

Ruby, 1964

Early chronology, *The Torch is Passed*, 82-88

1/64 ... It was 11:16 a.m.

He walked down Main and paused before the entrance to the underground garage. A single policeman stood watch. A squad car rolled up the ramp and stopped. A policeman on watch went over to talk to the man in the car. Unnoticed, Jack Ruby, free lance avenger, walked past them and down the ramp into the basement of the building. *AP, The Torch is Passed*. [No attribution]

1/64 p. 20-22: [after an account of Ruby's shooting of Oswald]

... Much remains to be known of the relationship between the two men. But what we do know indicates that Oswald was murdered, not in a flush of patriotic fervor or mad rage, but in the cool, calculating manner of the professional killer. The bullet that tore into Lee Oswald seems to have been intended not to punish, but to silence, him. *The Minority of One*, p. 16-23, Eric Norden.

1/7/64 Dallas -- District Attorney Henry Wade said today that an intensive investigation showed "no evidence whatever" of any collusion between Jack Ruby and Dallas police officers in the slaying of Lee Oswald.

Mr. Wade made the statement after he received a report prepared by an investigating board that had been appointed by Police Chief Jesse Curry.

He said a copy of the report had been sent to the Warren Commission. ... *New York Times*, Special to *New York Times*

1/20/64 Dallas - FBI agent C. Ray Hall, last witness of the day, testified that Ruby had also told him of going to Cuba to try to sell jeeps, using a plane ticket sent to him by a person the State described as "someone in Cuba." *AP*, James W. Mangan, 1:54 p.m. CST

1/21/64 Dallas -- Ruby denied bond, returned to cell to await further psychiatric examinations.

... The two days of testimony brought out that Ruby once made a trip to Cuba, allegedly in an attempt to sell surplus GI equipment to the Castro government, then in favor in the United States.

Questioned about that by newsmen today, Ruby said it was only a vacation trip, and that he was quizzed by Cuban intelligence men about his motive.

"I wanted to get out of the beer business, but I never have been a person looking for a fast buck," the slightly nervous, well-dressed Ruby said, "I had no motive, it was a vacation.

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Under the barrage of questions, and the bright lights of the cameras, Ruby broke down and wept. His lawyers then asked that all questioning stop. *AP*, 6:33 p.m. CST, James Mangan

1/25/64 Dallas - ... A source close to the prosecution says:

"Ruby is a class-conscious nobody who saw an opportunity to do something that would put him in the public eye and even make him a hero. He wasn't insane. He was rational. But he figured wrong. He's not a hero; he's a heel. Because of fouling up history."

... The guys ... still remember the 1927 Dempsey-Tunney fight mostly for the guys who got in free. Sparky was one.

"We snuck in all right," says Benny Barrish now a liquor salesman in San Francisco. "But that story about Sparky having a metal plate in his head because a cop clobbered him with a night stick is bunk. A cop did throw a stick, but he didn't hit anyone."

... [as an Army Air Force mechanic] He saw service at five camps -- Keesler Field, MS, Seymour Johnson Field, SC [where he qualified as a sharpshooter with a carbine]; Bluehenthal Field, NC, Chatham Field, GA, and Drew Field, FL] Mustered out in 1946. ... changed his name legally from Jack Rubenstein to Jack Leon Ruby in 1948 ...

... Ruby was no stool pigeon, but he was damn good about tipping the cops about drunks or police characters," says a well-informed source in the district attorney's office. *AP*, *Jack Ruby*, by Bernard Gavzer

1/28/64 Dallas -- Ruby taken to clinic for mental tests.

... Meanwhile, the FBI permitted Wade and his assistants to view the FBI files on the shooting of Oswald by Ruby.

Wade for some time had been balked in his efforts to view this evidence.

It was believed the state's officers were studying only the section of the report relating to the slaying of Oswald and were not allowed to see the FBI's report on the assassination of President Kennedy. *AP*, 5:50 p.m. CST, Clayton Hickerson.

2/9/64 A witness said he had seen Tippit, Bernard Weissman and Ruby conferring for about two hours in Ruby's nightclub on 11/14. Lane talk

[See Oswald, 11/24/63 - *AP* 924 pcs]

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2/10/64 Dallas -- Jack Ruby tremulously said today that reading the Bible in jail has given him a new view of life. *AP*, 5:22 p.m. CST, Mike Cochran

2/12/64 Dallas -- Attorney Melvin Belli said a newspaper story about a brain test performed on Ruby was part of the plot [a high level conspiracy in Dallas to cheat Ruby of justice] and called the story a "Deliberate lie."

The reporter who wrote the story, Carl Freund of the *Dallas Morning News*, said he obtained the information -- that the test showed no important damage to Ruby's brain -- from a usually important source [which he did not reveal despite Belli's insistence]. He added that he would be glad to publish a story on Belli's knowledge of the, results of the test on Ruby. *AP*, 8:40 p.m. CST, Raymond Holbrook

2/13/64 In the last of a series of syndicated articles, by Ruby, written with the assistance of reporter William Read Woodfield, the admitted executioner concluded: "Oswald was a dead man before I shot him." Ruby said he murdered Oswald after Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade stated that Oswald was guilty of killing Kennedy, indicating that he would not have done so had Wade not made his accusation. *National Guardian*

2/17/64 Dallas - The State contends that Ruby was completely sane when he shot Oswald. Homicide Police Captain Will Fritz and Officer James R. Leavell - who was handcuffed to Oswald when Ruby shot him - have testified that Ruby looked calm at that moment.

... In a series of ghost-written articles under Ruby's name, the accused man said:

"No one knew I was going to shoot Oswald - not even me. No one helped me or gave me access. I didn't do it intentionally. I didn't even know I had done it." *AP*, Relman Morin, 1:31 a.m. CST

2/18/64 Dallas, [2/17] The psychiatric report on Jack L. Ruby, prepared by doctors appointed by the judge, discloses that Ruby has experienced recurrent "spells" in recent years.

The report, not yet made public by Judge Joe B. Brown, states that these periods lasted for intervals of 30 to 40 seconds and produced feelings of pressure within Ruby's head.

"I feel as though my head is cracking up, Ruby told the physicians who examined him.

On the basis of a medical examination and neurological tests given to him last month, Dr. Martin L. Towler, a neurologist at the *University of Texas*, concluded that Ruby was "suffering from a seizure disorder."

Dr. Robert Stubblefield and Dr. John Holbrook, a psychiatrist who had testified for the prosecution that Ruby was sane, also

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witnessed the tests.

In letters to Dr. Towles, neither of the two other psychiatrists took exception to the methods used to test Ruby.

... As reported earlier, the electroencephalographic tests given Ruby last month have been interpreted by a Chicago authority on epilepsy as demonstrating that [Ruby] ... suffers from a rare type of that disease.

Dr. Frederick A. Gibbs wrote to Dr. Towler, after examining the chartings of Ruby's brain wave:

"The two electroencephalographic recordings you have sent me which were made in your laboratory on Jack Ruby both show seizure disorders of the psychomotor variant type." *New York Times*, Jack Langguth

2/27/64

Report on article by Dorothy Kilgallen in the *New York Journal-American*, 2/21:

Dorothy Kilgallen ... wrote from Dallas that the FBI has made a deal with lawyers defending Jack Ruby ..., that "provides Ruby's side with reams of helpful information that they would never have been able to get without the G--men - on the condition that they do not ask for anything at all about Ruby's alleged victim."

... [Her] story, apparently written after a talk with Ruby's lawyers, noted that "it appears Washington knows or suspects something about Lee Oswald that it does not want Dallas and the rest of the world to know or suspect."

[Miss Kilgallen names Assistant Attorney General Herbert Miller as the person who responded to the request of Ruby's lawyers.]

"Why is Oswald being kept in the shadows, as dim a figure as they can make him, while the defense tries to rescue his alleged killer with the help of information from the FBI?" *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith

2/27/64

Report on article by Augusto Marcelli, correspondent for Italian magazine *L'Europeo*. Quotes Marcelli on Ruby's past connections with underworld and gambling figures; Marcelli said Ruby also informer for the FBI. *National Guardian*, Jack A. Smith

3/64

... A couple of years ago, there was an article in *Adam*, a raunchy girlie magazine, about Amateur Night for strippers at Ruby's night club:

"Amateur Night proved an immediate hit with the *Carousel's* audiences. Many times the erotic enthusiasm of the spectators seemed exceeded only by the impish delight of the amateur performers - hot and breathless from the experience of baring their bodies for the first time before an audience. ... The wild cheers of Amateur Night spectators indicate they feel they're getting their

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\$2 worth - which is cover charge. Many of the luckier males get an added bonus when the girls - who are encouraged by the club to mix with customers - accept an invitation to have a drink. The club serves beer and set-ups, with most of the customers bringing their own bottles. The club caters to large stag groups, especially college students and oil or cattle conventioners. Most of the amateurs 'pack' the audience with an admiring throng of their boy friends to cheer for them. 'In fact,' manager Ruby observed, 'many of the girls perform at Amateur Night under the urging of their boy friends who claim they see a lot more of them on our stage than they do on a date.'

Thus spake the avenger of our president ... *The Realist*, Paul Krassner, *Confessions of a Guilty Bystander*, p. 4

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... And, in the excitement of his sorrow, one man reached the sublime.

Jack Ruby, journalistically returning to the crime of his scene, explained in a syndicated apologia: "... Suddenly there was a great commotion. Out of there walked Oswald. He was about 10 feet from me. He came out all of a sudden with a smirky, defiant, cursing, vicious Communist expression on his face."

I'm not making this up, I swear. The series, incidentally, was supposed to have been written for a German publication, with a subsequent embargo on it in this country, but --- well, they'll plead temporary greed ... *The Realist*, Paul Krassner, *Confessions of a Guilty Bystander*, p. 4

3/3/64

Dallas-- The state suggested today that Jack Ruby may have been on Lee Harvey Oswald's trial some 20 hours before he shot to death the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

... Two witnesses placed Ruby outside the Dallas County jail when a crowd gathered in mid-afternoon of 11/23 in anticipation of Oswald's transfer there from police headquarters. ...

[1st witness, Sgt. D. V. Harkness, testified Ruby did not act unlike the rest of the crowd].

... Earlier, another witness, Wes Wise, a newsman for *KRLD* radio and television in Dallas, told of seeing Ruby in the vicinity of the county jail the afternoon after Kennedy's assassination, Wise said he discussed with Ruby the fact that two small western saddles, intended as gifts for the Kennedy children, were left behind in Dallas after the assassination. [He said he saw tears in Ruby's eyes, that Ruby was touched].

... [In line with the possibility that Ruby was keeping track of Oswald's movements before the shooting, the state called to the witness stand Garnett Claude Hallmark. ... manager of an auto parking concession near Ruby's downtown strip joint.

He testified that about 2:50 p.m. Saturday, 11/23, Ruby made a phone call to Wise. ...

Q. Did he say anything with reference to the movement of Oswald from the city to the county jail?

A. There was a conversation about the almost immediate transfer. ...

Q. Did he say he would be there?

A. Yes, he said he would be there.

Under cross-examination about the telephone call, Hallmark testified:

"It appeared to me he had some information on this transfer and simply wanted to-corroborate it." ...

Another witness, Doyle Lane, a *Western Union* supervisor, told of Ruby sending a \$25 money order to Karen Lynn Bennet, a 19-year-old stripper who had worked for Ruby. ... The receipt for the money order to Ft. Worth was stamped 11:17 a.m. Sunday, 11/24, about three minutes before the shooting of Oswald. ... *AP*, A211ds nl 1249pcs

[See Ruby, 3/11]

3/3/64 Dallas -- The defense has contended in questioning prospective jurors that Ruby habitually carried a gun because he went about with large amounts of money on his person. ...

... Later, Leavelle testified that after Ruby's arrest he was found to be carrying \$2,015.33. *AP*, A30ds, 3rd add original nl 531pcs
3/3/64

3/3/64 Dallas - ... Doyle Lane, a Western Union supervisor, told of Ruby sending a \$25 money order to Karen Lynn Bennett, a 19-year-old stripper who had worked for Ruby under the stage name of "Little Lynn." The receipt for the money order to Ft. Worth was stamped 11:17 a.m. Sunday 11/24 - about three minutes before the shooting of Oswald.

Lane said Ruby took his receipt, went out of the office and turned left in the direction of police headquarters.

"Did he walk out of there leisurely?" Belli asked.

A. Yes.

Q. There was nothing unusual about his walk?

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A. No, sir. *AP* 3:28 p.m. CST, Arthur Everett

[See Ruby 11/25/63, *New York Times*, Gladwin Hill]

3/4/64

Dallas - ... It was suggested through state testimony [today] that Ruby may have trailed Oswald for at least 20 hours before he shot him. Witnesses indicated Ruby kept close track of police plans to move Oswald from one jail to another. It was during such a transfer that Ruby killed him. *AP*, 5:25 p.m. CST

11/22 - Ruby at [midnight?] press conference, police headquarters. [Testimony of John Rutledge, police reporter, *Dallas Morning News*. *AP*, 5:42 PCS.]

11/23 - Ruby made a telephone call, about 2:50 p.m., to Wes Wise, newsman, *KRLD*, about Oswald's transfer to County jail. [Testimony of Garnett Claude Hallmark. *AP*, 11/, 3:28 PCS.]

- Ruby outside County jail, with crowd waiting for Oswald's transfer there. [Testimony of Sgt. D. V. Harkness and Wes Wise. *AP*, 3/3, 12:49 PCS.] Mar. 4, 1964 - (filed Ruby) Ruby

- Ruby was seen Saturday afternoon in the crowded third floor corridors through which Oswald was led for interrogation. [*San Francisco Chronicle*, *AP* and *UPI*, 11/25.]

11/24 - Ruby outside police headquarters, sometime after 10:30 a.m. Twice approached Ira M. Walker, engineering technician for *WBAP*, in his truck, to ask, "Have they brought him down yet?" [Testimony of Walker. *AP*, 3/11, 6:25 PCS.]

3/4/64

Dallas -- John Rutledge, police reporter for the *Dallas Morning News*, described how Ruby passed through police guards in the police station on the night of the presidential assassination. He said guards were keeping everyone out of the crowded corridor leading to an office where Oswald was being questioned. Rutledge said, "Jack walked in between two out-of-state reporters."

He said the two reporters were wearing large "Kennedy Press" cards. He said Ruby was writing on a piece of paper, as would a reporter.

Wade asked if anyone challenged Ruby.

Rutledge replied that a detective called, "What are you doing here?"

"I'm helping these reporters," Rutledge said Ruby replied. ... *AP*, 232pcs

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[See Ruby, 6/27, *Dallas Morning News*, Carl Freund: Ruby said he held his hand on his Colt Cobra pistol as he walked into the City Hall basement ...]

3/4/64 The state's first witness was Don Campbell, 46, an advertising salesman for the *Dallas Morning News*.

... Campbell said he and Ruby were talking about an advertisement for Ruby's two nightclubs up until about 10 minutes before the President was killed.

The witness said they talked from about 12 o'clock until 12.25 p.m. CST in the office of the *Morning News*. Campbell said that he read later in the newspapers that the President was assassinated at about 12:35 p.m.

Under cross-examination by chief defense counsel Melvin M. Belli, Campbell said he left Ruby in the office and that so far as he knew Ruby did not see the assassination.

[See Ruby, 12/21/63]

3/5/64 Dallas - Officer D. R. Archer testified. ... after the shooting "as we got him down on the floor I heard him [Ruby] say, 'I hope I killed the son of a bitch.'"

Three to five minutes later, Archer continued, when he was inside the jail with Ruby, he told the defendant "I think you killed him."

"He said," Archer added, "I intended to shoot him three times."....

... During questioning of [police officer] L. O. Graves, [walking alongside Oswald when Ruby shot him,] Belli asked him at one point about Ruby' being in police headquarters at the time Oswald was shot.

"There was no connection between the Dallas police force and Ruby in his coming there that morning, was there?"

"I don't know," Graves replied.

"I don't believe it," Belli, declared, "and I want it out of this case now."

Personally," Graves said, "There was no connection between me and Jack Ruby in his getting into that basement." ...

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... [Dallas policeman Thomas] Gillen related fragments of conversation while Ruby was being taken in the elevator to the fifth floor of City Hall.

He quoted a police Captain King as saying took Ruby:

"Of all the low life things that ever happened, this takes the cake. Why did you do it?"

He said Ruby's reply was:

"Somebody had to do it. Somebody had to do it. You guys couldn't." *AP* 12:06 pcs

3/5/64 ... The defense hopes to show that Ruby pulled the trigger with the middle finger, rather than the index finger of his right hand, thus proving that the hand was in a state of spasm. But Mr. Leavelle refused to establish this basic defense point. *New York Times*, Homer Bigart

3/5/64 Dallas, [3/4] - ... Earlier, another Dallas policeman surprised the defense by testifying that he saw Ruby outside the county jail between 3:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on 11/23. He said Ruby was in a crowd of spectators that was expecting to see Oswald transferred at that hour. *New York Times*, Homer Bigart

3/5/64 Dallas - Jack Ruby was quoted at his murder trial today as saying he marked Lee Harvey Oswald for death with three bullets because "somebody had to do it."

"I. intended to shoot him three times," a police officer [T. D. McMillon] said Ruby told him after a single shot last 11/24 cut down Oswald ...

... At one point, Wade resumed direct examination of McMillon and asked him:

Q. Did the defendant, Jack Ruby, tell you how he got into the basement of the jail?

A. I was present when Mr. Ruby stated how he got into the basement. He stated a lieutenant was pulling out of the basement in a squad car and he just walked by an officer there between the wall and the car. He said someone called to him but he just ducked his head and kept going. *AP*, 5:05 p.m. CST

3/6/64 Dallas - ... When testimony was resumed, Captain Glenn King of the Dallas police department testified that Ruby said, moments after he shot Oswald and was himself arrested:

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"You didn't think I was going to let him get by with it, did you?"

... But King said he did not hear a remark attributed to Ruby by another police officer yesterday which was: "Somebody had to do it. Somebody had to take care of it. You guys couldn't do it."

Under cross-examination, King several times denied hearing this ... King also denied that he heard Ruby say, "I hope the son of a bitch dies." ... *AP* 12:13pc

3/7/64 Dallas - Jack L. Ruby said he first thought of killing Lee H. Oswald the night of 11/22, the day President Kennedy was assassinated, a police sergeant testified today.

Ruby made this state on 11/24, only 10 minutes after killing Oswald, and gave two motives ... Sgt. Patrick T. Dean testified.

The 52-year-old nightclub operator "wanted the world to know the Jews do have guts," the sergeant said Ruby told him.

Also Ruby said he disliked Oswald's "sarcastic sneer" at a midnight news conference at the city jail 11/22, the witness said. ... *New York Times*

3/7/64 Dallas, [3/6] – [Story on jailbreak during Ruby trial]
"Little Lynn", waiting in the corridor, became hysterical when she saw a toy pistol in the hand of one of the prisoners. Nine months pregnant, she slumped to the floor, screaming, "He's after me."

But she revived and was able to take the witness stand after a delay of several minutes. *New York Times*, Homer Bigart

[See Ruby, 12/24/63]

[See Ruby, 9/3/64]

3/7/64 Washington - FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said today Lee Harvey Oswald ... and Jack L. Ruby ... never served as confidential informants of the FBI.

Hoover issued this statement:

"To set the record straight and to refute the misinformation which has been maliciously circulated, I want to state unequivocally that Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack L. Ruby were never FBI informants; that they were never employed by this bureau in any capacity; nor did they ever render any services for or receive any sums of money from the FBI." *AP*, 5:28 p.m. EST

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3/11/64 Dallas - One of the state rebuttal witnesses was Ira M. Walker, a slim engineering technician for Fort Worth television station *WBAP*. He testified he was sitting in his mobile truck unit outside the entrance to police headquarters sometime after 10:30 a.m. 11/24.

He said twice Ruby approached his truck and added:

'I could only see his face at the window and all he said was, 'Have they brought him down yet ?''

He was asked by the defense:

Q. Do you know who he was referring to?

A. We were all waiting for Oswald to come down.

Q. But you don't know that he was referring to Oswald?

A. No. ... *AP*, 625pcs

[See Ruby, 3/3]

3/11/64 Jack Langguth story from Dallas, dated 3/10, described Mrs. [Marguerite] Oswald's appearance at Ruby trial as spectator, her being sworn as a witness to prevent her attending as a spectator.

"Mrs. Oswald did not look at Ruby during her brief moment in the courtroom and he did not seem to recognize her." *New York Times*

3/14/64 Commenting on Hoover's denial, Lane asked: "Can we really expect the FBI to admit the truth if my client had been an agent?" *National Guardian*

3/14/64 Dallas -- ... Assistant District Attorney William F. Alexander led off [in summing up the case late the night of the 13th] ... [he] pointed out that, at the time of Kennedy's motorcade in Dallas, Ruby was framing a newspaper advertisement for one of his night clubs. ...

"Here we have the picture of a man who professed love for his president to the extent that he would kill for him," Alexander cried.

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"But he did not see fit to move from the *Dallas Morning News* to see the parade. He wouldn't stir himself to walk five blocks to see the President." *AP*, 224acs

3/14/64 Dallas - Jack Ruby ... was condemned to death today in a jury's swift verdict of murder with malice.

It took the panel of four women and eight men only two hours and 19 minutes to order the maximum penalty against Ruby ... *AP*, 5:00 p.m. CST

3/14/64 Dallas - The brother of Jack Ruby vowed today to appeal the ... decision sentencing [Ruby] to death ...

"Jack's a sick man - a sick man," said Earl [Ruby]. "He needs treatment. He shouldn't be in this jail."

Earl said his brother asked him on Tuesday when the trial was going to start.

"The trial had been going on for three weeks," said Earl. "He's a sick man I tell you." *AP*, 7:13 p.m. EST

3/14/64 Dallas - Defense lawyers said Jack Ruby, assessed the death penalty earlier in the day, asked them tonight:

"Can you arrange for me, through President Johnston, to go to Washington and take a lie detector test so I can prove I didn't kill ... Oswald?" *AP*, 9:35 p.m. CST

3/15/64 Dallas - ... His [Ruby's] lawyers meanwhile expressed fears for his life.

Chief defense counsel Melvin Belli said:

"Ruby is worried, and so am I, that they may slip someone into his cell -- another prisoner -- with a shiv [knife] in order to prevent our appeal. Then they would make it appear as a suicide and this vicious city would have him off their hands." ... *AP*, 12:43pcs

3/16/64 Dallas - ... Police Sgt. P. T. Dean, who was responsible for security in the basement while Oswald was being transferred to the County Jail, said Ruby told him later that "he had come in an entrance on the north side of Main Street as a car drove out."

Someone had shouted to Ruby but he kept his head down and kept walking, Sergeant Dean said. He quoted Ruby as telling him that he knew he could always pretend to be a reporter.

Sergeant Dean said he had been asked by his superior to report on the break in security. But he did not testify on why there was no guard at the jail entrance at the moment Ruby walked into the basement. *New York Times*, Jack Langguth

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3/17/64 Dallas -- District Attorney Henry Wade told yesterday how prosecutors made the "big decision " of the Jack Ruby murder trial.

The decision: They would not call witnesses who swore they saw Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald together before a sniper assassinated President Kennedy here. ...

... Wade said FBI agents and other investigators provided him with a list of witnesses who insisted they had seen Ruby and Oswald together at various times.

The District Attorney said he decided not to call these witnesses because he had doubts about the accuracy of their statements.

"I knew that three of them had failed lie detector tests," Wade said.

"We knew testimony from these witnesses could have had a big impact on the jury, one way or another. But I felt then -- and still do -- that there has been no proof Ruby and Oswald knew each other." ... *AP*, 611 acs

[See Ruby, 3/21/64, *National Guardian*]

3/21/64 The Commission is also expected to inquire into speculation that Ruby and Oswald were acquainted - a persistent rumor in Dallas, even among some police officials, despite denials by District Attorney Henry Wade [See Ruby, 3/17/64, *AP* 611 acs] and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A *New York Times* reporter noted 3/15: "Some law enforcement officials in Dallas continue to believe that a connection was possible, but if so that it was personal and did not necessarily involve the assassination." *National Guardian*

4/4/64 In Dallas, [Thomas] Buchanan looked into the theory that Ruby might have been the assassin on the bridge. [Buchanan has theorized that the assassination involved a plot by several persons.] In any case Ruby was alone in the *Dallas Morning News* building just before the crime, and was also there a few minutes after it, and no one saw him in the interim. [Buchanan had already noted that it is a 2½-minute run from the bridge to the newspaper office.] Neither Ruby's lawyer nor prosecutor Wade probed at the trial into whether or not Ruby showed signs of a recent physical effort when the newspaper's employees returned to the building on the assassination day. *National Guardian*

4/6/64 ... And Ruby's act of vengeance stirred the deepest suspicion of all; a *Louis Harris poll* showed that fully 40 per cent of the U.S. public still believes there was some link between the two ... *Newsweek*, p 22-24, *JFK's Murder: Sowers of Doubt*. [An account of various doubts and theories to date about the official version of the assassination].

4/17/64 Dallas - ... After visiting Ruby today in his jail cell, Tonahill told a newsman:

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"Jack is eager to appear before the Commission, either in Dallas or Washington ..." *AP*, 3:59 p.m. CST

4/24/64 Dallas -- Riot in county jail, which Sheriff Bill Decker attributed to over-crowding.

... The jail is the same which houses convicted slayer Jack Ruby, but Ruby was not on the same floor as the riots. The sheriff said "Jack's rest was not disturbed." ... *AP* 120acs

4/25/64 Dallas, [4/24] - At every meeting at the county jail, Ruby ... passes notes to his sister asking that she arrange a meeting for him with the Federal commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

His legal counsel believes, however, that Ruby is so unstable that he could not give a useful statement to the Commission ...

[General tenor of story is that "after five months of isolated confinement, Ruby shows signs of severe delusions, according to persons who see him daily."] *New York Times*, Jack Langguth

4/25/64 Dallas, [4/24] - ... Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, said that he constantly expressed the fear that an attempt might be made on her life.

[General tenor of story is that "after five months of isolated confinement, Ruby shows signs of severe delusions, according to persons who see him daily."] *New York Times*, Jack Langguth

4/25/64 Dallas. [4/24] - Sheriff Bill Decker announced after the trial that Ruby would be transferred to a cell with other prisoners. The sheriff said that company might lift Ruby's spirits.

But members of his family protested to the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Ruby's life could be endangered by the move. As a result, Ruby remains in separate quarters. *New York Times*, Jack Langguth

4/26/64 Dallas -- Condemned slayer sack Ruby took advantage of his jailer's momentary absence early today to ram his head into the wall of his cell in what Sheriff Bill Decker called "a deliberate act."

"Apparently he suffered only a knot on his head," the sheriff said. ... *AP*

4/29/64 Dallas - Judge Joe B. Brown overruled today Jack Ruby's motion for a new trial. Defense lawyers immediately gave notice of appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. ...

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Twice today, as he was led from the courtroom back to jail, he whispered to his brother and sisters:

"Goodbye, I'm not coming back." His kin could not explain the statements. *AP*, 5:17 p.m. CST

4/29/64

Dallas - ... The hearing today was confined to the original defense motion for a new trial. A second motion filed late yesterday was not admitted for consideration.

... Tonahill and Phil Bureson called three witnesses they said would "prove with concrete evidence" that Dallas police officer P. T. Dean gave false testimony at the month-long trial.

As Brown declined to hear the witnesses, Tonahill rose to his feet, extended his arms, and said:

"For God's sake, do your duty, Judge, and hear this testimony"

The state said such testimony was not set out in the motion for a new trial, and thus was not material to the hearing.

... Tonahill tried to call Ray Hall, an FBI agent, and officer Dean himself to the stand, but was not allowed to. He said Hall would impeach Dean's testimony. *AP*, 5:17 p.m. CST

[See Ruby, 3/7/64]

5/64

... it is interesting to recall the story of Jim Lehrer in the *Dallas Times Herald* of 12/20[63?] that Ruby had made five reservations on a plane leaving for Mexico. [Were tickets found in apartment?] Buchanan [Putnam, 1964, *Who Killed Kennedy*, p. 135/2:

5/64

... it is interesting to recall the story of Jim Lehrer in the *Dallas Times Herald* of 12/20[63] that Ruby had made five reservations on a plane leaving for Mexico. Buchanan [Putnam] p. 135/2

[See Ruby, 10/7/64, *London Evening Standard*]

5/9/64

Guardian account of story in the 5/17/64, issue of the *National Enquirer* [which the *Guardian* carefully labels "a weekly with sensationalist leanings"], to the effect that Ruby and Oswald were said to be suspects when General Walker was shot at; Justice Department wrote to Chief Jesse Curry asking that they not be arrested, for 'reasons of state', making the request on behalf of the CIA. 'Because the CIA was deeply involved with Ruby - and probably Oswald, too. CIA agents had been using Ruby to recruit men in the Dallas area to serve as commandos against Castro's government in Cuba. And they didn't dare let Ruby be arrested and chance such information getting out. There were also indications that Oswald himself might have been working ... as a double agent for both the Communists and the CIA.' [Quotations from *National Enquirer*.] *National Guardian*

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[CE 837, Hearings, XVII, p. 837]

5/28/64 Dallas -- Jack Ruby ... went berserk in his Dallas County jail cell today and was subdued by a jailer, Sheriff Bill Decker said.

The sheriff said Ruby, 53, broke his eye glasses, grabbed a cuspidor and threw it at a light bulb, breaking the light fixture ...

... It was the second incident in which Ruby has become unruly in the county jail cell.

The first incident was a few weeks ago when Ruby butted his head against the cell wall and superficially injured himself. ... *AP* 410pcs

6/2/64 Dallas – A 6/19 show-cause hearing in open court has been scheduled to determine whether Jack Ruby gets a sanity trial. Meanwhile the condemned slayer is receiving psychiatric treatment in his jail cell.

... "If he [Ruby] is not in better health by 6/19, then a sanity trial will start 7/6," Brown said. *AP*, 506acs; *AP*

6/3/64 Dallas - ... Jack Ruby has refused to take pills prescribed by psychiatrists to begin treatment for his mental condition, a source close to his family revealed today.

"Jack won't take his medicine," this source told the *Dallas Times Herald*. "His family is very upset because he tells them someone is trying to poison him with the pills."

Since [Ruby banged his head against a jail cell wall in April] jailers have caught [him] stripping cloth from his jail uniform in an apparent attempt to fashion a crude noose. *AP* 11:18 a.m. CST

6/4/64 Dallas - Jack Ruby is taking some of the medicine prescribed by his psychiatrists, Dallas County Medical authorities said today. *AP*, 4:23 p.m. CST

6/8/64 Dallas - Chief Justice Earl Warren spent more than three hours yesterday with condemned slayer Jack Ruby in the Dallas County Jail.

... It is believed that Warren's visit with Ruby was unprecedented in that no chief justice ever before had visited a jail to take testimony from a prisoner.

... [Defense lawyer Joe] Tonahill said Ruby and Warren shook hands at the beginning and at the end of the meeting and he said

Ruby, 1964

Ruby "responded to the questions."

However, the lawyer said Ruby didn't answer intelligently. He said he was "wild-eyed."

"I wasn't at all pleased with how Jack performed," Tonahill said. *San Francisco Chronicle, AP*

[See Ruby, 6/26-8/64]

6/11/64 Dallas -- Jack Ruby's new chief counsel says he plans to withdraw a request for a sanity hearing to order to concentrate on appeals for a new trial.

Clayton Fowler, who took over as Ruby's fifth head lawyer this week, said yesterday he decided on the change in strategy because a sanity hearing now would be premature. ... *AP*, 513acs

6/13/64 It is known that 10 persons have signed sworn depositions to the Commission that they knew Oswald and Ruby to have been acquainted. The Commission has said, however, that lie detector tests have proven the witnesses unreliable. Oddly, no action has been contemplated against the 10 whose sworn testimony would certainly merit such action if, indeed, they were lying.

Among the 10, according to the *Herald Tribune*, "were a Dallas attorney and a waitress who claimed she had once served Oswald and Ruby as they sat together in a restaurant. ..." *National Guardian*

[See Ruby, 8/29/64]

6/16/64 Dallas - Judge Joe B. Brown today granted a request by Jack Ruby's defense lawyers to indefinitely postpone a motion for a sanity hearing for Ruby. *AP*

6/19/64 Dallas - Attorneys for Jack Ruby said today they will seek immediate local hospitalization for treatment of his mental condition following a sudden examination by an Oklahoma psychiatrist.

... The announcement by Fowler came after Dr. Louis Jolyon West flew to Dallas today under what County Jail attendants said were emergency circumstances to examine Ruby in his ... cell.

... The *Dallas Times Herald* said one source indicated Ruby's mental condition has deteriorated since the 6/7 visit of Chief Justice Earl Warren ...

... "I can't say what the purpose of Dr. West's visit is until after completion of the examination," the attorney said. "But I will tell

Ruby, 1964

you that Dr. West's visit was hastened by a telephone to him from the defense."

Fowler said Ruby had become incoherent. *AP*, 6:57 p.m. CST

6/20/64 Dallas, J[6/19] - ... Clayton Fowler ... said that Ruby had become so incoherent that "we can't communicate with our client at all."

... [Since Earl Warren visited Ruby at the jail 6/7] Mr. Fowler said, Ruby has not been able to "communicate realistically" with his attorneys. *New York Times* [UPI]

6/22/64 Dallas - The superintendent of Rusk State Hospital questioned today whether it could accept Jack Ruby as a patient "under the present circumstances."

"If we were asked to take him, we would want a legal opinion," Dr. Charles Castner said.

[Clayton Fowler] suggested *Parkland Hospital* as a place where Ruby could get treatment while held under guard. But Judge Brown said earlier that *Parkland* officials have told him at least twice that they don't want Ruby as a patient.

Judge Brown said the officials told him:

- Parkland lacks facilities for keeping Ruby under guard.
- He might prove a disrupting influence.
- He doesn't qualify for admission.

The Rusk Hospital has facilities. It houses the criminally insane. ...

Another defense lawyer, Phil Burlison, said he believed hospitals would accept Ruby if Judge Brown requested they do so. *AP*, 9:15 p.m. CST

6/27/64 Dallas - ... Ruby has taken only one tranquilizer pill the past month and has refused prescribed medication [*the Dallas Times Herald*] said. *AP*, 10:51 p.m. CST

6/27/64 Dallas – [Story on Ruby's interview with Chief Justice Warren 6/7 - "another member of the commission, Rep. Gerald Ford of Michigan, and its chief counsel, J. Lee Rankin, also came here for the interview with Ruby".]

Ruby said mainly he wanted to sacrifice himself to spare Jacqueline Kennedy further anguish. Also:

Ruby, 1964

Ruby said ... he was planning to shoot Oswald when he drove from his apartment to downtown Dallas and walked into the City Hall basement 11/24.

Ruby told Warren, however, that he drove downtown for a double purpose - "the wire and the other."

... As he had done previously Ruby insisted he was not part of any conspiracy. And he said he said he had never seen Oswald before he lunged forward and shot the assassination suspect while millions watched on television.

"I do not belong to any subversive organizations ... and no Communists told me to shoot him," Ruby said. "And I didn't get any orders from anybody in the underworld."

... Ruby said at one point that he was "a victim of a plot."

The meaning of this statement was not clear. But the slayer may have meant that he believes he was sentenced to die because of criticism which Dallas received after the assassination.

... Ruby emphasized that he "did not sneak" into the basement. "I walked in," he said, adding that he strode past officers who were conferring.

... [These are the quotes as recalled by the informed source who told *The News* about Ruby's statements ... He says Ruby may have used slightly different words, but the quotes are substantially correct.] *Dallas Morning News*, Carl Freund

[See *San Francisco Examiner*, 8/19/64]

6/27/64 [Story on Earl Warren's interview of Ruby in Dallas 6/; the "informed source" said Ruby may have used slightly different words, but the quotes are substantially correct.]

... Ruby said he held his hand on his Colt Cobra pistol as he walked into the City hall basement ...

[See Ruby, 3/4, *Dallas Morning News*, John Rutledge, describing how Ruby passed through police guards: Ruby was writing on a piece of paper, as would a reporter. *Dallas Morning News*, Carl Freund

6/27/64 Dallas - Condemned slayer Jack Ruby reportedly asked for a lie detector test and was promised one by Earl Warren during the recent visit here by the Chief Justice. [But, the *Dallas Times Herald* quoted an informed source as saying, the test was never given.]

Ruby, 1964

... Ruby also was described as apprehensive about Warren's safety while in Dallas.

"Ruby told Mr. Warren that some people in Dallas think no more of him than they do Ruby and that the Chief Justice might not live more than 30 minutes after he left the county jail," the source said [to the *Dallas Times Herald*]. *AP*, 10:51 p.m. CST

6/28/64 Dallas -- Defense attorney Joe Tonahill denied that condemned murderer Jack Ruby told Chief Justice Earl Warren that the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald was premeditated.

Tonahill took exception to published reports on a conversation between Ruby and Warren at the Dallas County jail. *San Francisco Chronicle, UPI*

7/4/64 Washington, [7/3] - ... The commission questioned [Mark] Lane in open session yesterday. ...

Lane also refused to give the name of an informant who, he said, told him about a meeting of Jack Ruby and others at the *Carousel Club* in Dallas. *New York Times [AP]*

7/6/64 Oswald ... rented his box 11/1. Ruby rented his box 11/7. Both boxes at Terminal Annex Post Office.

Oswald's other box was at the Main Post Office, through which he received rifle. *AP*, 9:18 p.m. CST

[See Oswald/P.O. boxes.]

7/7/64 Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald rented post office boxes just 12 feet apart less than a month before President Kennedy was assassinated, the *Dallas Times Herald* said yesterday.

Both received mail in the boxes during those three weeks. Both used their real names.

The story said investigative officials and presumably the Warren Commission have known about the boxes since, shortly after the assassination.

7/8/64 Dallas -- The *Dallas Times Herald* quoted an informed source today as saying Jack Ruby discussed killing Lee Harvey Oswald with his sister many hours before he shot the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

The source said Ruby mentioned shooting Oswald during a conversation with his sister, Eva Grant, one or two days before the 11/24 slaying in the basement of City Hall.

Ruby, 1964

"Jack mentioned shooting Oswald to Mrs. Grant and she tried to talk him out of it. They had a big argument about it," said the source, who declined to be identified.

Mrs. Grant, however, told the *Times Herald* that such a conversation never took place.

"He [Ruby] never said a thing like that," she declared.

Information about the conversation was reportedly related by Ruby to Chief Justice Earl Warren during his visit to Ruby's cell last month, the source said. AP 140pcs

7/8/64 Attorney. Mel Belli and New York newsman Mickey Carroll have finished their book about the Ruby trial -- but all of a sudden the publishers are ducking. Melvin is talking darkly about "pressure from H.L. Hunt." *San Francisco Chronicle*, Herb Caen

7/9/64 Dallas - Attorneys for Jack Ruby told Sheriff Bill Decker that the slayer attacked one of them during a county jail conference today.

The incident took place shortly after another defense lawyer said Ruby had expressed a desire to talk with District Attorney Henry Wade. [Clayton Fowler said it.]

Attorneys Phil Burleson and Joe Tonahill said Ruby tried to swing at Burleson, but the lawyer escaped injury.

Decker quoted Burleson as saying that Ruby made a "swinging motion" when he became angry during the afternoon conference.

"Ruby denies that he did so, but I'm sure he did," Decker said. ... AP, 931pcs

7/12/64 Detroit - A Detroit psychiatrist ... Dr. Emanuel Tanay, made two visits to the Dallas County Jail after being retained by Ruby's family last 5/14.

Tanay told ... Don Beck [staff writer, *Detroit Free Press*, in a copyrighted story published today] he found Ruby to be "like a caged animal." Ruby ... "definitely wants to commit suicide," Tanay said. AP, 6:38 p.m. CST

7/17/64 Dallas - An application was filed in probate court Thursday [7/16] to have a legal guardian appointed for ... Jack Ruby.

The application, filed by chief defense lawyer Clayton Fowler on behalf of Ruby's brother, Sam Ruby, claims the convicted killer ... of Oswald is "of unsound mind and wholly incompetent."

Ruby, 1964

Ruby ... was sentenced to death in March for the slaying of Oswald. His family and lawyers have maintained his mental condition steadily has grown worse since then.

Judge W.F. Bartlett, Jr. has called a hearing 8/6 to determine if Ruby needs a guardian. *San Francisco News Call Bulletin* [UPI]

7/19/64 Dallas -- story on Ruby's lie detector test the day before.

Tonahill said the polygraph test was administered by two FBI men, one from Austin and one from Dallas. Also on hand was Dr. William Beavers. Ruby's psychiatrist.

Also present for the test were chief defense counsel Clayton Fowler of Dallas; Arlen Specter of Philadelphia, representing the Warren Commission; Assistant district attorney William F. Alexander and a jailer. *AP*, 407pcs

[Partial transcript of polygraph test, 7/22]

7/21/64 Dallas - The *Dallas News* said tonight it had learned that Jack Ruby, in a lie detector test, said he decided on the morning of last 11/24 to kill Lee Harvey Oswald.

The *News* said in late editions that Ruby conditioned his resolution on whether "the opportunity presented itself." *AP*, 10:31 p.m. CST

Polygraph test given 7/18. For stories on the test, and partial text, see Ruby, 7/18 to 23.

7/23/64 [No date] A legal adviser for Jack Ruby's family fired Clayton Fowler as the slayer's chief defense attorney Wednesday [7/22], but Ruby said he wanted Fowler to continue to represent him. ...

"Dann said he was firing me on behalf of the Ruby family," Fowler related. "I thought Jack should have some voice in who represents him. So I went to the county jail and asked him whether he wanted me to continue as his lawyer. He said he did. In fact, he put it in writing."

Fowler showed reporters a note scribbled on a sheet of yellow tablet paper in Ruby's neat handwriting.

The note stated:

"It would be my desire to continue with Mr. Clayton Fowler as my attorney and to handle all of my legal matters pertinent to my case.

Ruby, 1964

Jack Ruby

PS: Regardless of any opposition from any other attorneys who are attempting to disassociate me from receiving the services of Clayton Fowler." *Dallas Morning News*, Carl Freund

7/23/64 Dallas - ... Mrs. Eva Grant, Jack's sister, last night in a radio interview blasted "inefficiency" in the defense efforts since the family fired Melvin Belli ...

She also asked Sheriff Bill Decker to prevent Tonahill from visiting Ruby in jail. *AP*, 6:05 a.m. CST

7/23/64 Dallas --- Story about 11/16 issue of *Wall St. Journal* found in Ruby's car. He denied knowing anything about it.

... J. E. Bradshaw, vice president of *Southwestern Drug Co.*, a major wholesale company, said the newspaper was his.

Bradshaw said he could not explain how the newspaper got into Ruby's automobile. He said he was on vacation in Arizona at the time. Bradshaw said he did not know Ruby. *AP*, 8:55acs

7/23/64 Dallas - Jack Ruby's chief lawyer, Clayton Fowler, said today that the four Texas lawyers who have been representing the convicted slayer will continue as "the sole participants" in the appeal of the Ruby case.

The controversy had arisen when ... Sol Dann sought to dismiss Fowler and Joe Tonahill.

... Fowler said Dann objected to a polygraph test given to [Ruby] last Saturday.

Fowler said Ruby had been looking forward to the lie detector test given him by the Warren commission in his cell.

He said Ruby believed the tests would show: 1, that Ruby had no collusion with Oswald, and, 2, that no premeditation was involved in killing Oswald. *AP*, 3:08 p.m. CST

7/24/64 ... Another Ruby attorney, Joe Tonahill, said that Dann fired him during a telephone conversation last Saturday [7/18]. *Dallas Morning News*

7/25/64 ... When he was first told of the murder on Friday afternoon, 11/22, in the advertising office of the *Dallas News*, his first words were, "My life is over." Not Kennedy's life; my life. To his sister he said, "I am dead." *Saturday Evening Post, The Untold Story of Jack Ruby*,

Ruby, 1964

7/25/64

Quoting Sgt. Patrick T. Dean [testifying at Ruby's trial regarding conversation with Ruby shortly after he shot Oswald:

"Ruby said something to the effect that he thought about the killing two nights prior, when he saw Oswald on the show-up stand.

"Ruby said he believed in due process of law, but he was too torn up and emotional about this event. He said this man not only killed the President but also shot Officer Tippit, and that the outcome of the trial would be that he would be given the death penalty inevitably, and he didn't see any sense for a lengthy trial that would subject Mrs. Kennedy to coming back to Dallas to testify."

Belli was up now, shouting for a mistrial, "That man's Constitutional rights have been violated," he said.

Wade, pressing on, asked Dean what Ruby had said.

Dean: "He said when he first noticed the sarcastic sneer on Oswald's face, that was when he first thought he'd kill him if he got the chance. And also that he guessed he wanted the world to know Jews do have guts." ... *Saturday Evening Post, The Untold Story of Jack Ruby*, Edward Linn, pp. 25-40

7/28/64

Dallas -- Lawyers for condemned slayer Jack Ruby today filed 15 formal bills of exception in seeking a reversal of the death penalty assessed him in March for the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald

... One of the exceptions contended that a prosecution witness, Dallas Police Sgt. Patrick Dean, gave perjured testimony ...

... It [the court] erred when it refused to allow the defense to ask prospective jurors if they were members of the *John Birch Society*; ...

... It refused to let the defense enter into evidence the murder complaints sworn out against Oswald in regard to Kennedy's death ...
AP 705pcs

7/29/64

Dallas - Detroit lawyer Sol Dann has indicated he may renew his efforts to dismiss Clayton Fowler and Joe Tonahill as lawyers for Jack Ruby.

Dann told the *Dallas Times Herald* yesterday in a letter he intends to remain a lawyer for Ruby and the Ruby family.

"There is a proper time and place where I expect there will be a complete airing and investigation of those who have been derelict in their duties and responsibilities ... " Dann wrote. ...

Ruby, 1964

The Detroit lawyer also hinted that, in his opinion, one of the grounds for appeal is the "conflict of interests and failure on the part of certain lawyers to fully and properly represent Jack Ruby." *AP*, 5:15 am CST

7/31/64 Dallas -- A hearing to appoint a guardian for accused slayer Jack Ruby has been postponed indefinitely.

Probate Judge F. W. Bartlett, Jr. said yesterday Ruby's chief defense attorney, Clayton Fowler of Dallas, received permission to withdraw from the case. Sol Dann the Ruby family's legal adviser from Detroit who had originally proposed the guardianship request, said he needed more time to arrange for another lawyer to handle the case.

The hearing had been set for 8/6 and the judge said he would await developments before setting anew date.

... Judge Bartlett said he has been told Dann cannot participate in the hearing unless associated with a Texas lawyer because he is not licensed in this state. *AP* 508acs

8/8/64 Dallas, [8/7] [UPI] - Judge Joe B. Brown rejected today defense contentions that he had made errors in the trial of Jack L. Ruby. ... The judge's action cleared the way for consideration of the case by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. ... The appeals court [in Austin] should hear the case in January or February.

If it refused a new trial, the recourses left to Ruby are the United States Supreme Court and, finally the Governor of Texas, John Connally, who was seriously wounded in the Kennedy slaying.

The defense's main contention is that Police Sgt. Patrick Dean perjured himself when he said that Ruby, 10 minutes after Oswald was shot, said he had thought about it two days. *New York Times*

8/8/64 According to Warren Boroson, who interviewed ... Melvin Belli for the July-August issue of *Fact* magazine ... Belli revealed that H. L. Hunt, right-wing Texas oil millionaire, offered him \$100,000 not to defend Ruby. Since the trial, he said, Dallas millionaires have launched a "get Belli" movement, the results of which he described as follows:

"After I got back to San Francisco, I found that my insurance policies had been canceled, a book publisher had reneged on a contract to bring out my book 'Black Date: Dallas,' my mortgages were called, my name withdrawn from official lists of lawyers, my credit frozen, TV shows and lectures canceled. I'm not paranoiac, but it's those wealthy Texans who were behind it. You can't imagine the strength and power of that wicked city of Dallas." *National Guardian*

8/14/64 Dallas - Melvin Belli paid a surprise visit to ... Jack Ruby in the Dallas County jail late tonight.

Ruby, 1964

... At the jail for the conference were several of Ruby's present attorneys, including Phil Burleson ...

... "I haven't been invited to re-enter the case and I would refuse if I were," Belli declared. *AP*, 1153 pcs

8/18/64 Dallas - ... The *Times Herald* ... attributing its information to an unnamed source, ... said Ruby told Warren that he had lied to local authorities only once following his arrest after he had shot Oswald ... Ruby said he had lied when he told officers he had his pistol with him on Friday night, the day of the assassination, at a "show-up" in the basement of City Hall. *AP*, 1253 pcs

8/19/64 Story on interview of Ruby by Warren on 6/7.

Miss Kilgallen said she obtained the transcript from "sources close to the Warren Commission in Washington.'

From the transcript, it seemed to her that Warren and J. Lee Rankin were "acutely aware of the talk both here and in Europe that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy."

Ruby denied knowing J. D. Tippit.

Ruby asked Warren to get him to Washington.

Ruby did not admit, but never directly denied, that meeting took place between Weissman, Tippit and himself. Dorothy Kilgallen, *San Francisco Examiner*

8/19/64 From Dorothy Kilgallen's transcript of Warren's questioning of Ruby:

Ruby: Is there any way of you getting me to Washington?

Warren: I don't know of any. I will be glad to talk to your counsel about what the situation is, Mr. Ruby, when we get an opportunity to talk.

Ruby: I don't think I will get a fair representation with my counsel, Joe Tonahill. I don't think so. I would like to request that I go to Washington ..." *San Francisco Examiner*

8/19/64 Washington - ... The [Kilgallen] article did not add much to what emerged at Ruby's public trial. Ruby did say that he had been dissuaded from taking the stand in his own defense by his lawyer at the time, Melvin M. Belli. *New York Times*

8/19/64 ... Mel Belli ... today said the assertion Lee Oswald's killer was barred by him from taking the witness stand ... is "utterly false." *San Francisco News Call Bulletin*

Ruby, 1964

8/19/64 Washington, [8/18] - Officials of the Warren Commission expressed distress today at the publication of testimony supposedly held for the groups forthcoming report [transcript of Warren interview of Ruby in Dallas].

... A commission employee said that on superficial examination the article did appear to contain the verbatim testimony. He said that the commission had given it to no newspaper and that it had no idea how the transcript had gotten out.

... Joe H. Tonahill was also present [at questioning of Ruby] and is believed to have been sent a copy of the stenographic transcript for correction.

The *Dallas Times-Herald* also published an article today purporting to quote from the testimony. Some observers suggest that the transcript might therefore have been obtained in Dallas. *New York Times*

8/19-21/64 From *San Francisco Examiner* version [apparently incomplete] of Dorothy Kilgallen's transcript of Warren's questioning of Ruby:

Ruby says he cannot tell the truth in Dallas, that his life is in danger; begs repeatedly to be taken to Washington to testify, "when you leave here, I am finished ... you won't ever see me again"; asks to speak to Warren in private;

- denies having known Oswald;

- speaking of entering basement, indicates he walked past "an officer talking ... to a Sam Pease [Pease not questioned by Commission.] in a car parked up on the curb";

- says there was no conspiracy involved in his killing Oswald, but says there is a plot to spread this rumor, suggests plot includes murder of himself and harm to his family, also danger to Warren, names the *John Birch Society* as part of this plot;

- denies he was at *Parkland* after the assassination. *San Francisco Examiner*

8/21/64 From Dorothy Kilgallen's story of Warren interview:

Warren to Ruby: "I know what you feel about the *John Birch Society*. ... Of course I don't have all the information that you feel you have on that subject.' 'Unfortunately,' Ruby countered, 'you don't.;" *San Francisco Examiner*

8/21/64 Washington - The ... Commission ... said yesterday a federal investigation has been started into the "premature publication" of some testimony to the commission.

... In [a] telegram to Malcolm Epley, executive editor of the *Independent Press-Telegram of Long Beach*, Rankin said, ... "The

Ruby, 1964

commission has directed me to advise you that no member of the Commission or its staff has divulged or made available to any news media any portion of testimony before the Commission ..." *San Francisco Examiner*

[See Warren Commission, 8/18 to 20/64]

8/22/64 Boston - Melvin Belli ... says he's "shocked and horrified" by the premature disclosure of Warren Commission testimony taken from ... Jack Ruby.

... Belli said this "amounts to a confession by Ruby, trapped into it, at a time when he faces the electric chair and before his appeal has been heard." *AP* 714 acs

8/25/64 Dallas - Defense lawyers have added documents to the official records of the Jack Ruby murder trial to back their claim a key prosecution witness gave false testimony.

The documents were affidavits signed by Dallas and Fort Worth television newsmen and lawyers. They supported defense claims that Police Sgt. Patrick Dean did not tell the truth about his conversation with Ruby after the shooting of ... Oswald ...

... Filing of the documents represents the final local step in the appeal of a death penalty verdict returned 3/14. *AP* 158 acs

8/29/64 Story on series of articles by Dorothy Kilgallen, on Warren's questioning of Ruby, published in *New York Journal-American*, 8/18/6 ff.

[Mark Lane had informed the Commission months before of the Ruby-Tippit-Weissman meeting at the *Carousel*.]

Yet throughout the three hours of testimony, Justice Warren permitted Ruby to ramble, twist and dodge and never answer directly the questions whether he knew Tippit or had been with him at the *Carousel* that night. Even more bizarre, Justice Warren added a fourth man to the table, "a rich Texas oil man," whom Lane says he never mentioned. Significant was Ruby's reply to Warren's question. "Who was the rich oil man?" Ruby replied. He never admitted the meeting took place; he never denied it. *National Guardian*

8/29/64 Dorothy Kilgallen last winter ... reported that Dallas District Attorney Wade was ready to confront Ruby on the stand with 10 witnesses who would say that he knew Oswald. Soon thereafter it was announced that Ruby would not take the stand. *National Guardian*

[See Ruby, 6/13/64.]

Ruby, 1964

8/29/64 Note on Warren's questioning of Ruby, who "seemed far more terrified of ending up a victim of ... alleged plotters than of the electric chair":

Justice Warren took the whole agitated outburst in stride and consulted his watch to note that it would soon be time for lunch.
National Guardian

9/3/64 Ft. Worth - Karen Lynn Bennett, the young stripper who made headlines during the Jack Ruby murder trial, has resumed her nightclub career. ... She said her ... appearance will be her swan song as an "exotic dancer." She did not reveal her plans beyond that point. *AP* 832 pcs

[See Ruby, 12/24/63]

[See Ruby, 3/7/64]

9/25/64 Dallas - District Judge Joe B. Brown today granted attorneys for Jack Ruby a 30-day delay in presenting the full record of his case in court for the appeal of his death penalty.

... The [defense] petition contended that more time was needed because court reporters have not finished transcribing the voluminous records of Ruby's trial.

Assistant District Attorney Jim Bowie said the State would challenge the request for another delay by the defense in appealing the case. *AP* 61s pcs

9/27/64 San Francisco - Attorney Melvin Belli said tonight he has agreed to file an appeal brief for Jack Ruby ...

Belli said in an interview that Ruby asked him to do so and that he agreed.

... "I'm satisfied the Ruby verdict will be reversed. Every lawyer knows it will - and the District Attorney in Dallas know it, too," Belli said.

Belli said his office has almost completed work on the Ruby brief. He said it will be based on what he called concrete evidence that a police officer committed perjury during Ruby's trial, and the argument that Ruby should have been granted the right to be tried in a city other than Dallas.

9/27/64 Story says Ruby lied to Earl Warren when he said he had asked to testify at his trial, but had been prevented from doing so by Melvin Belli, that defense has in its files notes in Ruby's handwriting stating that he refused to testify.

Ruby, 1964

Story suggests collusion between police and Ruby, enabling him to enter basement of police department building.

Story says Bill DeMarr [memory expert performing at *Carousel Club*] cannot be located. *New York Journal-American*, Dorothy Kilgallen

[For DeMarr, See Ruby, 11/24/63]

9/28/64 Story on publication of *Warren Report*, dealing with its report on Ruby, says he was in financial difficulties and owed some \$40,000 in Federal taxes. AP, Frances Lewine

9/28/64 Dallas - Jack Ruby learned about the Warren Commission's *Report* Sunday from his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant.

But she said he "just didn't comprehend it."

... Sheriff Bill Decker said he also visited Ruby's jail cell to deliver mail. "He didn't say a word about the *Report*." *San Francisco News Call Bulletin* [AP]

9/28/64 Washington - ... The commission pieced together the painstaking account on the theory that if Ruby had been involved in a conspiracy, his activities and associations during this period [11/21 to 11/24] would in some way have reflected the conspiratorial relationship.

Other commission conclusions regarding Ruby were that he:

- Was not acquainted with Oswald.
- Had no connection with the Communist Party.
- Had no connection with ultraconservative causes.
- Was not significantly linked to organized crime.

The commission specifically discounted an allegation by ... Mark Lane ... that Ruby, Bernard Weissman and ... J.D. Tippit had met at Ruby's *Carousel Club* on 11/14. *San Francisco Chronicle* [from *New York Times*]

9/28/64 Chronicle story on publication of *Warren Report*, dealing with Ruby's activities in san Francisco area, 1933-1937; sold race track tip sheets, etc. *San Francisco Chronicle*

9/28/64 Story on publication of *Warren Report*, dealing with Ruby's entry to Police Department basement, quotes the Report:

Ruby, 1964

"Video tapes taken without interruption before the shooting ... show Ruby standing at the foot of the ramp on the Main St. side before the shooting." *Washington Evening Star*, Herman Sehaden

[See CE 2635, *Warren Report*, p. 220.]

- 10/3/64** Before Ruby had an opportunity to answer the question as to whether or not he was at such a meeting [Ruby, Tippit, Weissman, *Carousel*, 11/14/63], Chief Justice Earl Warren said: "I did feel that our records should show that we would ask you the question and that you would answer it and that you have answered it." No direct question was ever asked of Ruby in reference to his attendance at such a meeting by the Commission. The Commission nevertheless concludes that Ruby "denied" that he attended such a meeting. The transcript of Ruby's testimony shows conclusively that Ruby never made such a denial and that no direct question as to his attendance at such a meeting was ever asked. *National Guardian*, Mark Lane
- 10/3/64** Dallas - ... [Ruby] is suspicious and wary, particularly of hire own attorneys. Tonahill said the defense psychiatrist [not identified] calls Ruby's reaction typical of a "psychotic depressive paranoid. He has strong suicidal tendencies and will commit suicide if he can ... He is wary of his own attorneys and overly fond of the prosecuting attorneys who want to see him executed." *AP*, Peggy Simpson
- [See Ruby, 11/15/64, *AP* 1105peaw, Sid Moody rdp
- 10/6/64** Dallas - Jack Ruby believes the Warren Commission report proved of little value in dispelling rumors that he was involved in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy, Ruby's chief defense lawyer [Clayton Fowler] said today.
- ... [Fowler] believes Ruby "lacks the mental capacity" to understand the meaning and significance of the report.
- "It appears there has been a further deterioration of his condition," the attorney said.
- Fowler said the defense does not, however, plan to renew a request that Sheriff Bill Decker transfer Ruby to a mental hospital for treatment.
- "Jack isn't a raving maniac," Fowler said. "But it appears to me as a layman that his condition is slowly deteriorating." *AP* 935 pcs
- 10/7/64** The first man who took that job [as Ruby's lawyer] was Constine Alfred Droby, President of *the Criminal Bar Association of Dallas* who was interviewed by Jean Campbell for the *London Evening Standard* of 10/7/64:

Ruby, 1964

"I said I would defend Jack," he told me ... "but I had to give it up before I really started, as my wife's life was threatened by anonymous phone calls and we were told our house was to be blown up by dynamite." However Droby told me that as Ruby's attorney he had rushed around to Ruby's apartment soon after the shooting with Jim Koethe, a Dallas news reporter.

"The place was in chaos. I think we were the first people to see it."

"You remember anything especially?" I said.

"No, just chaos and newspapers," Droby answered. "I wonder if Jim Koethe saw anything?" I asked.

Mr. Droby folded his hands and leaned forward: "Koethe's murdered," he said. "He was choked to death the Monday before last." *London Evening Standard*, Jean Campbell, Quoted by Joachim Joesten in *Gaps in the Warren Report*, p. 206

10/8/64 Austin, TX, [10/7] - The state Supreme Court refused today to hear *Texas State Bar Association* charges against Melvin Belli, ... who defended Jack L. Ruby last spring.

The state bar contended that Mr. Belli should be barred from practicing law in Texas because of his conduct during and after the Ruby trial ...

When Mr. Belli learned of the court action today, he said: " ... The same bunch that's beaten in their own Supreme Court is now moving before the rich man's insurance club, the *American Bar Association*, to kick me out of there. Next they will move to have my membership in the *Book-of-the-Month Club* revoked." *New York Times* [AP]

10/9/64 Dallas - ... Melvin Belli says he doesn't believe ... Jack Ruby gunned down Lee Harvey Oswald to keep Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy from having to return to the scene of her husband's assassination.

The fiery Belli rendered this opinion in his book entitled *Dallas Justice* ... He said Ruby's story of trying to protect Mrs. Kennedy from a harrowing court appearance at Oswald's trial "did not add up although it was a story in which he [Ruby] persisted off and on to the end [of the trial]." *AP* 12:25 pcs

10/19/64 *Dallas Justice, The Real Story of Jack Ruby and His Trial*, Melvin M. Belli [with Maurice C. Carroll]; David McKay, publisher.

10/21/64 Dallas - District Judge Joe B. Brown said last night he will take no action on a request that he oust defense lawyers Clayton Fowler and Joe Tonahill from the Jack Ruby murder case.

Mrs. Eva Grant ... made the request in a letter. She asked Brown to rule that the only "attorneys of record" in her brother's case

Ruby, 1964

are Sol Dann of Detroit, Charles Bellows of Chicago and Phil Burleson of Dallas.

... Fowler, presently chief of the defense staff, says he was hired by Ruby personally and the family cannot fire him.

Mrs. Grant said she acted under power of attorney from her brother granted 2/4. AP 349 acs

10/28/64 Story on *Carousel Club* and its current manager, Diana Hunter, a former performer there, now running the club for an investment firm "which apparently took over the mortgage." AP 244 acs

[See Ruby, 9/27, AP 717 ped.]

11/81/64 Ruby's former night spot, *The Carousel Club*, is closed. Other owners have tried but failed to make a success of it. AP 610 pcs

10/28/64 Dallas - Jack Ruby's chief defense counsel and an appeals expert asked District Judge Joe B. Brown today to let them step out of the case. Clayton Fowler, head of Ruby's defense team since last June, and Emmett Colvin, Jr., filed motions to withdraw from the case.

In requesting their release, the two lawyers noted that ... Mrs. Eva Grant last week asked the court that all lawyers on the case, except Phil Burleson, be removed. ... Both motions said Mrs. Grant's letter requesting removal of the lawyers was prepared in Burleson's office. Fowler stated that the letter was written "evidently with his [Burleson's] knowledge and acquiescence." AP 514 pcs

10/28/64 ... Fowler said a "secret group" of lawyers are drawing their own appeal for the convicted slayer.

... The judge said he probably would leave the case in the hands of Phil Burleson and Joe Tonahill ... Both attorneys said they intended to continue representing Ruby.

... At least eight other lawyers have been on the defense team at one time or another since Ruby shot ... Oswald. AP 514 pcs

11/14/64 Foreman's record has, indeed, been little short of miraculous. During his flamboyant career he has represented no fewer than 700 accused killers who had the presence of mind to tell loved ones, "Get Percy Foreman." ... Only 50 of the 700 ever so much as went to jail. And of the 370 murder cases which Foreman has brought before a jury, only one ended in death for the accused ...

... Shortly after gunning down ... Oswald, Jack Ruby issued a call for Foreman's services from his Dallas jail cell. But in one of the more bizarre twists of that period, Ruby's family balked at what it considered Foreman's demand for an excessive fee. As Foreman tells it today, " ... Ruby's family was quoted a figure which happened to be four times higher than the fee I had actually

Ruby, 1964

asked, and they turned it down. I don't know how something like that happened - but it did." *'Get Percy Foreman', Saturday Evening Post*, Thomas Martin, Patrick O'Bryan

11/15/64 From round-up story on anniversary of assassination:

... His lawyers hope to have his trial appealed by the end of the year.

If Ruby cares he doesn't seem to show it. He would rather talk to Henry Wade, the prosecutor who convicted him to die, than to his own lawyers.

He sits in his cell. His mind possibly gone, his nightclub closed then reopened under new management, his beloved dogs he called his children given away. He keeps but two things in his cell: a Bible and a picture of John F. Kennedy. *AP*, 1105 pes, Sid Moody

[See Ruby, 10/3/64, *AP*, Peggy Simpson

11/18/64 Dallas - ... Ruby's lawyers hope to win a reversal of [the death sentence] when they argue before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin sometime next spring. They will contend, among other things, that local conditions made it impossible for Ruby to get a fair trial in Dallas, and that testimony from certain police officers, which tended to show malice on Ruby's part, should have been ruled inadmissible.

... Tonahill said Ruby might be a free man in a year if the Austin court reverses the case. "If the appellate Court supports us on the issue of inadmissible police testimony," he said, "then the element of malice will be gone from the case. Murder without malice means 2 to 5 years, and, considering time off for good behavior, Jack already will have served the minimum time on such a sentence."

Both Burlison and Tonahill said a sanity hearing could not be ruled out. If a jury found Ruby insane, he then would be committed to a mental institution, where his lawyers say he belongs. *AP* 130 acs

11/18/64 Dallas - ... [Ruby], the once well-groomed, well-exercised nightclub operator now is a sloppy, befuddled man who apparently suffers from delusions of persecution.

... In his constantly guarded jail quarters, wearing white coveralls and sandal-type shoes, Ruby waits. Sheriff Bill Decker maintains strict security measures. Ruby's food each day is selected at random from serving carts to avoid the possibility of poisoning. His visitors are restricted to his family, his Rabbi, and his lawyers. Those allowed to see him say he often appears to lose touch with reality, and raves about how Jews are suffering because he killed Oswald.

Ruby, 1964

... Does Ruby realize the first anniversary of the assassination is approaching? "I'm sure he's aware of it," said Burleson, "but he doesn't like to talk about these things anymore." *AP* 130 acs

11/21/64 Dallas - Lawyers gathered in the Dallas County Court House chambers of District Judge Joe B. Brown yesterday to sign the transcript papers of the month long Jack Ruby murder trial. ... His lawyers plan now to appeal Ruby's death sentence to the Court of Criminal appeals in Austin. *AP* 118 acs

11/24/64 Washington - Marina Oswald disclosed in testimony released yesterday that she had written a letter to attorneys prosecuting Jack Ruby asking that her husband's killer be spared the death penalty.

... Mrs. Oswald said at the time that she had not mailed the letter. *San Francisco Chronicle* [UPI]

11/24/64 Story on Ruby's lie detector test in Dallas County jail 7/18/64: Commission testimony disclosed ... that Warren was allowed to talk to Ruby alone. *AP* 726 acs, Anthony Catella

11/24/64 Dallas - ... Sheriff Bill Decker ... said Ruby ... spends much of his time playing cards and dominos with guards assigned to his cell.

Decker keeps Ruby apart from other prisoners to make certain they do not harm him.

Decker refuses to let reporters see Ruby. As a result, they must depend on hearsay accounts when writing about Ruby's physical and mental condition.

Defense attorneys say Ruby has "gone steadily down hill" since his arrest. *AP* 940 pcs

11/25/64 Washington - ... In the first 24 hours after Ruby shot Oswald a year ago yesterday ... messages of congratulations began pouring in for Ruby. Copies of 102 of them are among the exhibits in the Warren Commission's report on the assassination of Kennedy and slaying of Oswald. *AP* 403 pcs

11/30/64 Ft. Worth - [Melvin] Belli revealed he recently wrote a letter to District Judge Joe Brown of Dallas ... and asked him to commit Ruby to a mental hospital.

"It was a letter from one human being to another," Belli said. "I asked that he remember the spirit of the holiday season and put Jack where he belongs." *AP* 126 acs

[Partial text of letter filed, Ruby, 12/4/64, *AP*. 842 pcs]

Ruby, 1964

11/30/64 Ft. Worth – [Melvin] Belli said he did not intend to see or call Ruby, explaining that it would cause too much of a commotion. He predicted the death sentence would be reversed, and that Ruby never will die in the electric chair.

He said Ruby has called him several times in his San Francisco office.

"I know it's Jack," he said, "because it comes collect."

He added:

"So many people are tapping the telephone [when Ruby calls] that there is hardly enough juice to relay the call over the Rocky Mountains." *AP* 129 pcs

12/25/64 Ruby is sent five \$20 bills by a West Coast Sunday school class. *New York Times* [*UPI*]