

RUBY'S CLOT CUT OFF AIR

Cancer Made Any Chance Of Survival Unlikely

Dallas, Jan. 3 (AP)—Jack Ruby woke up jovial and hungry this morning. Hours later, a massive blood clot cut off his breath and he was dead.

Doctors said the cancer which had riddled the lungs, lymph nodes and liver of the convicted slayer had shown signs of responding to high-powered drugs.

But, Dr. Eugene Frenkel said, the extent of the cancer made it unlikely Ruby could have survived and made it more difficult for him to fight off a second deadly attack, this one from the blood clot.

Could Not Breathe

The official cause of death at 10:30 A.M. (C.S.T.) was "respiratory embarrassment," said Frenkel. This means simply that Ruby could no longer breathe.

Last night he had found it difficult to breathe and was put in an oxygen tent where he responded well, and slept comfortably.

This morning Ruby "was jovial" and bathed and ordered eggs for breakfast, Frenkel said.

Only an hour later he suffered what Frenkel called an acute seizure and after that did not respond either to oxygen or to closed heart massage.

Family Waited Outside

His family was outside the door of Ruby's seventh-floor room at Parkland Hospital during his final hours, Frenkel said Ruby did not make any final remarks.

Frenkel said that although Ruby only last week asked for a lie detector test to prove he conspired with no one in killing Lee Harvey Oswald, such a test "would have been totally and grossly invalid because of Ruby's deteriorating condition."

Ruby lost 20 pounds since entering the hospital December 9 and weighed 147 pounds at death. He had been in jail awaiting a second trial for killing Oswald, whom the Warren Commission named as the assassin of President Kennedy.

He Did Not Smoke

The autopsy determined Ruby's

cancer probably originated in the lining of his lungs. Frenkel said the cancer was technically called a "mucin-forming adeno carcinoma" which attacks cells that line ducts and glands of the body. It is not caused by cigarette smoking, he said.

Ruby neither smoked nor drank.

Asked if the powerful drugs given Ruby after he entered the hospital 3½ weeks ago had been effective, Frenkel said radiologists last Friday had noted "a decrease in the size of the tumors. It looked as if we were beginning to get some decrease in the size at last."

Surgery Ruled Out

But he said it was "unlikely" drugs could have staved off the growth of more cancerous cells to a point where Ruby could have survived. Doctors had ruled out surgery or irradiation because his cancer was so widespread when detected.

Frenkel and Dr. Earl Rose, Dallas county medical examiner, who together performed the autopsy, said the size of the blood clot in itself might have been sufficient to kill Ruby.

Did Not Want To Leave

"But he had lung embarrassment to start with, so any small straw such as a blood clot would have thrown him off balance," Frenkel said.

The doctors said the Ruby team did not administer medicine which would have prevented the clots from forming since the hazard was greater than the potential help in his weakened state.

Frenkel said he believed Ruby got the finest medical care possible at Parkland and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School facilities. In addition, Frenkel said, "Ruby did not want to leave Parkland" for other better-known cancer treatment centers such as M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

Belli Attacks Care Of Ruby

Paris, Jan. 3 (AP)—Melvin Belli, chief attorney for Jack Ruby at his trial for the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald, contended tonight that Dallas authorities were negligent in caring for Ruby.

"I can't understand," Belli said in a statement, "that no one could see that this man, kept under close watch after a suicide attempt, was dying. They should have given him proper care, especially in a city which claims to have the best medical facilities

in the world," Belli said. He did not name the authorities.

Investigation Recommended

Detroit, Jan. 3 (AP)—Sol Dann, a Detroit attorney who handled some of Jack Ruby's affairs for his family, said today "an investigation should be made to determine whether the sheriff's office down there [Dallas] properly protected the health of Ruby."

Asked whether he thought Ruby's health was not protected, Dann said: "I have strong feelings in that regard that it was not properly protected."