

Ruby's Shot Did Not Kill Oswald, Attorney Says

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LAS VEGAS (UPI) — One of the late Jack Ruby's defense attorneys said yesterday that Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, undoubtedly died from an air embolism rather than the gunshot fired by Ruby.

Attorney Joe Tonahill said the embolism — an air bubble in the bloodstream — was believed to have developed while Oswald was receiving a plasma transfusion at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and eventually resulted in a cardiac arrest.

Tonahill said he definitely was not saying that the death of Oswald was deliberate.

Backed by Doctor

The 53-year-old Dallas attorney said his theory regarding the death of Oswald was backed up by Dr. Howard Wilcox of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Beaumont, Texas.

"Dr. Wilcox would have testified that Oswald died of an air embolism and not a gunshot wound," Tonahill told a news conference at a clinic for the American Trial Lawyers Association.

Tonahill said that he and

defense attorney Melvin Belli disagreed on the use of the embolism testimony and finally decided to delete it from the Ruby trial.

He said Dr. Wilcox did not believe that the embolism developed as a result of the gunshot wound.

In New Orleans, meanwhile, Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock, said it will be at least several months before Clay L. Shaw is brought to trial on a charge of plotting the murder of President Kennedy.