

Secret Ruby Recording Made Public

New York

Jack Ruby's last public testament was played before a crowded Manhattan news conference yesterday only hours after he died.

Amid a tangle of electronic equipment, cameras and at least 50 reporters and hotel bellhops, Capitol Records replayed a secretly taped interview in which Ruby repeated his denial of any conspiracy in the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald. News of the transcript was first reported by the Los Angeles Times on Monday.

RECORDED

The interview was recorded in Ruby's Parkland Hospital room in Dallas between December 15 and 18.

It is part of a documentary record called "The Controversy," examining the assassination of President Kennedy and the findings of the Warren Commission. Ruby's voice lasts three minutes and 55 seconds during the hour-long record.

"Jack was told of the recording," said Lawrence

Schiller, who produced the recording. "He knew at that time he was dying. He felt he had been misquoted and misunderstood. He felt if his voice was heard, it could reaffirm his sole participation."

Electronic experts played the Ruby tape and a muffled, weak voice filled the hotel ballroom. Schiller, a short man, stood proudly atop a small box so he could tower over a nest of microphones. As Ruby spoke, aides opened large cardboard boxes and prepared to hand out copies of the recording.

The recording is of good quality, marred only by the hum of an air conditioner, upon which the tape recorder (secreted in an attache case), had been placed.

Ruby emphasized that he had never seen or known Oswald before, and the slaying of Oswald was an emotionally triggered incident.

Once the excerpt was finished, a crush developed as newsmen and hotel employees fought to snatch records.

They crowded in front of Schiller, swarmed all over the dais, wrinkling its red background drape. Soon, one box of records and press releases was exhausted. Hurriedly, aides ripped open another carton of recordings and soon they were gone, too.

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