

Born Poor, He Died In Debt

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CHICAGO — Jack Ruby, who was born a poor kid on Chicago's West Side, died in even worse condition.

He owed about \$54,000.

Most of this was for federal taxes and legal expenses in his trial, appeal and preparation for a second trial in the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald.

LAST WORDS

Chicago attorney Elmer Gertz, who represented Ruby at the end, said it is hoped some of the debt can be cleared by proceeds from a phonograph record.

The record, which includes a deathbed statement by Ruby, is being distributed by Capitol and will go on sale perhaps next Monday.

Gertz said the profits will be shared by the record company and others, including those to whom Ruby owed money.

Ruby's debts were not for lawyers' fees. Gertz and others now representing him receive no pay, although earlier counsel did.

Money for legal expenses was loaned to Ruby primarily by his three brothers and four sisters.

"He was not a good businessman," Gertz said. "His night club in Dallas made almost no money."

Even so, Ruby, before he destroyed Oswald on coast-to-coast TV Nov. 24, 1963, enjoyed looking wealthy.

He gave money to Dallas policemen just to be a good guy and a few minutes be-

fore he killed Oswald he telegraphed \$200 to a strip-tease dancer who found herself broke and pregnant.

INSIGHTS

Gertz gave some new insights into Ruby in his final months.

He said Ruby predicted his own death — even before the cancer had been diagnosed.

Ruby also feared his actions would cause a slaughter of American Jews.

And he predicted Gertz too would see death as the result of his involvement in the case.

Other sources said all of this was the result of hallucinations that bedeviled Ruby in his final months.

IMPULSE

Ruby wheezed out a denial he knew Oswald. He also said he had conspired with no one but had killed Oswald on an impulse.

He said his memory of the shooting was "a blur."

Ruby's life was tough from the start.

"He had a rarity for a father — an alcoholic Jew," Gertz commented.

Ruby's parents were separated in 1923 and he was placed in a foster home. Later he knocked around San Francisco as a newspaper salesman, returned to Chicago to help organize junkyard workers and moved to Dallas in 1947.

NAME CHANGE

He changed his name from Rubenstein to Ruby in 1948 and went into the night-club business with a sister, Mrs. Eva Grant.

He did nothing to make any news until Nov. 24, 1963.

Then, with a pistol shot into Oswald's midriff, the kid from the West Side became a major figure in the American tragedy called the Kennedy assassination.