, once a mental illness has developed within the individual.

Jack Ruby, according to many reports, has never amounted to anything, although he has always been ambitious and has applied himself. He is a classical example of failure. His financial status has been chaotic.<sup>2</sup> Stigmatized early as a Jew, this has remained an extremely sensitive area.<sup>3</sup> This sensitivity, under the influence of the mental illness, is now being magnified into unrealistic proportions. Hence his constant referring to antisemitism in connection with his being "framed." Being hated as a Jew had been Ruby's most sensitive part of his personality all his life. When mental illness developed, this part was hurt most, being the weakest. All of us have at least one weak part in our bodies. This may be the stomach, the lungs, or any organ. This is the part having the least resistance and it usually falls ill first under adverse conditions or mental strain and stress.

Ruby's mental illness is the illness of the one who suffers a lifelong feeling of unimportance and unaccomplishment. Finally then, with the help of the illness, he reaches a state of importance by feeling persecuted and/or believing he has supernatural powers. The hearing of voices, technically called hallucinating, applies strongly in his case. It is another sign of his illness and is frequently observed. Illogical thinking,<sup>4</sup> rage,<sup>6</sup> superficiality, circumstantiality, hostility,<sup>5</sup> alternating with endearment, are all well known symptoms of his disease. In addition, there is the well known incapability to differentiate between friend and foe,<sup>5</sup> as it is so characteristic in Ruby's instance. Ruby at this time definitely shows a break with reality.

2/11  
The report would be incomplete without considering the possibility of malingering. In the following the examiner is giving the reasons why he thinks that Ruby is suffering from a genuine mental illness:

1. His false beliefs are consistent. He has expressed them to others before I had an occasion to examine him. They are free of contradictions with regard to their content and they persist. They were especially pronounced when I saw him after he had just been awakened but was still sleepy and drowsy. A malingerer needs all his faculties to "display" his alleged mental illness, and one would expect at such an occasion to see the patient gather himself and make an attempt to concentrate on his "faking." This was not the case. The false beliefs flowed freer than ever on that day.
2. The average malingerer conceives mental illness as something comical and clownish. Such behavior was completely absent in his case. //
3. The fact of denial of the illness is a typical symptom of the very condition from which Ruby suffers. ("I am not insane, but everyone else is....") Yet, a very shrewd malingerer might use such denial as a means of "faking." Such technique, of course, involves a great risk, resulting in the fact that people might actually believe the patient is not "ill." I do feel that his denial is genuine and a part of his mental disturbance.

Diagnosis:

Jack Ruby is suffering from schizophrenic reaction, paranoid type. There are sufficient elements of unreality within his thinking which justify this diagnosis. It may be stated once more that in such instances only a part of the person succumbs to mental illness. To use a popular comparison, he does not function on "all cylinders." No one would buy or drive such a car which "runs wrong" and not "right." Yet, many other parts of the car are intact.

The onset of paranoid schizophrenia is slow and insidious. It is felt that in Ruby's case it has been existing for at least four to fifteen years. This is borne out by his hostilities, his suspicions, his violent behavior and his extreme vulnerability and sensitivity long before the Presidential assassination and its ramifications. There was a mental breakdown in 1952.<sup>7</sup> Further, his mental illness has established itself by now to such a severe degree that it must have existed for years. Such conditions are treatable and Mr. Ruby at this time is in urgent need of such treatment.

Conclusion:

It has been stated above that the patient cannot differentiate between friend and foe. An indication of this <sup>was</sup> is his extreme hostile attitude toward his lawyers, whom he feels will harm him. This <sup>precludes</sup> collaboration with counsel. <sup>rendering him incompetent</sup> At this time Mr. Jack Ruby is mentally ill, suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. This renders him legally insane and incompetent. Treatment should be instituted as soon as possible.

*Ruby could not*

*Incompetent and Insane*