

Ruby Tells of Taking Drug That Sunday

Associated Press

Dallas, Tex.

Jack Ruby, who killed President Kennedy's presumed assassin, declared yesterday that he had taken numerous pills—"they stimulate you"—shortly before he gunned down Lee Harvey Oswald.

He made the admission, the first such revelation, at a court hearing during which his veteran counsel, Joe Tonahill, was removed from Ruby's forthcoming sanity hearing.

The question of Ruby's representation after that will be decided by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The sensation of the hearing was Ruby's fresh testimony that he took pills which "make you want to do positive things" before gunning Oswald to death.

Ruby said the drug was Dexamil—an amphetamine.

BRANDED

"To the American people and the world . . . I'm going to be branded a part of a conspiracy with Oswald," he declared in an emotional courtroom scene.

"You're going to forget how I felt about the beloved President Kennedy. There has been so much torment, so much hardship . . ." he said.

The Warren Commission sought for months to determine if a conspiracy existed between Ruby and Oswald but found none.

Ruby, in his sometimes rambling discourse, appeared to have given up hope of escaping the electric chair.

"I know that I am a lost cause as far as saving my life . . . don't believe Joe Tonahill (one of his original

trial lawyers) . . . I know there is a whole conspiracy behind it.

"I'm not insane. My equilibrium has improved now since my incarceration than when I came into jail.

"If I am an insane person the rest of the world is crazy."

He related waking up Sunday morning, Nov. 24, 1963, and brooding about the fact that the Kennedy children now were fatherless.

"What quirked me after that I don't know. As God is my judge, that is the truth," said Ruby.

Ruby said that after getting up the day he killed Oswald he took 30 antibiotic pills—which he had for bronchitis—and some other pills that "stimulate you and make you want to do positive things."

This was the first time Ruby had referred to taking any pills that morning.

"I walked into a trap when I walked down that ramp (into the city hall basement where he shot Oswald). I know I am going to die a horrible death."

Ruby, looking directly at the judge, said:

"I shouldn't have tried to play the part of a hero."

Then the former girlie show-night club operator added:

"My background wasn't clean enough to play the part of a hero."

His brother Earl Ruby of Detroit, who called himself "the closest member of our family to Jack," testified earlier that Jack was insane. The convicted man, who has

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er, listened without expression.

HEARING

The hearing was called to determine whether Tonahill should be ousted from the case. The Ruby family and Ruby had sought Tonahill's removal.

Tonahill claims that Ruby signed a valid contract making Tonahill his attorney while the defendant was sane, and that Ruby since has become insane and is incompetent to determine whom his counsel will be.

"When Joe Tonahill and Melvin Belli were in my cell (after his conviction," said Ruby, "they were like two little snakes sneaking pictures of me."

The pictures Tonahill and Belli are alleged to have taken have figured in charges and counter-charges that each set of attorneys sought to capitalize financially on the Ruby case.

The family claimed that Tonahill sought to sell the jail pictures to a magazine.

3RD LAWYER

Belli was discharged shortly after Ruby was convicted. Phil Bureson, the third member of the original defense team, is still on the case and apparently with the approval of the Ruby family.