

RUBY SAID TO SHOW SIGNS OF DELUSION

Fears Being Thrown in Pit
and Beaten With Chains

By JACK LANGGUTH

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DALLAS, April 24 — After five months of isolated confinement, Jack L. Ruby shows signs of severe delusions, according to persons who see him daily.

"He talks about the possibility of being thrown into a pit and beaten with chains," one visitor reported.

A doctor who has seen him recently said that Ruby, sentenced to die for the killing of Lee H. Oswald, "is going downhill all the time."

Ruby's sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, said that he constantly expressed the fear that an attempt might be made on her life.

At every meeting at the county jail, Ruby also passes notes to his sister asking that she arrange a meeting for him with the Federal commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

His legal counsel believes, however, that Ruby is so unstable that he could not give a useful statement to the commission, which is investigating the assassination of President Kennedy last Nov. 22 and the subsequent killing of Oswald, the alleged assassin.

'His Mind Is Spinning'

"His mind is spinning and running away," Mrs. Grant said.

She said Ruby did not discuss the possibility that he would be electrocuted. "I don't want him to bring it up," she said. "How could I have the heart?"

A jury found Ruby guilty of murder with malice last March 14, and voted death in the electric chair.

Ruby will not read the magazines, mostly copies of Reader's Digest, that have been taken to his cell. He explains that he is upset by hearing about life outside the jail.

"The day the President was killed, I thought the world had come to an end," he told one visitor. "Now life is going on again about the same, except that I'm in here — all because of a few seconds."

Mrs. Grant said that most of

the letters Ruby received were from people who condemned both her brother and his victim. She said, "They run along the line, 'You did a wonderful thing by killing a Communist, you slob.'"

Sheriff Bill Decker announced after the trial that Ruby would be transferred to a cell with other prisoners. The sheriff said that company might lift Ruby's spirits.

But members of his family protested to the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Ruby's life could be endangered by the move. As a result, Ruby remains in separate quarters.

Ruby's defense team, headed by Dr. Hubert Winston Smith of the University of Texas, filed a motion yesterday asking that Ruby be placed in a hospital immediately.

His lawyers also sought court permission to have him hypnotized by psychiatrists to develop new evidence about his sanity at the time of the shooting of Oswald.

Negligence Is Asserted

Dr. Smith, the fourth chief lawyer to head Ruby's defense, refuses to discuss the case.

Other sources indicated that Dr. Smith, who holds both medical and law degrees from Harvard University, took the case because he believed it would dramatize the gulf between science and legal procedure.

In a brief also filed yesterday, the prosecution asserted that negligence by Ruby's original trial lawyers, led by Melvin M. Belli, was responsible for the fact that no experiments involving hypnosis had been performed on Ruby.

Dr. Smith is expected to argue that such negligence should not preclude the introduction of new and valuable scientific evidence.

Judge Joe B. Brown, who

presided at the original trial, will probably rule on the motion for hospitalization and hypnosis next Wednesday, when he will also hear a motion for a new trial.

Sources close to Ruby's family said that Mr. Belli had now been paid \$13,600 of the \$100,000 he had asked for his services. He was discharged by the family the week after the death sentence was returned.

Rby

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