

EA991DN

FIRST LEAD RUBY

BY PEGGY SIMPSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DALLAS, TEX., DEC. 11 (AP)-JACK RUBY, STRICKEN WITH ADVANCED STAGE OF CANCER, MAY NEVER GO TO COURT AGAIN TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER IN THE SLAYING OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, DOCTORS AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL SAID TODAY.

"RUBY IS NOT AT DEATH'S DOOR BUT HIS CANCER IS OF AN ADVANCED STAGE," ONE MEMBER OF HIS MEDICAL TEAM SAID, "AND IT COULD BE A MONTH OR FIVE YEARS.

"WE JUST DON'T KNOW UNTIL WE RUN MORE TESTS TO FIND WHERE THE TUMORS ORIGINATED."

RUBY IS "FREE OF PAIN" AND EATING WELL, THE HOSPITAL SAID SUNDAY (TODAY), AFTER MORE THAN FOUR QUARTS OF FLUID WERE DRAINED OFF HIS RIGHT CHEST AND HIS RIGHT LUNG EXPANDED NORMALLY AGAIN.

THE FLASHY ONETIME STRIP JOINT OPERATOR, WHO SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH SHOW BUSINESS CHARACTERS BUT DIDN'T SMOKE OR DRINK, ENTERED THE HOSPITAL FRIDAY AFTER BEING TREATED AT THE COUNTY JAIL FOR A COLD AND PERSISTENT COUGH.

THE HOSPITAL FIRST DIAGNOSED HIS CHEST CONGESTION AS PNEUMONIA BUT A BIOPSY SATURDAY REVEALED A CANCEROUS LYMPH NODE THE SIZE OF THE END OF A THUMB IN HIS NECK NEAR HIS RIGHT COLLARBONE.

"THIS MEANS THE TUMOR STARTED ELSEWHERE AND SPREAD TO HERE AND IS INDICATIVE OF AN ADVANCED STAGE," A SPECIALIST TREATING RUBY SAID. "THERE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY CANCER IN HIS LUNG BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT IS WHERE IT STARTED. THE FLUID TOTALLY OBSCURED THE RIGHT LUNG WHEN WE TOOK X-RAYS SATURDAY (YESTERDAY) AND THERE WAS NO PRIMARY TUMOR IN THE LEFT LUNG."

ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO RUBY WAS FREED FROM A COURT DEATH SENTENCE HANDED DOWN AFTER HIS 1964 MONTH-LONG TRIAL FOR THE SENSATIONAL SLAYING OF OSWALD, ACCUSED PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN.

A NATION WATCHED THE DARK FIGURE OF RUBY JERK FORWARD FROM THE CROWD OF POLICEMEN AND REPORTERS IN THE CITY HALL BASEMENT AND POKE A PISTOL INTO OSWALD EARLY THAT SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1963.

RUBY'S SECOND TRIAL WAS ORDERED REMOVED FROM DALLAS. IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO WICHITA FALLS, NORTH OF HERE. A POSSIBLE FEBRUARY TRIAL WAS MENTIONED BY OFFICIALS BUT NO DATE WAS SET.

"FROM OUR PRESENT INFORMATION, I DO NOT EXPECT HE WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO COURT," SAID DR. JAY SANFORD, PROFESSOR OF INTERNAL MEDICINE AT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HEAD OF RUBY'S MEDICAL TEAM

A57DN

"HE IS A VERY SICK MAN," SANFORD SAID. "HIS CHANCES OF RECOVERY DEPEND ON THE LOCATION OF THE PRIMARY SITE" OF THE TUMOR.

THE DISCOVERY OF CANCEROUS TISSUE IN THE LYMPH SYSTEM SIGNALS OTHER MALIGNANCIES THROUGHOUT THE BODY, THE PHYSICIAN SAID.

THE LYMPH NODE REMOVED SATURDAY "WAS PRETTY WELL REPLACED BY A TUMOR."

THE 55-YEAR-OLD BALDING RUBY SPENT A "RELATIVELY COMFORTABLE NIGHT," PARKLAND HOSPITAL SAID SUNDAY. HE SLEPT AT INTERVALS AND ATE BREAKFAST WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

TOMORROW (MONDAY) THE TEAM OF PHYSICIANS WILL BEGIN EXTENSIVE X-RAY STUDIES AND OTHER TESTS TO LOCATE WHERE THE MALIGNANCY BEGAN. DOCTORS ESTIMATED THE EXAMINATIONS WOULD TAKE FROM THREE DAYS TO A WEEK.

DW245PCS