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PMS BUDGET

RUBY TRIAL (500)

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DALLAS, MARCH 7 (AP)—JACK RUBY'S MURDER TRIAL, PAST ITS THIRD WEEK TODAY, HAS GONE INTO THE RECORDS AS UNIQUE IN LEGAL HISTORY--INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM.

IT BEGAN AS A STRANGE CASE.

ON NOV. 22, PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT IN DALLAS. LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS CHARGED WITH MURDERING HIM. IF OSWALD DID IT, WHAT WAS HIS MOTIVE? WAS THERE A CONSPIRACY? AND DID IT EXTEND BEYOND THE UNITED STATES?

THE ANSWERS MAY NEVER BE KNOWN.

FOR, TWO DAYS LATER, JACK RUBY, 52, GIRLIE SHOW OPERATOR--WHOM THE DEFENSE CALLS "A CHARACTER AROUND TOWN"--BURST THROUGH A CROWD OF POLICE OFFICERS, JAMMED A PISTOL INTO OSWALD'S SIDE AND SHOT HIM DOWN.

MOTIVE?

HIS DEFENSE LAWYERS CLAIM HE HAD NONE. THEY SAY HE WAS IN AN EPILEPTIC "RAGE STATE" INDUCED BY THE SHOCK OF THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH, AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE KILLED OSWALD.

POLICE SGT. P.T. DEAN, HOWEVER, SAYS RUBY TOLD HIM HE BEGAN THINKING ABOUT KILLING OSWALD ON THE FRIDAY NIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH, MORE THAN 36 HOURS BEFORE THE FATAL SHOOTING.

THE STATE COMPLETED ITS CASE AGAINST RUBY YESTERDAY. THE FIRST DEFENSE WITNESSES WERE CHARACTER WITNESSES WHO THREW LITTLE OR NO LIGHT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OSWALD'S DEATH.

THE TRIAL'S THREE WEEKS BROUGHT THESE UNUSUAL EVENTS:

1. A JAIL BREAK YESTERDAY...AN ESCAPEE WITH A FAKE GUN, TERRORIZING SPECTATORS AND COURT EMPLOYEES...KAREN (LITTLE LYNN) BENNETT, 19, PREGNANT, A STRIPPER, COWERING IN A STAIRWELL AND CRYING, "OH, MY GOD; HE'S AFTER ME."...MRS. JOY BELLI, ASH BLODE WIFE OF CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL MELVIN BELLI, TRYING TO COMFORT HER...FEW PERSONS INSIDE THE COURTROOM KNEW OF THE INCIDENT...THE PROCEEDINGS WERE NOT DISRUPTED.

2. PROBABLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ANY COURT ROOM, THE DEFENDANT AND THE JURY SAW A FILM OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTING. THE FILM WAS TAKEN FROM A "LIVE" TELECAST OF THE SCENE. RUBY SHOWED LITTLE EMOTION.

3. EARLIER, JUDGE JOE B. BROWN WAS ABSENT BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. ANOTHER JUDGE REPLACED HIM. BROWN RETURNED THE NEXT DAY--A TEXAS PRECEDENT, LEGAL AUTHORITIES BELIEVE. BELLI ARGUED THAT THIS WAS GROUND FOR A MISTRIAL.

4. A TOTAL OF 1962 PERSONS WERE EXAMINED AS PROSPECTIVE JURORS BEFORE THE EIGHT MEN AND FOUR WOMEN HEARING THE CASE WERE ACCEPTED. IN TEXAS, A 13TH JUROR IS NOT SELECTED AS AN ALTERNATE. SO IF ONE OF THE 12 BECOMES INCAPACITATED, THE CASE WILL HAVE TO BE STARTED OVER.

THE FIRST DEFENSE WITNESSES WERE "LITTLE LYNN," RALPH HEMPLIN, TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYE; WILLIAM G. SERUR, A SALESMAN, AND WILLIAM E. HOWARD, A BUSINESSMAN.

THEY PICTURED RUBY AS "HIGH STRUNG, HIGHLY EMOTIONAL, EASILY UPSET." THEY RELATED INCIDENTS IN WHICH RUBY GOT INTO "FIGHTS AND BRAWLS AND THINGS LIKE THAT." THEY SAID HE FLARED UP IN AN INSTANT AND "COOLED OFF JUST AS FAST." SERUR, WHO SAID HE WAS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF RUBY'S, TESTIFIED NEVERTHELESS, THAT HE WAS "SCARED" WHENEVER RUBY BECAME EMOTIONALLY UPSET.

EACH WAS ASKED WHETHER RUBY OFTEN BROKE INTO TEARS.

"LITTLE LYNN," RELATING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH RUBY ON THE SUNDAY HE KILLED OSWALD, SAID, "HE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CRYING." SERUR AND HOWARD SAID THEY HAD NEVER SEEN RUBY CRY.

THEY ALSO PICTURED HIM AS A LOVER OF DOGS, WHO REFERRED TO HIS PETS AS "MY CHILDREN," OR "MY BABIES." THEY SAID HE WAS OFTEN KIND AND GENEROUS. THEY DESCRIBED HIM AS A "NAME DROPPER" AND ONE WHO LIKES TO BE "IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS."

AS TO RUBY'S MENTAL CONDITION, HOWARD TESTIFIED:

"I WOULD SAY JACK WAS A FINE FELLOW UNTIL HE TOOK OVER THE CAROUSEL CLUB. THEN I DECIDED HE WAS A SICK MAN."

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