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JACK RUBY--PMS BJB (430)

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DALLAS, TEX., DEC. 12 (AP)-MEDICAL SPECIALISTS START PROBING CANCER-STRICKEN JACK RUBY FROM HEAD TO TOE TODAY TO SEEK THE SOURCE OF THE DREAD DISEASE SPREADING THROUGH HIS BODY.

"HIS CHANCES OF RECOVERY DEPEND ON THE LOCATION OF THE PRIMARY SITE," SAID DR. JAY SANFORD, PROFESSOR OF INTERNAL MEDICINE AT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL. DR. SANFORD HEADS A TEAM OF PHYSICIANS TREATING RUBY.

SHERIFF BILL DECKER, WHO HAS CUSTODY OF RUBY, CALLED A NEWS CONFERENCE FOR 10 A.M. (EST) TODAY. HE SAID DR. SANFORD WOULD BE PRESENT.

RUBY, 55, ONE-TIME DALLAS STRIP CLUB OPERATOR WHO NEITHER DRANK NOR SMOKED, WAS TAKEN TO PARKLAND HOSPITAL FRIDAY NIGHT AFTER BEING TREATED FOR A WEEK BY THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER FOR A CONGESTED, TIGHT-FEELING CHEST. THE HOSPITAL SAID HE HAD PNEUMONIA.

THE HOSPITAL SAID YESTERDAY THAT RUBY IS RECEIVING SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN SUPPLY AT INTERVALS.

A MALIGNANT TUMOR WAS DISCOVERED SATURDAY TO HAVE NEARLY CONSUMED A LYMPH NODE IN RUBY'S NECK. DOCTORS SAID IT SIGNIFIED THERE WERE OTHERS AND THAT THE CANCER WAS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE.

WHATEVER THE RESULTS OF THIS WEEK'S TESTS, DR. SANFORD SAID, "I DO NOT EXPECT HE WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO COURT" AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY FOR RETRIAL ON A CHARGE OF MURDER IN THE NATIONWIDE TELEVISED PISTOL SLAYING OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

OSWALD, IDENTIFIED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS THE ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ON NOV. 22, 1963, WAS GUNNED DOWN TWO DAYS LATER IN THE BASEMENT OF DALLAS CITY HALL WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNTY JAIL.

RUBY'S CONVICTION AND DEATH SENTENCE WAS SET ASIDE TWO MONTHS AGO. A CHANGE OF VENUE TO WICHITA FALLS, NORTH OF HERE, WAS ORDERED BUT NO DATE WAS SET. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS SAID FEBRUARY WAS POSSIBLE.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL TEAM SAID YESTERDAY THAT "RUBY IS NOT AT DEATH'S DOOR BUT HIS CANCER IS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE."

HE SAID RUBY COULD LIVE "A MONTH OR FIVE YEARS. WE JUST DON'T KNOW UNTIL WE RUN MORE TESTS TO FIND WHERE THE TUMORS ORIGINATED."

DR. SANFORD SAID FOUR QUARTS OF FLUID, WHICH WERE DRAINED FROM RUBY'S RIGHT CHEST CAVITY, HAD DEPRESSED HIS RIGHT LUNG. THE DOCTOR SAID A CANCER SUCH AS RUBY HAS COULD HAVE DEVELOPED OVER AS LONG AS A YEAR OR AS SHORT AS A MONTH OR TWO.

FRIENDS QUOTED RUBY'S SISTER, MRS. EVA GRANT, AS SAYING HER BROTHER HAD BEEN SICK AT HIS STOMACH FOR A MONTH AND FOUND IT HARD TO BREATHE.

A HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT RUBY IS BEING TREATED WITH A MACHINE CALLED AN INTERMEDIATE POSITIVE PRESSURE BREATHING APPARATUS.

THE DEVICE INTERMITTENTLY SUPPLIES OXYGEN AND AIDS BREATHING AND HELPS LOOSEN LUNG CONGESTION. ITS USE IS NOT UNUSUAL IN CASES SUCH AS RUBY'S.

RUBY'S HOSPITALIZATION IS TREATED WITH RIGID SECURITY BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. ONE GUARD STAYS ONLY A FEW PACES AWAY FROM THE BEDSIDE AND ANOTHER IS STATIONED OUTSIDE THE ROOM.

PERSONS ENTERING RUBY'S FLOOR MUST SHOW A BADGE AND STATE THEIR BUSINESS. VISITORS ARE LIMITED TO RELATIVES, HIS RABBI AND HIS LAWYERS.

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