

CONDITIONS CITED

Questions Raised On Tests of Ruby

By HARRY McCORMICK

Lie detector tests given Jack Ruby over the weekend are likely to be of little value if procedures of leading national authorities are reliable.

The tests were given Ruby by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on behalf of the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President John Kennedy.

Two factors may negate the tests or make them inconclusive—Ruby's psychosis, if any, and the presence of five persons in the room as the polygraph tests were made.

Ruby, who is in jail while his death penalty verdict for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald is on appeal, has been declared psychotic by several authorities. He has not, however, been officially declared insane.

Judith W. Wingert, director of Clinical Psychology for C. H. Stoelting detectors, says "Because of their non-contact with reality, the psychotic is difficult to deal with in usual interrogation situations. Easily distracted, irritable, and unable to co-operate in the questioning, attempts to get factual answers from such persons is useless."

The Provost Marshal's General School of Polygraph Examiners of the U.S. Army says "Psychotics cannot be run on the lie detector successfully," adding that psychotic tendencies will be revealed in polygraph tracings.

Dr. Lamoyne Snyder, national authority on the lie detector and one-time member of the Court of Last Resort, said the presence of others than the polygraph oper-

ator at the time of the test of Ruby was "not an ideal situation."

Those present while Ruby's tests were given were Attorney Arlen Specter for the Warren Commission, an FBI agent, a shorthand reporter, the operator, and Ruby's guard, Chief Jailer E. L. Holman.

"Presence of others is a definite disturbing influence and is in variance with customary procedure." Dr. Snyder told The Dallas News. "The subject must have nothing on his mind but the questions and the answers. It isn't fatal but it just isn't good if accurate results are to be had."

Fred E. Inbau and John E. Reid, international authorities and joint authors of "Lie Detection and Criminal Interrogation" says "The principal psychological factor contributing to a successful interrogation is privacy." They add violation of this rule "interferes with a satisfactory diagnosis."

Richard O. Arther and Rudolph Caputo, authors of "Interrogations for Investigators" say "The interrogation room must be private. In this use of the word, private means only the suspect and the interrogator are to be in that room. If the interrogator has a partner he should be outside of the room."

Another polygraph operator's text book, "Instrumental Detection of Deception—The Lie Detector," says "In important cases no one but the examiner and his assistant, if any, should be in the laboratory" when the tests are given.

Arther and Reid, in their book add that "When properly administered by a competent examiner tests are very accurate."

Present at test:

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. (SFChron., AP, July 20, 1964.)

Also present for the test were chief defense counsel Clayton Fowler of Dallas; Arlen Specter of Philadelphia, representing the Warren Commission; Asst. Dist. Atty. William F. Alexander and a jailer. (AP, July 19, 1964, 4:07 PCS.)