

**FOWLER FIRED****Lawyers  
For Ruby  
Squabble**By **CARL FREUND**  
and **ROBERT COMPTON**

A Detroit legal adviser for Jack Ruby's family has fired Clayton Fowler as the slayer's chief defense attorney, then flew to Dallas for a night meeting with two other defense attorneys who apparently are threatening to quit the case.

Fowler, however, said he was remaining on the case at Ruby's request.

Sol Dann notified Fowler by telegram of his dismissal.

Several hours later, he flew to Dallas and met for four hours with Phil Burleson and Emmett Colvin, who have been working on Ruby's appeal under Fowler's direction.

Another Ruby attorney, Joe Tonahill, said that Dann fired him during a telephone conversation last Saturday. But he said he had received no telegram Wednesday and that he planned to continue in the case.

After the Wednesday night meeting in Burleson's office, Colvin and Burleson said they had proposed certain requirements to the Ruby family, through Dann, and had asked commitments to the requirements, in writing, by Thursday.

The steady stream of attorneys entering and leaving the case, they said, "has not been in the best interests of Jack Ruby.

"The lack of continuity has, in our opinion, been damaging to Jack Ruby and we will proceed only if our efforts are beneficial to Jack Ruby. Otherwise, we will not be a party to a misguided appellant attempt.

"We expect solidity by tomorrow (Thursday) and the continuation of the services of Clayton Fowler and Joe Tonahill in behalf of Jack Ruby."

Fowler, despite his dismissal, said he would continue to represent Ruby "as long as Jack wants me." And, he said, Ruby had told him Wednesday that he wanted him in the case.

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.

"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."

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.