Denies Any Thought of Retaliation

Ruby Deeply Moved by Assassination

By Jack Ruby
With William Read Woodfield

DALLAS—The early morning hours of Friday, Nov. 22, 1963: It was quiet in The Carousel (the night club Ruby operated) and someone mentioned that President Kennedy would be in Dallas.

I recall hoping that he would like our city and that nothing like what happened to Adlai Stevenson would happen to President Kennedy.

Approximately 5 a.m. I closed up, counted the cash, put the receipts in my bank bag. I put my .38 caliber revolver in my right trouser pocket, as usual. I always carry my gun when I carry money.

I went to bed. My last thoughts were, "How wonderful it is for Dallas that our President was going to visit us."

I felt, "He my President. I love him" and I fell asleep.

Visits Newspaper

Approximately 9:30 a.m., I arrived at the Dallas Morning News building. A few minutes later I went up to the second floor to see John Noonan and work out my ad before the noon deadline.

Approximately 12:30 p.m., someone ran into the room and said, "Somebody's been shot!" Then someone else said, "Connally's been shot." Someone else said, "The President's been shot!" Everybody went wild.

I said a prayer and waited and heard as the doctors tried to save his life, as the two priests gave him the last rites and one of them said he was still alive. My heart pounded as I waited. I wept and my mouth was dry.

About 2:15 p.m. I went to the club and told Andy to call everybody and tell them we wouldn't be open tonight.

Approximately 4 p.m., the television was on at Ev's (Ruby's sister). We cried and cried. "Why did they do it? Why did they do it?" I asked.

"He was such a beautiful man. Why did they do it?"

We cried and cried. We grieved and watched television.

They showed Oswald on television. I thought to myself, "If he's the right man, he's got to be either a John Bircher or a Communist."

About 10:30 p.m., I drove around downtown Dallas. I saw clubs open, people having fun. I was shocked that there was not more sadness.

Greeted by Policemen

I went to the police station and parked in the lot. A police officer asked me where I was going and I told him.

As I walked through the halls, fellows kept saying, "Hello Jack," "Hi, Jack." I didn't feel so lost. I took the elevator upstairs. There were a lot of officers who knew me and who said hello to me.

Saturday, Nov. 23, 1963—Midnight: Suddenly Chief Curry (Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry) and Homicide Captain Will Fritz appeared with Oswald.

I was suddenly in a swarm of people. I lost my purpose in going there. I'm in a world of history.

He was mumbling. I didn't think much of him. He looked like a creep. But he didn't look like he would have killed our President all alone.

Chief Curry took us to the basement to the assembly room—a large room. Capt. Fritz and Henry Wade, the Dallas County District Attorney (a friend of Jack Ruby's who, ironically is now in charge of prosecuting Ruby) brought Oswald out into view of the TV cameras and the photographers. They took their pictures and the reporters asked Oswald questions. He was mumbling answers. I had my gun in my pocket this night.

I had no thought of killing him. It never entered my head. Besides, he was still only a suspect—innocent until proven guilty.

"Evidence to Convict"

"We have enough evidence to convict," I heard my friend, Henry Wade, announce to the hundreds of reporters and TV men. Henry also announced that Oswald had refused to take a lie detector test.

Wade also told us that Oswald had denied being a Communist but admitted being a Marxist and having defected to Russia.

Chief Curry confirmed that

Ruby's Brain Waves Recorded for Court

DALLAS, Jan. 29 (UPI) Jack Ruby was quietly taken from his county jail cell today and rushed to a clinic where three court-appointed psychiatrists made recordings of his brain waves.

Ruby, dapperly dressed in his customary business suit, white shirt and gray tie, was returned to the jail about four hours later, tired and wan, his hands chained before him by handcuffs.

The Dallas striptease club operator said he thought the tests were a little easier than those yesterday, when doctors began testing him before daybreak and did not finish until afternoon.

the evidence was "conclusive" and someone said that fingerprints had been found. Henry Wade told us that he would "ask for and get the death penalty." I felt proud that Henry Wade was my friend and I slipped a Carousel guest card into Henry's pocket and patted him on the back.

I never at any time thought of shooting Oswald. I thought he would get to trial. I did not think he would get shot.

About 5:30 a.m. I went home and fell asleep immediately.

FRIDAY: The last 24 hours before I shot Lee Oswald.

© 1964, Jack Ruby and William Read Woodfield. All rights reserved.