

Ruby Rby March 4, 1964
5:42 , + 8:58 p.m. est

B22

DALLAS, MARCH 4 (AP)-JOHN RUTLEDGE, A POLICE REPORTER FOR THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS TESTIFIED TODAY HE DID NOT THINK JACK RUBY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS THE NIGHT AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

QUESTIONED BY DIST. ATTY. HENRY WADE, RUTLEDGE GAVE THESE ANSWERS AT RUBY'S TRIAL, WHERE THE STRIP JOINT MANAGER IS CHARGED WITH MURDERING LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

A. JACK RUBY WAS EXPLAINING (TO OUT-OF-STATE NEWSMEN) WHO EVERYONE WAS AND HE SPOKE IN A VERY RAPID VOICE.

Q. WAS HE RATIONAL?

A. HE SPOKE SLOWLY ENOUGH AND SPELLED OUT NAMES.

Q. HOW MANY DETECTIVES SPOKE TO HIM.

A. I DO NOT KNOW, BUT SOME.

Q. TELL US WHO THE DETECTIVES WERE AND WHAT THEY SAID.

A. I CANNOT TELL YOU WHO THEY WERE BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHAT THEY SAID. EVIDENTLY THIS OFFICER BEHIND ME FIGURED THE SAME THING AS I AND HE SHOUTED, "HEY, JACK, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?" (THEY WERE IN THE POLICE STATION).

Q. WHAT DID JACK SAY TO HIM?

A. JACK SAID, "I AM HELPING THESE REPORTERS.

Q. DID THEY SMILE AND SHAKE THEIR HEADS?

A. I SEEM TO REMEMBER SOMEONE MUTTERING, "THAT FELLOW. . .JACK RUBY SHOULD NOT BE UP HERE."

B23

Q. DID YOU THINK HE SHOULD BE THERE?

A. I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE AND I COVER CRIME AND HAVE DONE SO ABOUT 12 YEARS.

Q. FIRST YOU THOUGHT HE SHOULD NOT BE UP THERE AND BECAUSE OF THE THINGS YOU HAD HEARD AROUND TOWN YOU THOUGHT HE SHOULD NOT BE THERE WHERE THERE WAS "TIGHT SECURITY?"

A. HE WAS NOT A REPORTER AND I DO NOT THINK HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE.

Q. THE FACT HE WAS NOT A REPORTER WAS THE FACT YOU DID NOT THINK HE SHOULD BE THERE?

A. BEING A NIGHT CLUB OWNER I THOUGHT PERHAPS HE WAS UP THERE ABOUT A HOT CHECK WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN HIM. AND I THOUGHT HE JUST STAYED THERE TO BE WITH THE REPORTERS.

Q. AND YOU THOUGHT HE SHOULD NOT BE THERE BECAUSE YOU HAD HEARD HE WAS AN UNSTABLE CHARACTER AROUND TOWN.

A. I CONSIDER HIM TO BE "MEAN."

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER HIM TO BE INTELLIGENT?

A. NO THOUGHTS OF BEING INTELLIGENT, JUST THINGS .I HAD SEEN AND HEARD HIM TO BE.

B24

Q. WHEN YOU CONSIDER HIM TO BE "MEAN" DO YOU NOT CONSIDER HIM TO BE NORMAL? IS THAT RIGHT?

A. YES SIR.

Q. AND ALSO WOULD YOU THINK HIM TO BE EMOTIONAL AND NOT NORMAL?

A. I WOULD NOT DO THOSE THINGS MYSELF.

Q. "CITY CHARACTER"--THIS CAME TO YOUR MIND; HERE IS A MAN DOING THINGS OUT OF NORMALCY AND BEING "MEAN." WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

A. YES.

Q. YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS IN THE DETECTIVES' MIND?

A. YES.

JQ542PCS

B24

DALLAS--ADD QUESTION AND ANSWER (B22) X X X YES.

POLICEMAN J. R. LEAVELLE, THE MAN TELEVISION VIEWERS SAW HAND-CUFFED TO OSWALD WHEN THE LATTER WAS SHOT DOWN, TOLD HIS STORY IN COURT TODAY.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AS LEAVELLE TESTIFIED:

Q. HOW LONG WAS IT AFTER CAPT. FRITZ (HOMICIDE CAPT. WILL FRITZ) STEPPED OUT UNTIL YOU, OSWALD AND (OFFICER L.C.) GRAVES STEPPED OUT AFTER HIM (IN THE CITY HALL BASEMENT).

A. JUST A FEW SECONDS.

Q. WERE YOU ON THE LEFT SIDE OR RIGHT?

A. I WAS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND MR. GRAVES WAS ON HIS LEFT.

Q. WHAT OF AN UNUSUAL NATURE HAPPENED.

A. A MAN CAME FROM THE CROWD OF REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS AND I GUESS POLICE OFFICERS IN FRONT OF MYSELF, OSWALD AND MR. GRAVES.

Q. WHAT, IF ANYTHING, FIRST ATTRACTED YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MAN?

A. WHEN HE FIRST DASHED FROM THE CROWD, I SAW HE HAD A PISTOL IN HIS RIGHT HAND AND WAS RAISING HIS HAND TO SHOOT.

Q. AFTER THAT PISTOL CAME UP TO YOUR VIEW, WHAT DID YOU DO?

A. I TRIED TO CATCH THE MAN AND DID SUCCEED IN CATCHING HIM BY THE LEFT SHOULDER.

Q. X X X DID HE FIRE THE GUN?

A. YES, HE DID.

Q. WHAT DID OSWALD DO OR SAY?

A. HE GRUNTED, SAID, "OH," AND SANK TO THE FLOOR.

B70

Q. DID ANYONE APPREHEND HIM (RUBY)?

A. YES. MR. GRAVES GOT HIS GUN HAND AND WRESTED THE GUN AWAY FROM HIM.

Q. WHAT ARE THE FACTS REGARDING HIS HAND ON THE GUN?

A. THE HAND WAS CONTRACTING ON THE GUN AS IF HE WAS GOING TO FIRE ANOTHER SHOT.

Q. HAD YOU KNOWN JACK RUBY PRIOR TO THIS MORNING OF NOV. 24?

A. YES. I FIRST MET HIM EIGHT OR TEN YEARS AGO WHEN HE HAD A PLACE ON SOUTH IRVING STREET.

Q. DID YOU RECOGNIZE HIM WHEN YOU SAW HIM RAISE THE GUN?

A. NO. I KNEW HIM BUT COULD NOT RECALL HIS NAME.

Q. WHAT DID YOU HEAR RUBY SAY? (THIS WAS ABOUT A MINUTE AFTER THE SHOOTING)

A. I HOPE THE SON OF A BITCH DIES.

Q. WHAT WAS LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S CONDITION AS YOU SAW HIM?

A. HE WAS MOANING AND GROANING... HIS EYES WERE CLOSED.

Q. DID YOU TALK TO HIM?

A. YES. I ASKED HIM IF HE WANTED ME TO GET ANYONE, IF HE WANTED TO TALK TO ANYONE, WHETHER HE WANTED TO SEE ANYONE. HE DID NOT ANSWER.

B71

LEAVELLE DESCRIBED THE EVENTS AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE DOCTORS OPERATED IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE OSWALD'S LIFE.

Q. ... I WILL ASK YOU IF MISS AUDREY BELL (A NURSE) BROUGHT YOU ANYTHING OUTSIDE THE OPERATING ROOM.

A. YES. SHE BROUGHT ME THE BULLET.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF LEAVELLE BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY MELVIN BELLI.

Q. YOU SAY MR. RUBY SAID, 'I HOPE THE SON OF A BITCH DIES.' THAT WAS HOW LONG AFTER OSWALD WAS SHOT?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I WOULD SAY IT WAS ABOUT ONE MINUTE.

Q. WAS THAT NOT AFTER SOMEONE SAID, "OH, JACK, YOU SHOT OSWALD?" AND THEN HE SAID, "I HOPE THE SON OF A BITCH DIES?" HE NEVER SAID "I SHOT HIM," DID HE? THE FIRST THING YOU HEARD HIM SAY WAS, "I HOPE THE SON OF A BITCH DIES."

A. YES SIR.

Q. YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT WAS SHOWN ON TV ON THE RUNS AND RERUNS. (THEY ARE ACCURATE, ARE THEY NOT?

A. YES, SIR.

Q. YOU ARE THE OFFICER IN THE LIGHT TAN SUIT AND IN THIS PICTURE, NO. 9, YOU DIDN'T SEE WHERE THE GUN CAME FROM, DID YOU? WHETHER RUBY PILLED IT OUT OF HIS COAT POCKET, PANTS POCKET OR WHERE?

A. NO.

Q. I THINK YOU INDICATED THE HAND CAME UP. WHEN YOU FIRST SAW IT, THE HAND WAS LEVEL.

A. NO, SIR. I SAW HIM RAISING IT.

EB1

B72

Q. WHEN YOU LOOK AT EXHIBIT 9, YOU ARE STILL LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD AND THE GUN IS ALREADY UP AND LEVEL. YOU DID NOT SEE IT BEFORE THAT TIME?

A. YES, I SAW IT OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYES. I COULD NOT TELL YOU WHETHER OR NOT IT CAME FROM HIS POCKET.

Q. IN THIS EXHIBIT NO. 8, RUBY IS HOLDING THE WEAPON, AND HE IS HOLDING A FINGER ON THE TRIGGER. DID YOU GET A LOOK AT THAT TO SEE IF THIS (INDEX) FINGER GOES HERE, OR THIS (SECOND) FINGER GOES HERE?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. AFTER THE SHOOTING, THERE WAS SOME MONEY RUBY HAD ON HIM, WASN'T THERE?

A. YES. I SAW THE MONEY.

Q. ABOUT \$1,200, WASN'T IT?

A. I KNOW THERE WAS MORE THAN THAT--ABOUT \$1,500.

Q. DID YOU SEE A PICTURE WHEREIN OSWALD TRIED TO GIVE THE COMMUNIST SALUTE?

A. NO.

BIKXKX Q

Q. AT WHAT TIME WERE YOU INFORMED OSWALD WOULD BE MOVED?

A. I WAS INFORMED IT WOULD BE AROUND 10 IN THE MORNING.

Q. THAT WAS ON TV, WASN'T IT?

A. I DID NOT WATCH TV AT THAT TIME.

Q. THEN IT WAS MOVED UP TO 11-SOMETHING?

A. I DON'T KNOW HOW THE TIME WAS ARRIVED AT.

Q. THE ARMOED CAR WAS TO GO OUT FIRST, THEN A POLICE CAR WAS TO FOLLOW IT? WITH THE ARMOED CAR GOING FIRST AS A DECOY?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT IS RIGHT. . . .

Q. DID YOU SEE OSWALD'S FACE JUST BEFORE RUBY CAME OUT OF THE CROWD?

A. NO. I DIDN'T LOOK AT OSWALD.

Q. YOU KNEW RUBY BEFORE. DID YOU THINK HE WAS PECULIAR?

A. MY KNOWLEDGE WAS LIMITED.

Q. HE SAID SOMETHING INCOHERENT, SOMETHING MUBLING, BUT HIS FACE WAS FAIRLY EXPRESSIONLESS. IS THAT SO?

A. I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ON HIS FACE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

Q. IT WAS NOT AN AGITATED FACE. IT WAS CALM, AS HE IS SITTING IN THE COURTROOM NOW?

A. YES.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, HE HAD MORE OR LESS OF A BLANK APPEARANCE?

A. NO. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I WOULD SAY IT WAS COMPLETELY BLANK OR NOT.

Q. WELL, PARTIALLY BLANK?

A. YES, SIR.

(RE-DIRECTING EXAMINATION BY ASST. DIST. ATTY. BILL ALEXANDER)

A

B74

Q. NOW, DIRECTING YOUR ATTENTION TO JACK RUBY'S FACE, DOES IT HAVE THE SAME APPEARANCE NOW, IN THIS COURTROOM, AS IT DID THEN?

A. WELL, ALMOST SO.

Q. WERE YOU DIRECTING YOUR ATTENTION TO RUBY OR TO THE PISTOL?

A. I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THE GUN AT THE TIME.

Q. WAS HIS VOICE LOUD, IN A SHRIEK, OR SO LOW THAT IT COULD NOT OVERCOME THE BACKGROUND NOISE?

A. IT WAS JUST LOUD ENOUGH FOR ME TO SEE HE WAS SAYING SOMETHING. BUT I COULDN'T HEAR WHAT HE WAS SAYING.

Q. CAN YOU SAY THAT HIS FACE AS YOU SEE HIM TODAY IS ALMOST WITHOUT EXPRESSION?

A. YES.