

The Harris Survey

Public Feels That Ruby Was Sane

By Louis Harris

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Before the Jack Ruby jury had reached its own verdict, the American people, by better than 2 to 1, had become convinced that Ruby was not temporarily insane when he shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy.

However, 4 in 10 people harbor suspicions that there was some kind of connection between Ruby and Oswald.

When asked what motivated Jack Ruby, a cross-section of the American people divided this way on Ruby's purported insanity:

BELIEF IN RUBY INSANITY

	Total Public
	%

When He Shot Oswald:	
Ruby was insane	24
Ruby not insane	56
Not sure	20

The sanity of Ruby, of course, was the pivotal issue in his recent murder trial in Dallas.

The jury, made up of citi-

zens of Dallas, finally decided that Ruby was not insane on Nov. 24, 1963, when he killed Oswald.

The thinking of a cross-section of Americans, however, reveals some perhaps unexpected dimensions. When people were probed to state what they believe were the reasons for Ruby to have killed Oswald, the result turned up a fairly widespread suspicion that there is more to the Ruby-Oswald relationship than was revealed at the trial:

WHY RUBY KILLED OSWALD

	Total Public
	%
To keep him quiet	23
Some connection	
between two	17
Temporarily insane	13
Mentally disturbed	11
To get attention	7
Felt badly about	
assassination	7
Put up to it	4
Vicious person	3
Not sure	20

(NOTE: Totals add to more than 100% because some people mentioned more than one motive.)

Little, however, was said by either side about any possible connection between Ruby and Oswald. Perhaps the ultimate answer to public suspicions on this point will be contained in the Warren Commission investigation covering the Kennedy assassination.