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# No Conspiracy, Ruby

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — If Jack Ruby hadn't killed Lee Harvey Oswald, there might be little or no controversy today about the assassination of John F. Kennedy. But Jack Ruby ended any possible Oswald testimony and, as his own death approached, begged the world to believe what many find hard to believe, that he was part of no conspiracy to silence Oswald. Here is a report on Jack Ruby's last days.

By **BERNARD GAVZER**

**DALLAS, Tex. (AP)** — Jack Ruby denied it to the edge of death.

But even his family couldn't help asking, because to many other people seemed to be asking, whether he really acted alone, and not as part of a conspiracy, to kill the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

And so, near the end, Earl Ruby asked his brother again, as he had many times before:

"Are you sure, Jack, there was nothing else?"

And Jack Ruby answered, says his brother:

"I'm not hiding anything. I'm not protecting anybody. There is

nothing to hide, no one to protect. Believe me."

As he lay in his guarded room in Parkland Memorial Hospital, stricken with cancer, Jack Ruby often seemed to be begging the world to believe he would take no secrets to the grave.

He also was tormented by hallucinations in which he imagined that millions of American Jews were being slain in a program as punishment because he, a Jew, silenced the alleged killer of a president.

Ruby could be rational on certain levels and wholly irrational on others, according to those closest to him. For example, he might be watching a football game on television and something would touch him off — like a penalty. Worse is being done to the Jews, he would say.

Ruby insisted that he alone, without plan or prompting, shot Lee Harvey Oswald.

He swore also that rumors of secret meetings relating to the

President's assassination, the killing of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit and the slaying of Oswald, were lies invented by "momserem," a Yiddish epithet.

These details of Ruby's last days came from his brother, Earl, a Detroit businessman; Elmer Gertz, a Chicago attorney prominent on the legal team which won reversal of the death sentence given to Ruby in 1964, and, through them, from other members of the family.

The Ruby murder trial and the Warren Commission report supported conclusions that Ruby acted alone in shooting of Oswald — a shooting that was witnessed by a television audience of millions of Americans Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963.

But a broiling controversy about the Warren Report has produced various theories of conspiracies — some of which give Ruby a hidden role.

"He simply could not conceive

# Claimed Until Death

that people could not see that he not only acted alone but that they could take this and twist it into a premise for giving him a role in a plot against the President, a man he worshipped," Gertz said.

Jack Ruby sought no forgiveness for shooting Oswald, Gertz explained:

"I don't think Jack mentioned his name more than a few times in the many times I saw him, and then it was as if Oswald was a figure beyond his comprehension. Jack saw himself a kind of instrument. He did not have the delusion that God told him to do it, or that he was an instrument of any people, but that it happened without his conscious will."

Jack Ruby also complained that his cancer was induced secretly in jail. When he experienced difficulty breathing early in December and was taken to the hospital, it was thought that he had pneumonia. He took this

as proof that mustard gas was seeped into his cell. When his condition was diagnosed as cancer, he was certain it had been injected into him.

However, his family praised the treatment Ruby received in Parkland, although they complained that his condition had been neglected or brushed off as "hamming it up" in jail.

Jack Ruby spent his last day in a large private room which had one wall dominated by a wide window. A nurse and two deputy sheriffs were always on duty. Ruby spent hours watching television, especially football games.

Near the end his mood — according to the family — changed to one of "black despair".

And he whispered that he didn't want to die far from home. Home, for Jack Ruby,  
(Turn To Page Five)