

Exclusive

'I'm in Peril--' Ruby to Warren

By DOROTHY KILGALLEN

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This is a continuation of the transcript of the testimony given by Jack Ruby to Chief Justice Earl Warren and other members of the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

The transcript is being printed in this newspaper in three installments. The first of these appeared yesterday, and the third will appear tomorrow.

In the testimony published today, Jack Ruby told Chief Justice Warren that:

- His life was in danger because of the existence of a John Birch Society group in Dallas.

- Without reference to the Birchers, Justice Warren's life was in danger.

- He wanted to tell the truth about everything but couldn't tell it in Dallas. He begged the Chief Justice to get him to Washington.

- His compassion for Mrs. John F. Kennedy led him to his act—he feared she would have to return to Dallas to testify at the assassination trial.

- He denied he knew Lee Harvey Oswald.

Though the Warren Commission will not make public the findings of its investigation into the death of the President until sometime next month, I obtained a copy of the original transcript of Ruby's highly important testimony through sources close to the commission in Washington.

Jack Ruby has been convicted of killing Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's accused assassin. Ruby is now under sentence of death.

He has maintained that he murdered Oswald only to spare the President's widow the anguish of returning to Dallas for the alleged assassin's trial.

In that portion of the transcript which was printed yesterday, Ruby told in great detail of his movements last Nov. 22—the day of President Kennedy's murder.

**THE RUBY Q. AND A.—PART II
CONFIDENTIAL
PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY**

Dallas, Texas
Sunday, June 7, 1964
11:45 a. m.—2:50 p. m.

PROCEEDINGS

Ruby: I went to the building of the Times Herald. I am up there in the composing room talking to a guy by the name of Pat Gayloesch. He was so elated that I brought him this twist board, and I had it sealed in a polyethylene bag, but he wanted to see how it is demonstrated, how it was worked. It is a board that is on a pivot, a ball bearing, and it has a tendency to give you certain exercises in twisting your body. So not that I wanted to get in with the hilarity of frolicking, but he asked me to show him and the other men gathered around.

When you get into the movement of a ball bearing disk, your body is free to move. I know you look like you are having a gay time, because naturally if your body is so free of moving, it is going to look that way. I am stating this in that even with my emotional feeling for our beloved President, even to demonstrate the twist board, I did it because someone asked me to. You follow me, gentlemen, as I describe it?

Warren: Yes, I do.

Ruby: Then we placed the ad in, and if I recall, I requested from Pat to put a black border around to show that the ad was in mourning, or something, because we were everything was in mourning.

Gentlemen, if you want to hear any further testimony, you will have to get me to Washington soon, because it has something to do with you, Chief Warren. Do I sound sober enough to tell you this?

Warren: Yes, go right ahead.

'Can't Tell Truth'

Ruby: I want to tell the truth, and I can't tell it here. Does that make sense to you?

Warren: Well, let's don't talk about sense. But I really can't see why you can't tell this commission. x x x

Ruby: Boys, I am in a tough spot, I tell you that.

Moore: You recall when I talked to you, there were certain things I asked you not to tell me at the time, for certain reasons, that you were probably going to trial at that time, and I respected your position on that and asked you not to tell me certain things.

Ruby: But this isn't the place for me to tell what I want to tell.

Moore: The commission is looking into the entire matter, and you are part of it, should be.

Ruby: Chief Warren, your life is in danger in this city, do you know that?

Warren: No, I don't know that. If that is the thing that you don't want to talk about, you can tell me, if you wish, when this is all over, just between you and me.

Ruby: No, I would like to talk to you in private.

Warren: You may do that when you finish your story. You may tell me that phase of it.

Ruby: I bet you haven't had a witness like me in your whole investigation, is that correct?

Warren: There are many witnesses whose memory has not been as good as yours. I tell you that honestly.

Ruby: My reluctance to talk—you haven't had any witness in telling the story, in finding so many problems?

Warren: You have a greater problem than any witness we have had.

Ruby: I have a lot of reasons for having those problems.

Warren: I know that, and we want to respect your rights, whatever they may be. And I only want to hear what you are willing to tell us, because I realize that you still have a great problem before you, and I am not trying to press you.

I came here because I thought you wanted to tell us that story, and I think the story should be told for the public, and it will eventually be made public. If you want to do that, you are entitled to do that, and if you want to have it verified as the thing can be verified by a

polygraph test, you may have that too. I will undertake to do that for you, but at all events we must first have the story that we are going to check it against.

Ruby: When are you going back to Washington?

Warren: I am going back very shortly.

Ruby: Can I make a statement?

Warren: Yes.

Ruby: If you request me to go back to Washington with you right now, that couldn't be done, could it?

Warren: No, it could not be done. There are a good many things involved in that, Mr. Ruby.

Ruby: What are they?

Warren: Well, the public attention that it would attract, and the people who would be around. We have no place there for you to be safe when we take you out, and we are not law enforcement officers, and it isn't our responsibility to go into anything of that kind. And certainly it couldn't be done on a moment's notice this way.

Ruby: Well, from what I read in the paper, they made certain precautions for you coming here, but you got here.

Warren: There are no precautions taken at all.

Ruby: There were some remarks in the paper about some crackpots.

Warren: I don't believe everything I read in the paper.

Moore: In that respect, the Chief Justice is in public life. People in public life are well aware they don't please everyone, and they get these threats. Incidentally, if it is the part about George Senator talking about the Earl Warren Society, the Chief Justice is aware of that phase, and I am sure he would like to hear anything that you have to say if it affects the security.

'Did You Know Oswald?'

Warren: Before you finish the rest of your statement, 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: This is why I want to take the lie detector test. Just saying no isn't sufficient.

Warren: I will afford you that opportunity. You can't do both of them at one time.

Ruby: Gentlemen, my life is in danger here. Not with my guilty plea of execution. Do I sound sober enough to you as I say this?

Warren: You do. You sound entirely sober.

Ruby: From the moment I started my testimony, have I sounded as though, with the exception of becoming emotional, have I sounded as though I made sense, what I was speaking about?

Warren: You have indeed. I understood everything you have said. If I haven't, it is my fault.

Ruby: Then I follow this up. I may not live tomorrow to give any further testimony. The reason why I add this, since you assure me that I have been speaking sense by then, I might be speaking sense by following what I have said, and the only thing I want to get out to the public, and I can't say it here, is with authenticity, with sincerity of the truth of everything and why my act was committed, but it can't be said here. x x

Ruby: You said you have the power to do what you want to do, is that correct?

Warren: Exactly.

Ruby: Without any limitations?

Warren: Within the purview of our executive order which established the commission. We have the right to take testimony of anyone we want in this whole situa-

tion, and we have the right, if we so choose to do it, to verify that statement in any way we wish to do it.

Ruby: But you don't have a right to take a prisoner back with you when you want to?

Warren: No. We have the power to subpoena witnesses to Washington if we want to do it, but we have taken the testimony of two or three hundred people, I would imagine, here in Dallas without going to Washington.

Ruby: Yes, but those people aren't Jack Ruby.

Warren: No, they weren't. x x x

Ruby: I tell you, gentlemen, my whole family is in jeopardy. My sisters, as to their lives. x x x

Warren: Yes?

Warren: Nothing could be more serious if that is the fact. But your sister, I don't know whether it was your sister Eva or your other sister—

Ruby: Eileen wrote you a letter.

Warren: —Wrote the letter to me and told us that you would like to testify, and that is one of the reasons we came down here. It was a long time ago, I admit. I think it was, let's see, roughly between two and three months ago.

Ruby: At that time when you first got the letter and was begging Joe Tonahill and the other lawyers to know the truth about me, certain things that are happening now wouldn't be happening at this particular time.

Warren: Yes?

'Carried Away'

Ruby: Of why that Sunday morning—that thought never entered my mind prior to that Sunday morning when I took it upon myself to try to be a martyr or some screwball, you might say.

But I felt very emotional and very carried away for Mrs. Kennedy, that with all the strife she had gone through—I had been following it pretty well—that someone owed it to our beloved President that she shouldn't be expected to come back to face trial of this heinous crime. And I have never had a chance to tell that, to back it up, to prove it. Consequently, right at this moment, I am being victimized as a part of a plot in the world's worst tragedy and crime at this moment.

At this moment, Lee Harvey Oswald isn't guilty of committing the crime of assassinating President Kennedy.

Jack Ruby is. How can I fight that, Chief Justice Warren.

Warren: Well now, I want to say, Mr. Ruby, that as far as this commission is concerned, there is no implication of that in what we are doing. That I can assure you.

Ruby: There is an organization here, Chief Justice Warren, if it takes my life at this moment to say it, and Bill Decker said to be a man and say it, there is a John Birch Society right now in activity, and (former Maj. Gen.) Edwin Walker is one of the top men of this organization—take it for what it is worth, Chief Justice Warren. Unfortunate for me, because of the act I committed, has put a lot of people in jeopardy with their lives. Don't register with you, does it?

Warren: No. I don't understand that.

Ruby: Would you rather I just delete what I said and just pretend that nothing is going on?

Warren: I would not indeed. I am only interested in what you want to tell this commission. That is all I am interested in.



JACK RUBY
"My life is in danger"



EARL WARREN
"Tell your story"

Listened to Rabbi

Ruby: Let's go back. Saturday I watched Rabbi Selectman. He eulogized that here is a man that fought in every battle, went to every country, and had to come back to his own country to be shot in the back. (Starts crying.) I must be a great actor, I tell you that.

That created a tremendous emotional feeling for me. I was carried away. There was a small comment in the newspaper that Mrs. Kennedy may have to come back for the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald. That caused me to go like I did.

I don't know, Chief Justice, but I got so carried away.

I was never malicious toward this person. No one else requested me to do anything.

I never spoke to anyone about attempting to do anything. No subversive organization gave me any idea. No underworld person made any effort to contact me. It all happened that Sunday morning. The last thing I read was that Mrs. Kennedy may have to come back to Dallas for the trial for Lee Harvey Oswald, and I don't know what bug got hold of me. I don't know what it is, but I am going to tell the truth word for word.

I am taking a pill called Preludin. It is a harmless pill, I use it for dieting. I don't partake of that much food. I think that was a stimulus to give me an emotional feeling that suddenly I felt, which was so stupid, that I wanted to show my love for our faith, being of the Jewish faith, and I never used the term and I don't want to go into that—suddenly the feeling, the emotional feeling came within me that someone owed this debt to our beloved President to save her the ordeal of coming back.

I don't know why that came through my mind. And I drove past the main street, past the county building, and there was a crowd already gathered there. And I guess I thought I knew he was going to be moved at 10 o'clock.

I drove down Main Street, parked the car across from the Western Union, sent a money order, walked the distance from the Western Union to the ramp—I didn't sneak in. I didn't linger in there.

'I Didn't Hide'

I didn't crouch or hide behind anyone, unless the television camera can make it seem that way. There was an officer talking—I don't know what rank he had—talking to a Sam Pease in a car parked up on the curb.

I walked down those few steps, and there was the person that—I wouldn't say I saw red—it was a feeling I had for our beloved President and Mrs. Kennedy, that he was insignificant to what my purpose was.

And when I walked down the ramp, I didn't mingle with the crowd.

A fellow whom I sort of idolized is of the Catholic faith and I have always thought a lot of him, and I knew that Kennedy, being Catholic, I knew how heartbroken he was.

All that blended into the thing that, like a screwball, the way it turned out, that I thought I would sacrifice myself for the few moments of saving Mrs. Kennedy the discomfiture of coming back to trial. Now all these things of my background, I should have been the last person in the world to want to be a martyr. It happens, doesn't it, Chief Warren?

I mean, for instance, I have been in the night club business, a burlesque. I knew persons of notorious backgrounds years ago in Chicago.

Then recently, I had to make so many numerous calls that I am sure you know of. Because of trying to survive in my business. My unfair competition had been running certain shows that we were restricted to run by regulation of the union.

But they violated all the rules of the union, and I didn't violate it, and consequently I was becoming insolvent because of it.

That is the only reason I made those calls. Where do we go from there?

Warren: Well, I will go back to the original question that I asked you. Did you know Oswald?

Ruby: No. Did you talk to Mr. McWillie? I am sure you have.

Voice (not identified): Yes.

Ruby: He always wanted me to come down to Havana, Cuba. He was a key man over the Tropicana down there. Finally he sent me tickets to come down, airplane tickets. I made the trip down there via New Orleans, and so I stayed at Volk's apartments, and I was with him constantly. And I was bored with the gambling, because I don't gamble.

That was the only relationship I had of any mention, outside of phone calls, to Mr. McWillie, or any person from Havana, Cuba. The reason I am telling you these things, I never knew Lee Harvey Oswald. The first time I ever have seen him was the time in the assembly room when they brought him out when he had some sort of shiner on his eye.

Warren: There was some story in one of the papers that you had been interested in shipping jeeps down to Cuba. Was there anything to that at all?

Ruby: No. But this was the earlier part, when the first time Castro had ever invaded Cuba. But I never had the facilities or the capabilities of knowing where to get jeeps.

(This transcript will be continued tomorrow.)

* SEE NO. 19, P. 5