

Ruby Says He Has Given Up Hope



Associated Press Wirephoto

Jack L. Ruby, seated, has his handcuffs removed by a deputy sheriff after arriving at court hearing in Dallas.

DALLAS, March 31 (AP) —Jack Ruby, killer of President Kennedy's assassin, said today he had given up hope.

Speaking almost in riddles, the one-time nightclub operator was asked if he had lost hope.

"I sure have," Ruby said.

Reporters pressed him about whether he expected to be executed in the electric chair, and he would only reply, "well, you figure it out."

Ruby clearly stated remorse for shooting down Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Oswald killed the President.

Asked if he regretted shooting Oswald, Ruby said: "Yes. Many, many times."

Ruby, who is 55 years old, looked better than he had at most of the court sessions during his trial. His color had improved and he had gained weight.

He talked to reporters in his frequently cryptic manner as he was brought into court for a hearing.

"This is all just a farce," he said.

The hearing was to question defense lawyers on the reason for their delay in appealing a habeas corpus hearing. Legal maneuvering is being held up pending the appeal to the Texas Criminal Appeals Court.

A jury sentenced Ruby to death but several appeals have been filed.