Ruby's 'Motive': Spare Mrs. Kennedy

Former nightclub owner Jack Ruby has testified that he shot Lee Harvey Oswald out of an irrepressible desire to spare Mrs. John F. Kennedy "any further anguish." The story of Ruby's incredible testimony was carried yesterday by the Dallas News in a copyrighted story. The news said its Ruby quotes were possibly not verbatim but were "substantially correct." Ruby, the News said, gave a detailed account of his motivations to Chief Justice Earl Warren during a 3½-hour interview June 7, conducted in the Dallas jail.

The balding Ruby told Justice Warren he wanted to save Mrs. Kennedy the grief of having to return to Dallas, where her husband was assassinated Nov. 22, for Oswald's trial. He said he contemplated the shooting as he drove from his apartment to City Hall on Nov. 24. He said he "just walked in" to the police station where he shot Oswald in full view of a nationwide television audience. "I decided to sacrifice myself," he told the Chief Justice, head of a commission now concluding an exhaustive probe into the murder of the late President. Ruby further insisted that he acted of his own volition. "I do not belong to any subversive organizations . . . and no Communists told me to shoot him . . ." Ruby told Justice Warren.

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