

Rby

SPARING JACKIE

Ruby Pictures Self to Warren As 'Sacrifice'

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By **CARL FREUND**

Jack Ruby pictured himself to Chief Justice Earl Warren as a "human sacrifice" who was willing to give up his life to spare Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy further anguish, The Dallas News learned Friday.

Ruby insisted he killed Lee Harvey Oswald because he wanted to make certain that Mrs. Kennedy was not forced to return to Dallas to testify at Oswald's trial on a charge of murdering her husband.

"I decided to sacrifice myself," the 53-year-old condemned slayer said.

The News was given a detailed account of statements which Ruby made during a 3½-hour interview with the chief justice in the county jail here June 7.

RUBY SAID:

—He decided to kill Oswald when he read an emotional letter to Caroline Kennedy in a newspaper after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated here Nov. 22.

—He was planning to shoot Oswald when he drove from his apartment to Downtown Dallas and walked into the City Hall basement Nov. 24.

—He recalls saying, "You rat, you shot the President," when he saw Oswald in the basement, but does not remember calling the 24-year-old Marxist a "son of a bitch."

—He did not feel hatred toward Oswald as an individual and was not trying to become a public hero, but was motivated by a desire to spare Mrs. Kennedy the anguish of returning to the city where her husband died.

—He objected to the insanity plea entered by Melvin Belli, chief defense attorney at his trial.

—He wanted to take the stand during his trial, but Belli told him that prosecutors would "cut you to pieces" and show premeditation.

AS HE HAD DONE previously, Ruby insisted he was not part of any conspiracy. And 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 he no longer cares what happens to him.

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

Belli charged during a courtroom tirade that jurors sentenced Ruby to the electric chair because of this criticism. The jurors said this was not true.

Ruby talked freely during the interview and rambled at times. Emotional by nature, he appeared on the verge of breaking down as he discussed his motive for killing Oswald.

RUBY SAID HE first thought about killing Oswald upon reading the letter to the president's daughter. On the same page of the newspaper, Ruby related, was a report that prosecutors might request Mrs. Kennedy to testify at Oswald's trial.

Ruby said he was "carried away" emotionally as he read the letter to Caroline.

He said his religion also motivated him. He pointed out he was a Jew and Mrs. Kennedy a Catholic.

"I thought this was a case where a member of one religion could do something for a member of another," he said.

(These are the quotes as recalled by the informed source who told The News about Ruby's statements during the interview. He says Ruby may have used slightly different words, but the quotes are substantially correct.)

Belli contended at the trial that Ruby, who manager a strip-tease club, drove to the downtown area Nov. 24 to wire money to a Fort Worth stripper after receiving a call from her. The defense lawyer said Ruby went to the City Hall, blacked out as a result of an epileptic seizure and shot Oswald while in a trance.

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

THE SLAYER SAID he had heard radio reports that officers would transfer Oswald to the county jail and, while driving, saw a crowd gathering outside the county jail.

Ruby said he held his hand on his Colt Cobra pistol as he walked into the City Hall basement after wiring money to the stripper.

Ruby emphasized that he "did not sneak" into the basement.

"I walked in," he said, adding that he strode past officers who were conferring.

Ruby, who had mingled with reporters during an earlier visit to police headquarters after the assassination, also told Warren at one point:

"I must be the world's greatest actor."

RUBY EXPRESSED the wish that he had been able to talk to the chief justice sooner, The News was told.

Warren heads a commission investigating the Kennedy assassination and the death of Oswald. 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.

Representatives of the prosecution and defense also were present.