

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1966

Dramatic Plea



UPI Telenphoto

CONVICTED SLAYER JACK RUBY
His lawyers couldn't stop him.

Jury Finds Ruby Of Sound Mind

United Press

Dallas

A jury found Jack Ruby sane yesterday after the convicted slayer made a dramatic personal appeal to the jurors to find him sound of mind.

After the State called the last of its five witnesses in the surprisingly fast-moving trial, Ruby said he wanted to take the stand and, over his counsel's protest, did so.

"Never at any time since I was convicted have I ever done anything to make anybody believe I was of unsound mind," Ruby said looking directly at the jury from the witness stand.

"I don't know who conspired to do that (to spread the story that he was insane) and I never tried to camouflage my mental capacity. I never gave them (his lawyers) any reason to believe anything but that I was sane," he said.

DEFENSE

Ruby's defense lawyers were present in court yesterday but would take no part in the proceedings, beyond objecting, and presented no witnesses.

One of his lawyers, Sol Dann of Detroit, said the proceedings would be appealed either to the U.S. District Court or the U.S. Supreme Court because there is no appeal available in Texas from a sanity trial.

After hearing Ruby's plea and a short argument from

From Page 1

Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander, the jury took less than 15 minutes to reach its decision.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ordered on May 18 that Ruby's present sanity be judicially determined before it will rule on the appeal of Ruby's death sentence for the Nov. 24, 1963, killing of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Oswald had been charged with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy two days before.

GUARDS

The state placed four county jail guards and one doctor on the stand during the trial.

All of the state's witnesses testified that they believed Ruby was sane.

Jailer R. H. Croy said that Ruby was "far above the other prisoners" in mental ability, and that he was also a good gin rummy player.

"Did you ever catch him cheating?" Alexander asked.

"Occasionally," Croy replied.

"What was his reaction when you caught him?" Alexander asked.

"He didn't like it," Croy said.

Jail physician Dr. John W. Callahan said Ruby's spirits are high and that he sleeps well.

When asked if it was his opinion that Ruby is of sound mind, Callahan said:

"That is my opinion."

MOTION

Earlier in the day judge Holland overruled a defense motion for a delay in the sanity trial, and also restricted photographers taking pictures of the jury or Ruby while court was not in session.

Sheriff Bill Decker also ruled out taking Ruby's picture in the jail's corridors.

Holland called Marguerite Oswald, mother of Oswald, into his office and told her not to make any use of the pictures she shot through a window in the courtroom door early in the day.

Mrs. Oswald, who has carried on a campaign in an attempt to clear her son's name in the assassination, was sitting in the back of the courtroom when testimony started. She called herself an "interested observer."

Holland said his decision in regard to photographs was made because of the recent Supreme Court ruling in the case of Dr. Sam Sheppard, convicted Cleveland, Ohio, osteopath who won a new trial because of the way his case was handled by news media.

As he walked to the courtroom yesterday, Holland passed a large group of reporters and photographers and asked, "Please try not to make it a circus."