

Little Mourning for Jack

As Press Rakes the Embers

By United Press International

"He was a nobody," was the New York Times' comment.

"It was his triumph to become a footnote — an infamous and notorious footnote — to history," the Washington Post said editorially.

The Chicago Daily News called him "the most conspicuous killer of our time."

There was little mourning for Jack Ruby in America's

newspapers.

In most editorials there was a sense of awe at his death and concern lest it be used to cast doubt on the finding that he acted alone in killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

"He was a nobody," said the New York Times. "But charged up by the emotional atmosphere on those November days, Ruby acted upon his lurking impulse to violence . . . those who believe otherwise most likely would not have learned additional information even if he had lived to stand trial a second time . . . Now he is gone.

"And men are left to ponder once again the mysterious interplay of chance and design, of the senseless and the rational, called history."

The Washington Post said Ruby's death would unleash a torrent of "malicious speculations" surrounding the entire assassination tragedy.

WICKED DRIVEL

"Nothing will quiet them. No testimony will still them. No evidence will remove them. No persuasion will silence them.

"On and on the tide of wicked drivels and billingsgate will roll, divesting great names of dignity, great deeds of grandeur and great periods of our history of their glory," the Post said.

"What punishment could be adequate for so heinous a crime, so vast an injury, so great a libel upon the good name of a fair country?

"So he goes to his grave unpunished. Actually, he obtained by his senseless act more than he could have otherwise achieved.

"It was his triumph to become a footnote — an infamous and notorious footnote — to history."

FEW TO MOURN

"Few will mourn Ruby's passing," commented the Chicago Daily News, "For whatever else he may have been, he became the most

conspicuous killer of our time . . .

"Yet there are regrets that one more avenue to the truth is closed, for as long as Ruby lived there remained the chance that he would dredge from his disordered mind some memory that would help fill the gaps . . .

"The picture will always be unsatisfactory to many people. But it is all that remains. The Ruby case is closed."

The Los Angeles Times said Ruby's death "will probably refuel the fires of rumor . . . On his deathbed he sought once again to dispel all doubts about his part in the tragedy of Dallas, reaffirming he had acted alone when he killed Oswald.

CREDESCENCE

"There is no shred of substantive evidence to contradict this statement. Whatever the circumstances of his pitiable life, Jack Ruby in death at least deserves the dignity of credence."

On the same point, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette said editorially:

"Though we are satisfied that Ruby's role was limited and adequately explained, his death will inevitably leave greater latitude for voices of doubt.

"These will probably continue to echo down through the centuries as did those that were raised after Lincoln's assassination.

"Though we would like to see neat answers to some of the questions on ballistics, etc., left unanswered by the Warren Commission, we wonder whether they can ever be provided."

The Miami Herald said:

"In all probability no secrets died with Jack Ruby but can we ever be sure? Demands to sift the cold ashes of those events in Dallas will grow louder now, perhaps too insistent to be denied."