

Ruby Linked to Underworld But Significance Is Doubted

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The House Assassinations Committee has linked Jack Ruby with an impressive roster of underworld characters but a Dallas Police investigator said the man who killed Lee Harvey Oswald was a "buffoon" who would have never been trusted by organized crime.

Captain Jack Revill of the Dallas Internal Affairs Squad said, "Jack Ruby was a buffoon, a volatile man who craved the limelight and liked to be recognized. If he was in organized crime, the personnel director of organized crime ought to be replaced."

This characterization of Ruby as a loudmouthed, brawling strip joint operator with a boastful personality was echoed by Ruby's brother, Earl, who said Jack was always bragging and could not keep secrets.

Furthermore, Earl Ruby said Jack became paranoid after his conviction for killing the assassin of President John F. Kennedy and became obsessed with the notion that all Jews were being annihilated on the orders of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

REP. FLOYD FITHIAN, D-Ind., commented that there seemed to be a move afoot to establish a posthumous psychological defense for Ruby, who gunned Oswald down before a nationwide television audience in the Dallas police station two days after Kennedy was assassinated.

Earl Ruby testified that he talked many times with Jack before he died of cancer in a Dallas jail but he never said why he had killed Oswald. Assassination buffs for 15 years have been developing conspiracy theories, many of which contend that Ruby and Oswald were acquainted and that Ruby was ordered by someone to shoot Oswald before he could talk.

Committee counsel G. Robert Blakey linked Jack Ruby to several underworld figures in Dallas but it was never made clear what role Jack Ruby played on the operations of organized crime until he walked unhindered into the Dallas police station on Nov. 24, 1963, and killed Oswald with one pistol shot.

Earl Ruby and his lawyer, Alan Adelson told the committee that Jack developed a wild paranoia after his conviction. The closest Jack ever came to giving his brother a reason for killing Oswald was to say "He said Oswald had a silly smirk on his face and Jack said he lost control of himself."

"DID YOU ASK if Jack was involved with anyone else?" Earl Ruby was asked.

"Yes. I asked point blank if Jack knew Oswald before he shot him and he said 'absolutely not. Are you nuts?'" Earl Ruby replied.

Revill told the committee he knew Ruby from around Dallas as the type who would have known persons in organized crime by the nature of his nightclub business even if he was not himself actively engaged in gambling, narcotics or prostitution.

"He was hot tempered and quick to fight," Revill testified, "and he ejected people from the Carousel Club but I dare say he was not known to the Dallas business community and I take exception to suggestions that he was known to everyone in the 1,200-member Dallas Police Department."

REVILL SAID HE was assigned to investigate how Ruby managed to send a telegram across from the police station on the fateful Sunday morning when he killed Oswald and then managed to get into the police building without anyone noticing him. He said Sgt. Ray Vaughn, who was on guard duty at the Main Street ramp into police headquarters, and Sgt. Don Flusche, who was standing across the street, claimed they never saw Ruby enter the basement.

Both men passed polygraph tests about their statements, according to Revill. But Revill raised the possibility that Ruby may have gotten in by way of the connected Municipal Building and down an unguarded stairway to the garage where Oswald was shot.

Rep. Harold Sawyer, R-Mich., asked Revill if he had interrogated Ruby as to how he got into the police garage. Revill said he asked Ruby twice but that Ruby refused to discuss it.

Revill added that the news media and the television lights contributed to the death of Oswald because it was "mass confusion." He said it was strange to him that Police Chief Jesse Curry announced the day before that Oswald would be moved from the police station to the sheriff's jail at 10 a.m. on the Sunday after Kennedy's death. He said the decision to have the media present to assure the world that the Dallas police had not abused Oswald.