

RUBY TESTS FIND SEIZURE DISORDER

Court-Ordered Report Lists Brain-Injury Possibility

By JACK LANGGUTH
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DALLAS, Feb. 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."

After defense and prosecution psychiatrists disagreed at preliminary hearings about Ruby's sanity, Judge Brown appointed Dr. Towler to conduct a variety of tests, including an electroencephalographic examination.

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

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

Report Praised

Dr. Stubblefield, chairman of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwest Medical School in Dallas, said Dr. Towler's report had been "presented carefully and thoroughly."

Dr. Holbrook termed the report "excellent."

Ruby's attorneys attempted today to gain an acquittal for Ruby on the basis of this apparent agreement that he was suffering from a seizure disorder.

They contended that Ruby's brain was physically damaged and that he was insane on Nov. 24 when he shot and killed Lee H. Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy. The penal code of Texas provides that "no act done in a state of insanity can be punished as an offense."

The judge, who overruled the motion, will call upon a jury to decide whether or not Ruby was sane at the time of the shooting.

As reported earlier, the electroencephalographic tests given Ruby last month have been interpreted by a Chicago authority on epilepsy as demonstrating that the 52-year-old former night club operator suffers from a rare type of that disease.

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

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

Cites Earlier Symptoms

Much of the report, however, deals with Ruby's earlier symptoms and lists the occasions on which his brain may have been injured.

"Mrs. Eva Grant [Ruby's sister] recalled that her mother had told her that he [Ruby] was a very large child at birth and that she thought he weighed 11 pounds at birth," the report states.

"She recalled that her mother had told her of [his] 'hard' birth."

According to Dr. Gibbs, psychomotor epilepsy is generally caused by a blow to the head. Dr. Towler compiled a list of light times when Ruby's brain may have been damaged.

RBY

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