

Excerpts From Ruby Tape

Following are recorded excerpts from a conversation between Jack Ruby and his brother Earl at an unspecified time between last Dec. 15 and Dec. 18 in Jack Ruby's room at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. The conversation is part of an album on President Kennedy's assassination being issued by Capitol Records.

EARL RUBY [in Yiddish] — I have a tape recorder in this case.

[Earl Ruby spoke in Yiddish, Capitol Records explained, to alert his brother but not the guards in the room to the presence of the tape recorder. After his first statement, the company said, Earl Ruby placed the recorder on an air-conditioner, causing interference that reduced the clarity of the conversation. As the recording continues, with both men speaking now in English, Jack Ruby begins to describe his activities on the morning of Nov. 24, 1963, the day he shot Oswald to death. His words are garbled at first, then gradually become intelligible.]

JACK RUBY — ... trying to send the money and naturally ... took my money — took the money I sent away a long time and walked down the street. Curiosity had aroused me because it flashed in my mind, seeing the people there before I went to it, as I drove by on Main Street — on the south side of Main Street. I walked toward the ramp. I noticed the police squad car at the head of the ramp and an officer leaning over talking to him with his back to me. All I did is walk down there — down to the bottom of the ramp and that's when the incident happened.

EARL — Did you recognize anybody when you reached the bottom of the ramp?

JACK — No, but I recognized a police officer in the car — that was in the car. He was Lieut. Sam Pierce. And this other man was just talking to him.

EARL — When did you final-

ly realize that something had happened?

JACK — Well, it happened in such a blur that — it happened — it happened in such a blur that before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground.

EARL — Had you realized you had done anything?

JACK — Well, really, it happened so fast I can't recall what happened from the time I came to the bottom of the ramp — until the police officers had me on the ground.

EARL — You have no recollection?

JACK — No. But I know that they were holding my hand and grappling for the gun.

EARL — Did you know Oswald before?

JACK — I never have known him or seen him before.

EARL — Had you ever planned anything like this?

JACK — I was so emotionally upset for three days.

EARL — Is there any truth at all to the stories that Oswald had been in your club or anywhere...

JACK — [Interrupting] None whatsoever. It's a fabrication.

EARL — Normally you carried a gun with you, didn't you, Jack?

JACK — Yes, I did. I always carried a gun because of various altercations I had in my club. And then I carried a pretty large sum of money at times. The ironic part of this business [is] that I made an illegal turn behind a bus at the parking lot. Had I gone the way I was supposed to go — straight down Main Street — I would never — I would never have met this fate because the difference of meeting this fate was 30 seconds one way or the other.

EARL — Did you know when Oswald was supposed to be moved [from city to county jail]?

JACK — He was supposed to be moved at 10 o'clock.

RUBY SAYS IN TAPE NO PLAN EXISTED

He Denies in Recording That Oswald Had Been in Club

In a tape-recorded conversation less than a month before his death, Jack Ruby told his brother that he had no recollection of the moment in which he fatally shot Lee Harvey Oswald.

The three-minute conversation was recorded in Ruby's maximum security room at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas sometime between last Dec. 15 and 18.

It will be part of a long-playing record entitled "The Controversy: The Death and the Warren Report" being produced by Capitol Records.

It was played publicly for the first time yesterday at a news conference in the Americana Hotel called by officials of the record company.

The record company spokesmen said the taping was made with the help of Ruby's brother, Earl, who carried a recorder concealed in a dispatch case into the hospital room past unsuspecting police guards.

The record company's representatives declined to say who had arranged for the recording to be made.

Tells of Morning's Events

Above the sound of a whirring air conditioner, a voice identified by Capitol Records as Ruby's haltingly describes the events of the morning on which he killed Oswald.

Ruby says that his presence at the Dallas County Jail resulted from his making an "illegal turn" behind a bus and winding up in the jail parking lot.

"Had I gone the way I was supposed to go — straight down Main Street — I would never have met this fate," he says.

In response to a question from his brother as to whether Oswald had ever been in Ruby's Dallas night club, Ruby declared: "It's a fabrication."

Recalling his walk down a ramp into the police station from which Oswald was at that moment being removed, Ruby said:

"It happened in such a blur ... before I knew it I was down on the ground. The officers had me on the ground."

He told his brother he carried a gun because "of various altercations I had in my club. And then," he added, "I carried a pretty large sum of money at times."

As for the shooting of Oswald, he said, "it happened so fast I can't recall what happened from the time I came to the bottom of the ramp until the police officers had me on the ground."

He told his brother that he knew Oswald was going to be moved from the jail at 10 o'clock on the morning of the shooting, two days after President Kennedy's assassination.

Ruby's portion is one of the briefest on the record. Among the other voices heard are those of Malcolm Kilduff, an assistant White House press secretary at the time; Representative Earle Cabell, a Texas Democrat, and his wife, and a witness of the assassination.

A spokesman for the record company said yesterday that there had been technical difficulties in preparing the Ruby tape for the record.

He said Earl Ruby had placed the dispatch case containing the tape recorder on top of an air-conditioner, the noise of which had blotted out some of the conversation.

The spokesman said the company had re-recorded the original tape, using a number of processes that reduced the interference. Even so, some of the conversation remains unintelligible.