Jack Ruby's gun sells for $220,000

= RFD P.I. 12/27/91

NEW YORK (AP) — The gun Jack Ruby used to kill Lee Harvey Oswald was auctioned Thursday night for $220,000.

Bidding for the gun, with the police evidence tag still attached, started at $100,000 and quickly escalated.

The buyer was a New Jersey gun collector who wished to remain anonymous.

Ruby's brother Earl, a Detroit businessman who got control of Ruby's estate in August after a long court fight, intends using $80,000 of the proceeds to pay Ruby's income tax bill, said the auctioneer, Herman Darvick.

"I feel great," Earl Ruby said after the sale. "I don't feel too good about having to get rid of the gun but I'm glad the bills will be paid."

Ruby shot Oswald to death with the .38-caliber Colt Cobra revolver in the basement of Dallas City Jail on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after President Kennedy was assassinated. Oswald was accused of the killing.

The sale came amid controversy over Oliver Stone's new film "JFK," which suggests a government conspiracy behind the assassination of Kennedy.

"It has to be the most valuable gun in private hands. People saw this live on television," Mr. Darvick said in October, when Earl Ruby disclosed plans to auction the weapon.

Mr. Darvick had expected the gun to fetch between $200,000 and $300,000.

The buyer didn't attend the auction, sending another man, Frank Roman, to place the bids.

"I'm purchasing it for a gun collector," Mr. Roman said. Asked what the buyer would do with the gun, he said: "I guess he's going to put it away."

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. There has been no comment from Gorbachev about his plans, but the Russian Information Agency said he planned to head the Fund for Socio-Political Research, a foundation Gorbachev created after the August coup attempt. PDT 12/27/91

Jack Ruby's Gun Up for Auction

The gun used by **Jack Ruby** to kill **Lee Harvey Oswald** in front of millions of television viewers was going up for auction last night at New York's Omni Park Central Hotel, with a minimum offer of $100,000 required to enter the bidding. "It has to be the most valuable gun in private hands. People saw this live on television," auctioneer **Herman Darvick** said in October, when Ruby's brother, **Earl**, disclosed plans to auction the weapon. Darvick expected the gun to sell for at least $200,000. Ruby shot Oswald with the .38-caliber Colt Cobra revolver in the basement of Dallas City Jail on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Oswald assassinated **President Kennedy**. Ruby was convicted of murdering Oswald, but the conviction was overturned and he died in jail in 1967 while awaiting a second trial. The gun had been in a Dallas safe deposit box while Ruby's brother battled Ruby's former lawyer for control of the estate. Earl Ruby won control of the estate in August, and says he intends to use $80,000 of the auction proceeds to pay Ruby's outstanding income tax bill, Darvick said.

Name Calling

Washington malpractice lawyer **Jack Olender** has been named Lawyer of the Year by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. The success that earns him the praise of his peers brings on the enmity of his courtroom adversaries: This month's issue of Medical World News calls Olender "Jack the Ripper," while January's OBG Management, a periodical for obstetricians, calls him "The Physician's Number One Enemy."

—Compiled from staff and wire reports by Eric Brace