

# What Ruby Told Warren in Jail

## Testimony

Text--

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By DOROTHY KILGALLEN  
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Shortly before noon on Sunday, June 7, Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States sat down opposite Jack Ruby, convicted killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy.

For the next three hours and five minutes, the august and distinguished Chief Justice and the little guy from Chicago's slums—the little guy who never made it—talked about what happened that terrible weekend of last Nov. 22.

The weekend that started with the murder of the President on Friday and ended 48 hours later with Ruby firing a bullet into Oswald's abdomen in the basement of the Dallas City Jail.

### WHAT'S UNSAID

From sources close to the Warren Commission in Washington, I have obtained the transcript of what was said last June 7 in a neat but clinically cold interrogation room of the Dallas County Jail.

It is a fascinating document—fascinating for what it leaves unsaid, as well as for what it says.

Fifteen persons—including Ruby and Chief Justice Warren—were present in the interrogation room when Ruby

began his recital. But eventually it was Jack Ruby who dominated.

He was told to tell his story, and he did, in thousands of words and hundreds of sentences, some of which rambled on to the point of being without sense.

But in the end, Jack Ruby told much about himself that day.

He opened the floodgates of his mind and unloosed a stream of consciousness that would have dazzled a James Joyce Buff and enraptured a psychiatrist.

I read the transcript three times in one sitting. And it seemed to me that the Chief Justice and the Warren Commission's general counsel, J. Lee Rankin, were acutely aware of the talk both here and in Europe that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy.

They took the pains to prove to themselves and the world that no conspiracy existed. So perhaps the most important question contained in the 102-page transcript is this:

Chief Justice Warren: May I ask you this question, and this is one of the questions we came here to ask you. Did you know Lee Harvey Oswald prior to this shooting?

Ruby: That is why I want to take the lie detector test. Just saying no isn't sufficient.

Through his entire testimony Jack Ruby stuck to one theme: He had shot Oswald because he didn't want Mrs. Kennedy, the President's widow, to be forced into the ordeal of testifying at the accused assassin's trial.

"I was never malicious toward this person (Oswald)," Ruby told the Chief Justice. "No one else requested me to do anything.

"I never spoke to anyone about attempting to do anything," he continued. "No subversive organization gave me any idea. No underworld person made any effort to contact me. It all happened that Sunday morning."

The hint of conspiracy was very much in the air again when Rankin asked Ruby if he knew Officer J. D. Tippit, the policeman allegedly shot and killed by Oswald some 45 minutes after the assassination.

"I knew there were three Tippets on the force," Ruby replied. "The only one I knew used to work for the special services, and I am certain this wasn't the Tippit, this wasn't the man."

So Jack Ruby swears he didn't know Officer J. D. Tippit. And this is rather strange. Because according to the Dallas police, Ruby knew every cop on the force.

"There was a story," Rankin told Ruby, "that you were seen sitting in your Carousel Club with Mr. (Bernard) Weisman, Officer Tippit, and another man who has been called a rich oil man, at one time shortly before the assassination. Can you tell us anything about that?" [Weisman published a bitterly anti-Kennedy ad the day the President visited Dallas.]

While Ruby never admitted that the reported meeting took place, he never directly denied it either.

If you get the impression from reading the transcript that Ruby wasn't the least bit awed by the Chief Justice of the United States, you are absolutely right.

About a third-of-the-way through his testimony, the ex-striptease impresario turned to the Chief Justice and asked:



"JACK RUBY  
"I couldn't stop crying"

"Is there any way of you getting me to Washington?"

One can almost picture the look of surprise and consternation that passed across Warren's face. For he said quite simply:

"I beg your pardon?"

Yet, there was a great deal of fear inside Jack Ruby that Sunday in June. He feared for his own life; he feared for the lives of his brothers and sisters.

### NOTORIETY

"When you leave here," Ruby told Warren at one point, "I am finished. My family is finished."

And then, in perhaps his strangest statement of all, Jack Ruby, who had finally achieved the notoriety he always longed for, said:

"You have a lost cause, Earl Warren. You don't stand a chance. They feel about you like they do about me, Chief Justice Warren."

But perhaps that statement wasn't so strange after all. What Jack Ruby had done was put himself in the same boat as the Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Not bad for a little tough guy from Chicago's slums.