

Rby

Ruby Trial Leaves Some With Unresolved Doubts

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DALLAS, March 15 — The trial of Jack L. Ruby disappointed those who had hoped that witnesses would provide new evidence about the assassination of President Kennedy.

A suspicion had circulated before the trial began, particularly among representatives of the foreign press, that Ruby had been connected in some way with the man he later killed, Lee H. Oswald, the accused assassin.

"I'll tell you why we're all here," one Italian reporter said midway in the trial. "We expected an attempt on Ruby's life in the courtroom or else that we'd find out more about the shooting of Kennedy. Nobody in Europe is interested in Ruby for his own sake."

The trial ended yesterday with the jury voting the death penalty. By the time the verdict was announced the theory of a conspiracy between Oswald, Ruby and unnamed others had been generally abandoned.

Questions Raised

But other questions were being raised again today. One was whether Oswald and Ruby had been connected or acquainted, personally or politically, before the assassination.

The Dallas County District Attorney, Henry M. Wade, said after the verdict was announced that independent investigations by his staff and by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had produced no evidence of such a link.

Some law enforcement officers in Dallas continued to believe that a connection was possible but, if so, that it was personal and did not necessarily involve the assassination.

Ruby has said that he first saw Oswald at the Dallas Police Station on the night of Oswald's arrest.

Another question still being raised is why Ruby was permitted in the Dallas police station despite rigid security precautions.

A reporter testified for the prosecution that Ruby had entered the station without being challenged on the night of Nov. 22, shortly before Oswald was first brought before the press. Ruby was escorting two out-of-state reporters.

Two days later, according to the police officers who questioned him afterward, Ruby had been attracted by activity at the station at about 11:19 A.M.

Question of a Previous Link to Oswald Raised Although Evidence Indicates None

and had walked to a basement entrance.

Police Sgt. P.T. Dean, who was responsible for security in the basement while Oswald was being transferred to the County Jail, said Ruby told him later that "he had come in an entrance on the north side of Main Street as a car drove out."

Someone had shouted to Ruby but he kept his head down and kept walking, Sergeant Dean said. He quoted Ruby as telling him that he knew he could always pretend to be a reporter.

Sergeant Dean said he had been asked by his superior to report on the break in security. But he did not testify on why there was no guard at the jail entrance at the moment Ruby walked into the basement.

Question of Sanity

On the sanity issue, the jury in finding Ruby guilty yesterday also determined that he was legally sane at the time of the crime.

Under Texas law, a defendant is sane if he "knew right from wrong and understood the nature and consequences of his act."

Only four of the 66 witnesses who testified during the trial expressed an opinion about Ruby's legal sanity. Two defense psychiatrists and his clergyman, Rabbi Hillel E. Silverman, said that they did not believe Ruby knew right from wrong when he shot Oswald. Rabbi Silverman said he did not believe Ruby was sane during the trial.

A prosecution psychiatrist, Dr. John T. Holbrook, examined Ruby briefly the day after the shooting. He testified that Ruby was sane.

A clinical psychologist and two specialists in electroencephalography who were called by the defense testified that Ruby's brain was physically damaged. But they said they could not judge on the basis of their examinations, whether Ruby was legally insane on Nov. 24 when he shot Oswald.

Cost of Defense

On the question of the cost of the defense, Melvin M. Belli has reportedly charged Ruby's family \$100,000. Of this, \$75,000 represents the fees for Mr.

Belli and his associates. The remainder is for expenses.

So far the family has paid less than one-third. The largest payment came through the sale of Ruby's life story to newspapers in this country and abroad.

Members of Ruby's family intend to seek donations again for the Jack Ruby Defense Fund, Post Office Box 5226, Chicago 80.

An appeal made before the trial, in a small advertisement in The New York Times, brought in only enough money to cover the cost of the advertisement, one of Ruby's sisters said.

The question has also been raised whether Ruby was connected with the Chicago or Dallas underworld, the Communist party or any extreme left-wing or right-wing organizations.

His family, friends and acquaintances agree that, apart from an admiration for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ruby had been apolitical throughout his life.

He had occasionally boasted about his friendship with Mickey Cohen, the underworld figure now serving a prison sentence for income tax evasion.

If Ruby's acquaintance with racketeers was more than casual, however, it was not noticeably profitable to him. He became insolvent in the early 1950's and lost one of his night clubs. In recent years, he sometimes had to appeal to members of his family for money to meet his bills.

Reports continue to circulate that Oswald was influenced, probably during his period in New Orleans last summer, by members of the underworld or Cosa Nostra. Other theories link him with labor union officials who have denounced the Kennedy family. No evidence has been produced to support their theory.

Oswald subscribed to The Worker, the newspaper of the Communist party, and to The Militant, a leftist publication. His wife received a Russian newspaper from Minsk.

He belonged to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

The theories that Oswald was a paid informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation or an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency have been denied by the directors of both organizations.