

Dallas Morning News

Ruby Forces Argue 'Firing' of Fowler

By CARL FREUND

A legal adviser for Jack Ruby's family fired Clayton Fowler as the slayer's chief defense attorney Wednesday, but Ruby said he wanted Fowler to continue to represent him.

Fowler said he would do so "as long as Jack wants me."

Fowler said, however, that he would limit himself to Ruby's appeal from the death penalty assessed by a jury which convicted the striptease club manager of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I anticipate I will have nothing more to do with the guardianship matter," Fowler said.

Fowler referred to a Probate Court suit which requested the appointment of a guardian to make business decisions for Ruby. The suit contended that the slayer was "of unsound mind and wholly incompetent" to manage his financial affairs.

Fowler's statement raised doubts whether the defense staff will press for the early appointment of a guardian or agree to a delay of a hearing scheduled April 6 before Probate Judge F. W. Bartlett Jr.

Fowler said a telegram from Sol Dann, a Detroit attorney who describes himself as a legal ad-

viser for the Ruby family, notified him of his dismissal.

"Dann said he was firing me on behalf of the Ruby family," Fowler related. "I thought Jack should have some voice in who represents him. So I went to the county jail and asked him whether he wanted me to continue as his lawyer. He said he did. In fact, he put it in writing."

Fowler showed reporters a note scribbled on a sheet of yellow tablet paper in Ruby's neat handwriting.

The note stated:

"It would be my desire to continue with Mr. Clayton Fowler as my attorney and to handle all of my legal matters pertinent to my case.

Jack Ruby

"PS: Regardless of any opposition from any other attorneys who are attempting to disassociate me from receiving the services of Clayton Fowler."

Fowler said Dann was flying to Dallas.

The Dallas News reported July 11 that friction had developed between Dann and Texas lawyers representing Ruby. The lawyers here said they objected to Dann's insistence that they "clear" decisions with him.

see last three paragraphs
AP July 19, 4:07 PCS