

Ruby Shot Oswald 'On

WASHINGTON (AP) — House investigators are exploring why Jack Ruby talked by telephone with at least five alleged crime syndicate figures during the weeks preceding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The House Assassinations Committee was to take testimony today about Ruby's alleged ties to organized crime.

The committee is investigating whether Kennedy's assassination was the product of a conspiracy, possibly involving the crime syndicates that were the target of a Justice Department crackdown under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

The Warren Commission concluded that there was no conspiracy, that Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy and acted alone and that Ruby also acted alone when he shot Oswald to death in the Dallas police station. Kennedy was slain in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and Oswald was murdered two days later.

But some commission critics have alleged that Ruby had crime syndicate ties suggesting a possible underworld plot against Kennedy.

Earl Ruby told the committee Tuesday that his brother Jack insisted to his death that he acted alone and on an impulse when he killed Oswald. Jack Ruby was convicted of murder and sentenced to death, but the verdict was overturned and he was awaiting a new trial when he died of cancer in Jan. 3, 1967.

Committee chief counsel Robert Blakey said investigators analyzed Ruby's long-distance telephone records and discovered a "dramatic upsurge in calls in October and November 1963."

Many of the 171 calls Ruby made during those months dealt with labor troubles at his Dallas nightclub, Blakey reported.

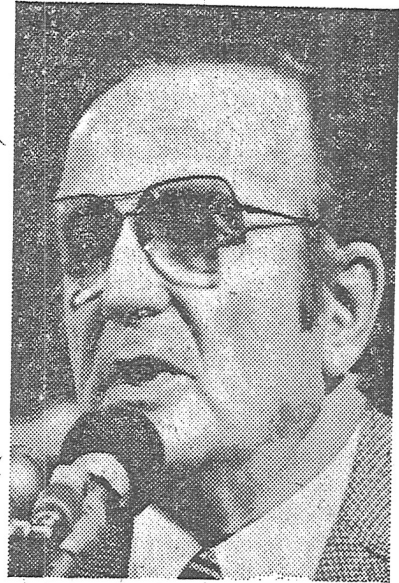
He said investigators determined that 13 Ruby phone calls involved these alleged crime figures:

■ Lewis J. McWillie. Earl Ruby testified that his brother considered McWillie a close friend and visited him in Havana in 1959. A committee report said McWillie in 1959 "was working in an organized-crime-controlled casino" in Havana.

■ Irwin S. Weiner, described by the committee as "a prominent bondsman in Chicago." Law enforcement records show Weiner allegedly "served as a key functionary in the longtime relationship between the Chicago Mafia and various corrupt union officials, particularly during (Jimmy) Hoffa's reign as president of the Teamsters Union," the committee report said.

■ Nofia Pecora, also known as Joseph Pecoraro. In 1963, he operated a New Orleans trailer park and the committee report described him as "a former heroin smuggler" and close associate of Carlos Marcello, then the syndicate boss of Texas and Louisiana.

■ Robert G. "Barney" Baker, a Hoffa lieutenant. Robert Kennedy once wrote that Baker's mere presence in a room "was enough to silence the men who would



Earl Ruby

otherwise have opposed Hoffa's reign." The Senate rackets committee in the late 1950s said Baker was Hoffa's liaison to Mafia leaders.

■ Murray W. "Dusty" Miller, another pro-Hoffa Teamsters leader. The committee report said he "was associated with numerous underworld figures."

Blakey said yesterday the committee investigators have been unable to determine "the ultimate meaning of these facts and circumstances" concerning Ruby's contacts with those men.

Impulse'

The staff report said Ruby called Weiner for 12 minutes on Oct. 26, 1963. Weiner has told the committee in executive session that Ruby telephoned "to seek assistance in the labor dispute he was having with his Dallas nightclub competitors," the report said.

Weiner said he went to high school with Earl Ruby and was acquainted with Jack Ruby but had not heard from him for 10 years before that 1963 call. He said he told Ruby he couldn't help him with the labor problems.

Four days later, Ruby telephoned Pecora's trailer park. Pecora told committee investigators he never knew Ruby and could remember no phone call from him.

Ruby spoke with Baker on Nov. 7, 1963, and Baker told the FBI in 1964 that Ruby sought assistance with the labor problem. Baker said he didn't know Ruby and turned down his request, the report said.

The next day, Ruby called Miller at a Miami hotel. Miller told the committee he, too, turned down Ruby's appeal for help with his labor problems and that he had never before heard of Ruby.

A half-hour after talking with Miller, Ruby telephoned Baker again and the two spoke for 14 minutes, the records showed. The committee report contained no explanation from Baker of the second call.