

# Even Family Doubted Ruby Acted Alone

DALLAS — (AP) — Jack Ruby denied it to the edge of death.

But even his family couldn't help asking, because so many other people seemed to be asking, whether he really acted alone, and not as part of a conspiracy, to kill the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

Near the end, Earl Ruby asked his brother again:

"Are you sure, Jack, there was nothing else?"

And Jack Ruby answered, says his brother:

"I'm not hiding anything. I'm not protecting anybody. There is nothing to hide, no one to protect. Believe me."

As he lay in his guarded room in Parkland Memorial Hospital, stricken with cancer, Jack Ruby often seemed to be begging the world to believe he would take no secrets to the grave.

## HALLUCINATIONS

He also was tormented by hallucinations in which he imagined that millions of American Jews were being slain in a pogrom as punishment because he, a Jew, silenced the alleged killer of a President.

Ruby could be rational on certain levels and wholly irrational on others, according to those closest to him.

For example, he might be watching a football game on television and something would touch him off — like a penalty. Worse is being done to the Jews, he would say.

Ruby insisted that he alone, without plan or prompting, shot Lee Harvey Oswald.

## 'MOMSEREM'

He swore also that rumors of secret meetings relating to the President's assassination, the killing of Dallas Policeman J. D. Tippit and the



Jack Ruby's sister, Eva Grant, after she learned of his death today.

—AP Photo

slaying of Oswald, were lies invented by "momserem," a Yiddish epithet.

These details of Ruby's last days came from his brother, Earl, a Detroit businessman; Elmer Gertz, a Chicago attorney prominent on the legal team which won reversal of the death sentence given to Ruby in 1964, and, through them, from other members of the family.

The Ruby murder trial and the Warren Commission report supported conclusions that Ruby acted alone in shooting of Oswald — a shooting that was witnessed by a television audience of millions of Americans Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963.

## CONTROVERSY ?

But a roiling controversy about the Warren Report has produced various theories of conspiracies — some of which give Ruby a hidden role.

However, Gertz said:

"He simply could not conceive that people could not see that he not only acted alone but that they could take this and twist it into a promise for giving him a role in a plot against the President, a man he worshipped."

Jack Ruby sought no forgiveness for shooting Oswald, Gertz explained:

"Jack saw himself as kind of instrument. He did not have the delusion that God told him to do it, or that he was an instrument of any people, but that it happened without his conscious will."

But Jack Ruby sought forgiveness from America's Jews. He was convinced that his crime had triggered a pogrom in which Jews were being transported to Dallas and tortured to death in the basement of the Dallas County Jail.

"That is not true, Jack. It is not true," Earl told him.

Jack Ruby also complained that his cancer was induced secretly in jail.

## FEARED PLOT

When he experienced difficulty breathing early in December and was taken to the hospital, it was thought that he had pneumonia.

He took this as proof that mustard gas was seeped into his cell. When his condition was diagnosed as cancer, he was certain it had been injected into him.

However, his family prided the treatment Ruby received in Parkland Hospital.

## Russ Told About Ruby

MOSCOW — (AP) — The Soviet news agency Tass today reported briefly and without comment the death of Jack Ruby.