

DAY MORNING, JANUARY

RUBY'S FINAL PLEA TAPED

Balt Sun 1/4/67
Secret Interview Recorded
In Hospital Room

New York, Jan. 3 (AP) — In a voice silenced today by death, Jack Ruby less than three weeks ago recorded anew his long-standing denial that he was a conspirator in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Capitol Records replayed for a news conference today a secret interview recorded in Ruby's Parkland Memorial Hospital room in Dallas between December 15 and December 18.

"Did you ever know Oswald before?" Ruby was asked of the accused Presidential assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

"It's A Fabrication"

"Never have known him or seen him before," Ruby replied of the man he shot and killed in Dallas police headquarters two days after President Kennedy's assassination.

"Is there any truth at all to the stories that Oswald had been in your club?"

"None whatsoever," Ruby answered. "It's a fabrication."

In a report December 19, Ruby was described as praying that he would be given a final lie-detector test to establish that there was no conspiracy in his killing of Oswald.

Offer Not Accepted

Ruby, who died today of cancer, had maintained repeatedly since his arrest November 24, 1963, that his killing of Oswald was on impulse and in no way connected with any conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Kennedy.

Capitol Records' interview with Ruby is part of a 46-minute recording called "The Controversy." A spokesman for the firm said part of the profits would go to the John F. Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Mass. However, a library spokesman said today:

"Capitol Records, Inc., did offer as a donation to the John F. Kennedy Library Corporation a portion of the royalty payable in connection with the Ruby album. The directors of the library corporation do not accept contributions from commercial enterprises such as this."

Lawrence Schiller, who produced the record for Capitol, said permission was obtained from the Ruby family to place recording equipment, hidden in a briefcase, in the hospital room at Parkland.

In a statement, Capitol added:

"Jack Ruby, with full knowledge of the taping in advance, was told in Yiddish 'The tape recorder is here, in the briefcase. Talk into it,' while a guard, who is stationed 24 hours a day in his room, stood only a few feet away, unaware that the recording was being made."