

JACK RUBY (480)

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DALLAS, TEX., NOV. 13 (AP)—A YEAR BEHIND BARS HAS TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL ON JACK RUBY.

THE ONCE WELL-CROOKED, WELL-EXERCISED NIGHT CLUB OPERATOR NOW IS A SLOPPY, BEFUDDLED MAN WHO APPARENTLY SUFFERS FROM DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION.

HE IS CONFINED TO A BLOCKED-OFF SECTION OF A HALLWAY INSIDE THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL, A STONE'S THROW FROM WHERE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED LAST NOV. 22.

RUBY HAS BEEN IN JAIL SINCE NOV. 24 WHEN HE GUNNED DOWN LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ASSASSIN OF THE PRESIDENT. SINCE MARCH 14 HE HAS BEEN UNDER THE DEATH SENTENCE IMPOSED BY A JURY WHICH FOUND HIM GUILTY OF MURDER WITH MALICE.

RUBY'S LAWYERS HOPE TO WIN A REVERSAL OF THIS VERDICT WHEN THEY ARGUE BEFORE THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS IN AUSTIN SOMETIME NEXT SPRING. THEY WILL CONTEND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT LOCAL CONDITIONS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR RUBY TO GET A FAIR TRIAL IN DALLAS, AND THAT TESTIMONY FROM CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS, WHICH TENDED TO SHOW MALICE ON RUBY'S PART, SHOULD HAVE BEEN RULED INADMISSABLE.

A SUCCESSION OF ATTORNEYS HAVE JOINED AND LEFT THE RUBY DEFENSE TEAM SINCE MELVIN BELLI WAS DISMISSED AFTER THE TRIAL. AT PRESENT, PHIL BURLESON OF DALLAS AND JOE TONAHILL OF JASPER, TEX., ARE THE ATTORNEYS OF RECORD IN THE CASE, WITH SOL DANN OF DETROIT APPARENTLY ACTING IN A CONSULTANT CAPACITY FOR THE RUBY FAMILY.

BURLESON SAID HE INTENDED TO FILE A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF FACTS BY NOV. 21, WHICH WILL COMPLETE THE LEGAL PROCESS LEADING TO A HEARING BY THE APPELLATE COURT. BECAUSE OF THE BACKLOG OF CASES, THIS HEARING PROBABLY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE NEXT MARCH OR APRIL.

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TONAHILL SAID RUBY MIGHT BE A FREE MAN IN A YEAR IF THE AUSTIN COURT REVERSES THE CASE.

"IF THE APPELLATE COURT SUPPORTS US ON THE ISSUE OF INADMISSABLE POLICE TESTIMONY," HE SAID, "THEN THE ELEMENT OF MALICE WILL BE GONE FROM THE CASE. MURDER WITHOUT MALICE MEANS 2 TO 5 YEARS, AND, CONSIDERING TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, JACK ALREADY WILL HAVE SERVED THE MINIMUM TIME ON SUCH A SENTENCE."

BOTH BURLESON AND TONAHILL SAID A SANITY HEARING COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. IF A JURY FOUND RUBY INSANE, HE THEN WOULD BE COMMITTED

TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION, WHERE HIS LAWYERS SAY HE BELONGS.

MEANWHILE, IN HIS CONSTANTLY GUARDED JAIL QUARTERS, WEARING WHITE COVERALLS AND SANDAL-TYPE SHOES, RUBY WAITS. SHERIFF BILL DECKER MAINTAINS STRICT SECURITY MEASURES. RUBY'S FOOD EACH DAY IS SELECTED AT RANDOM FROM SERVING CARTS TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF POISONING. HIS VISITORS ARE RESTRICTED TO HIS FAMILY, HIS RABBI, AND HIS LAWYERS.

THOSE ALLOWED TO SEE HIM SAY HE OFTEN APPEARS TO LOSE TOUCH WITH REALITY, AND RAVES ABOUT HOW JEWS ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE HE KILLED OSWALD. HE HAS ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY BANGING HIS HEAD AGAINST A STEEL WALL, AND BY STICKING HIS FINGER INTO A LIGHT SOCKET. HE HAS LOST WEIGHT, AND LET HIS BODY GO SOFT.

A MAN WHO FORMERLY LIKED TO FLASH A LARGE ROLL OF BILLS, RUBY NOW IS A DECLARED PAUPER. HIS FAMILY IS SAID TO HAVE LITTLE MONEY. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS APPARENTLY HELP DEFRAY LEGAL AND OTHER EXPENSES.

RUBY'S OLD CLUB, THE CAROUSEL IN DOWNTOWN DALLAS, LOOKS DIRTY AND DESERTED. A NUMBER OF NEW OWNERS HAVE TRIED AND FAILED TO BRING IT BACK TO LIFE.

DOES RUBY REALIZE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION IS APPROACHING? "I'M SURE HE'S AWARE OF IT," SAID BURLESON, "BUT HE DOESN'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS ANYMORE."

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