

Ruby's Terror Over a Nameless 'They'

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The transcript of Jack Ruby's testimony to Chief Justice Earl Warren and other members of the Warren Commission probing the assassination of President Kennedy concludes today.

Previous portions of the testimony were printed Tuesday and yesterday.

NEW-FACTS

In the testimony published today, there are these new facts:

- Ruby told the Chief Justice that the murder of the President was the result of a plot, but said he wasn't part of it.

- He evaded a direct answer when asked if he, Police Officer J. D. Tippit and two other men met in Ruby's Carousel Club "shortly before the assassination." Officer Tippit was shot and killed by Lee Harvey Oswald less than an hour after his alleged assassination of the President.

- Ruby denied widely circulated reports that he visited Parkland Hospital, where the President died, on the day of the assassination.

- Continuing to intimate that sinister forces (Ruby mentioned the John Birch Society in this connection) are at work in Dallas, Ruby told Warren:

"You have a lost cause, Earl Warren. You don't stand a chance.

NOT IDENTIFIED

"They (not further identified) feel about you like they do about me."

Ruby dropped his bombshell toward the end of his interrogation by the Chief Justice.

"... At this moment," he told Warren, "there is a certain organization in this area that has been indoctrinated, that I am the one that was in the plot to assassinate our President."

The key words are Ruby's reference to "the plot."

He is definite about this—that the plot did exist.

Ruby does not identify those who conspired to murder John F. Kennedy in Dallas last Nov. 22.

RUBY AFRAID

But he is mortally afraid of being linked with them.

He is certain, for example, that the John Birch Society believes he was involved. This was brought out in his statement referring to the "certain organization in this area that has been indoctrinated. . . ."

J. Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission's general counsel, then asked Ruby:

"Would you tell us what this (the organization) is?"

"The John Birch Society," Ruby replied.

Mr. Rankin: Can you tell us what basis you have for that?

Ruby: Just a feeling of it.

DENIES PLOT

Throughout his testimony to the Warren Commission, Ruby steadfastly denied that he was part of any plot to assassinate Kennedy. And he denied as well that he was acting as part of a conspiracy when he shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the President's alleged assassin.

"I am as innocent regarding any conspiracy as any of you gentlemen in the room," Ruby said at one point.

But time and again he returned to the idea that such an accusation might be leveled against him.

"The people that have the power here . . . they already have me as the accused assassin of our beloved President," Ruby stated.

Then, turning to the Chief Justice, Ruby inquired:

"That goes over your head, doesn't it?"

BIRCH SOCIETY

"Well, I don't quite get the full significance of it, Mr. Ruby," Warren answered. "I know what you feel about the John Birch Society."

"Very powerful," Ruby declared.

"I think it is powerful, yes I do," the Chief Justice agreed. "Of course I don't have all the information that you feel you have on that subject."

"Unfortunately," Ruby countered, "you don't."

At still another point in his testimony, Ruby cried out:

"I have been used for a purpose, and there will be certain tragic occurrence happening if you don't take my testimony and somehow vindicate me . . ."

FOR RECORD

"But we have taken your testimony," Warren assured him. "We have it here. It will be in permanent form for the President of the United States and for the Congress of the United States, and for the courts of the United States, and for the people of the entire world."

"You have lost me though," Ruby answered. "You have lost me, Chief Justice Warren."

While Ruby, who once prided himself on being a tough little guy, fears being linked directly to the President's murder, he also lives in terror of a nameless "they."

"They" are after him and his family.

"My brother who has a successful business, I know he is going to be killed," Ruby told the commission with certainty.

PREDICTS DEATH

And when the Chief Justice promised Ruby that he would be allowed to take a polygraph test, the balding, pasty-faced killer said:

"These things are going to be promised, but you see they aren't going to do these things. Because when you leave here, I am finished. My family is finished."

Later, he said:

"You won't ever see me again, I tell you that. And I have lost my family . . ."

And finally, in a moment of naked fear, Ruby called out to Warren:

"No, no, you don't believe me, do you?"

With that, the disintegration of Jack Ruby was complete.

PLEA TO STAY

It was a disintegration that occurred late in the proceedings. But once started, there was nothing Jack Ruby could do to stop it.

Ruby had demanded to be taken to Washington. He had lashed out angrily at his defense attorney. He had addressed the Chief Justice on friendly, almost familiar terms.

But then there came the point where Ruby thought the Chief Justice and his aides were about to leave him.

"You can get more out of me," Ruby pleaded. "Let's not break up too soon."

So they stayed for a while longer. But finally the moment came when they did leave the Dallas County jail.

TESTIMONY

This was the exchange over Tippit:

Warren: This story was given by lawyer Mark Lane, representing Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, and it was in the paper, so we subpoenaed him, and he testified that some one had given him information to the effect that a week or two before President Kennedy was assassinated, that in your Carousel Club you and Bernard Weisman and Tippit, Officer Tippit, the one

✓ who was killed, and a rich oil man had had an interview or conversation for an hour or two.

And we asked him who it was that told him, and he said that it was confidential, but that he would find out if he could for us. He has never done it.

Ruby: No. I am as innocent regarding any conspiracy as any of you gentlemen in the room.

Rankin: You have never been connected with the Communist Party?

Ruby: Never have.

Investigator Ford: It has been alleged that you went out to Parkland Hospital.

Ruby: No, I didn't go there. They tried to ask me. My sisters asked me. Some people told my sister "that you were there." I am of sound mind. I never went there. Everything that transpired during the tragedy. I was at the Morning News Building.

Ford: You didn't go out there subsequent to the assassination?

Ruby: No. I never did.

Rankin: Did you have this gun a long while that you did the shooting with?

Ruby: Yes.

Rankin: You didn't carry it all the time?

Ruby: I did. I had it in a little bag with money constantly. I carry my money.

Rankin: It isn't entirely clear how you feel that your family and you yourself are threatened by your telling what you have to the commission. How did you come to the conclusion that they might be killed? Will you tell us a little more about that, if you can?

Ruby: Well, assuming that, as I stated before, some persons are accusing me falsely of being part of the plot—naturally, in all the time from over six months ago, my family has been so interested in helping me.

Rankin: By that, you mean a party to the plot of Oswald?

Ruby: That I was party to a plot to silence Oswald. I know my brother is going to be killed. When I told him I did it because of Mrs. Kennedy, that is all he had to hear, because I would never involve my family or involve him in a conspiracy.

Warren: Mr. Ruby, I think I can say to you that there has been no witness before this commission out of the

hundreds we have questioned who has claimed to have any personal knowledge that you were a party to any conspiracy to kill our President.

Ruby: Yes. But you don't know this area here. Certain people will make ways to present certain things that I do look guilty.

Warren: If any person should testify that you were a party to any conspiracy to assassinate the President, I assure you that we will give you the opportunity to deny it.

Ruby: No. That isn't going to save my family. If you don't take me back to Washington tonight to give me a chance to prove to the President that I am not guilty, then you will see the most tragic thing that will ever happen. And if you don't have the power to take me back, I won't be around to be able to prove my innocence or guilt.

Joe H. Tonahill, counsel representing Ruby: Who do you think is going to eliminate you, Jack?

Ruby: I have been used for a purpose, and there will be certain tragic occurrences happening if you don't take my testimony and somehow vindicate me so my people don't suffer because of what I have done.

You have lost me though. You have lost me, Chief Justice Warren. I won't be around for you to come and question me again.

Warren: Well, it is very hard for me to believe that. I am sure that everybody would want to protect you to the very limit.

Ruby: 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. I shouldn't hurt your feelings in telling you that.

Warren: That won't hurt my feelings, because I have had some evidence of the feeling that some people have concerning me.

Ruby: But you are the only one that can save me. I think you can. All I want to do is tell the truth, and that is all. There was no conspiracy.

* WHEN WARRREN
DID LAST
MENTION THIS
MAN?