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night lead Ruby-hearing

By Tom Johnson

Dallas, Tex., Sept. 9 (AP) — Dist Judge Joe B. Brown, who presided over the Jack Ruby murder trial, said today he decided to write a book about the case some 14 months ago "to tell the truth and clear up distortions."

He testified at a hearing requested by Ruby's lawyers, who hope to have Brown formally disqualified because of the book and Ruby's death sentence set aside as a result.

Ruby would get a new trial in that eventuality. He was convicted March 14, 1964, for killing Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Ruby, a former Dallas night club operator, told reporters earlier in the day that "people in high places" have suppressed information about Oswald and about Ruby himself.

"The world has a right to hear the truth," Ruby said angrily as his attorneys tried to push television microphones away from his face. The lawyers warned newsmen not to use Ruby's statements but Ruby countered:

"Leave me alone. I know what I'm doing."

The Ruby lawyers said in their petition for the hearing that Brown was writing the yet-unpublished book about the case while it was still in litigation, and therefore had a pecuniary interest in the case.

Brown said he decided to write the book in late June or early July, 1964.

"I called up Clint Murchison Jr. (of a wealthy Dallas oil family) and told him about untruths and distortions about the case I'd read in some east and north publications," Brown said. "I told him it was time someone wrote a book to tell the truth and clear up ~~distortions~~ distortions."

The Murchison family owns a substantial interest in the New York publishing house of Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Ince, Brown said, and added that he heard from an official of the firm two days later.

He said Holt, Rinehart then paid his expenses to La Jolla, Calif., to work on the book project. He also received a \$5,000 advance on Aug. 3, 1964, from the firm.

Brown said the book was still "in ~~it~~ its roughest draft" and not close to being finished. He is to take the witness stand when the hearing resumes before State Judge Louis T. Holland at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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