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NL Ruby

By Tom Johnson

Dallas, March 31 (AP)-Jack Ruby declared today that he has been headed toward the electric chair "from the moment I walked down that ramp" and pumped a pistol bullet into Lee Harvey Oswald's abdomen.

"My time is running out. All hope is over," the former strip joint operator told newsmen as he was brought into court for a hearing.

Asked if he regretted having killed Oswald, Ruby said:

"Yes, Many, many times."

Ruby shot Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy, during a jail transfer Nov. 24, 1963. That was two days after Kennedy was gunned down on a Dallas street. Oswald had been charged with Kennedy's murder.

A Dallas jury returned a death verdict for Ruby in the Oswald death on March 14, 1964.

But his case has become legally stacked, or layered, amidst a multitude of involved appeals.

Today's hearing was on a state motion that the defense has had enough time to forward the statement of facts of a Sept. 9, 1965, habeas corpus hearing to the Texas Criminal Appeals Court in Austin, the capital.

The only witness in the morning session was L.B. Bailey, the court reporter who is in charge of preparing the state of facts for the appellate court.

Bailey said Ruby's lawyer, Phil Burleson, has asked him to make numerous corrections in the statement, such as misspelled words, wrongly numbered pages and the like.

The state contended ~~that~~ in a motion that the defense had 90 days to send the material to the appeals court, and already more than 180 had passed.

But Judge Louis Holland said it would be unfair to Ruby to stand on such a technicality.

Nevertheless, he ordered that the transcript be completed Thursday and sent to the Appeals Court in Austin.

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