

# **Jack Ruby Trial Transcript Excerpts Exposed Proving Plot to Kill JFK 55 Years Ago**

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**In my latest book, “Denial of Justice,” shocking excerpts from the most important JFK Assassination Documents in History, the Jack Ruby trial transcripts, are exposed for the first time. Without question, these excerpts, plucked from the actual trial testimony’s pages, along with analysis by me through the eyes of the courageous journalist and investigative reporter Dorothy Kilgallen, prove without a doubt a diabolical plot to kill President Kennedy. Based on the testimony you can read, the following is true:**

**Ruby and his lawyer Melvin Belli knew about JFK’s assassination BEFORE it happened;**

**Ruby actually watched the assassination as it occurred from a *Dallas Morning News* window;  
Ruby stalked Oswald from the moment Oswald was arrested;**

**Ruby said, “He would be there” when Oswald was transferred contradicting his claims of just “happening” to be at the Dallas Police Department jail basement when he shot Oswald:**

**Ruby admitted that he “made like as a reporter” to gain entrance to the basement.**



**This Author and the 2000+ Ruby Trial Transcripts Never Published Before**

## **Dorothy Kilgallen**



**Dorothy Kilgallen with Ruby Attorney Melvin Belli at the Ruby Trial**

**Dorothy Kilgallen was Pulitzer Prize Nominated journalist and crack investigative reporter who covered many of the high-profile trials of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, among them the Jack Ruby trial where she was the only reporter to interview Ruby, twice. She wrote several scathing columns challenging J.**

Edgar Hoover's "Oswald Alone" theory (posted at [www.thedorothykilgallenstory.org](http://www.thedorothykilgallenstory.org). and also exposed his Warren Commission Testimony before it was supposed to be released. Before Kilgallen could complete a "tell-all" book she was writing for Random House, she was murdered on November 8, 1965 because she was *The Reporter Who Knew Too Much* as chronicled in the 2017 book of the same name and *Denial of Justice*.

Here are the actual pages from the Ruby Trial transcripts along with appropriate analysis.

NO. E 4010-J

THE STATE OF TEXAS : IN THE CRIMINAL DISTRICT  
vs. : COURT NO. 3  
JACK RUBENSTEIN : DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS  
ALIAS JACK RUBY : JANUARY TERM A.D. 1964

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STATEMENT OF FACTS  
- - -

APPEARANCES:  
L HENRY WADE, CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF DALLAS  
C COUNTY, TEXAS,  
2 BY MR. WADE AND HIS ASSISTANTS,  
3 MR. A. D. BOWIE, MR. WILLIAM F. ALEXANDER,  
AND MR. FRANK WAITS,  
4 For the State;  
5 MR. MELVIN BELL, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,  
6 MR. JOE H. TONAHILL, OF JASPER, TEXAS, AND  
7 MR. PHIL BURLESON, OF DALLAS, TEXAS,  
8 For the Defendant.  
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Important trial transcript excerpts from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 1964 include:

**Prosecution Witness: Don Campbell, Advertising Salesman, *Dallas Morning News*.**

A It does.

Q Now, Mr. Campbell, where was Jack Ruby in the office at the time that you left at 12:25?

A He was sitting at a desk directly behind mine belonging to Mr. John Newnam.

Q And what was he doing at the time you last saw him?

A He was writing some copy for his night club ad.

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Q And I will ask you if at the corner of the second floor office, from which it is possible to see the Texas School Book Depository, a Mr. Jefferys has a small glassed in office there?

A He has.

Q And I will ask you if standing outside Mr. Jefferys' door, looking through that second window from the corner, if it is possible to see the Texas School Book Depository?

A Yes, most of the building.

Q Now, what time here in Dallas was the President assassinated?

A According to the newspaper stories about 12:35.

Q About 12:35. And Jack was with you from 12:00 to 12:25, is that right?

A Yes sir.

Q And then he left you just before the assassination, is that right?

**Prosecution Witness: John Newman, Retail Advertising Staff, *Dallas Morning News***

Q And what time did you arrive back at your office?

A Approximately 12:40.

Q At the time that you went back to your office, did you know that the President had been shot?

A I did not.

Q When you arrived at your office, I will ask you if you saw the Defendant in this case, Jack Ruby?

A Yes sir, I did.

Q Do you see Jack Ruby in the courtroom?

A Yes, there is Jack sitting there.

Q All right, when you got back to your office at 12:40, where did you see Jack Ruby?

A At my desk.

you if word was passed out that President Kennedy had been shot

A Yes, it was.

Q What, if anything, did you do as regards getting up-to-date news, or watching television about the assassination?

A In the corner of our office, in our Promotion Director's office, there was a small television set which he uses on occasions.

Q And what is the name of that man?

A Mr. Dick Jeffery.

Q All right, I will ask you if you saw Jack Ruby in front of Mr. Jeffery's office watching the television?

A Yes, I was over there myself, and Jack was over there listening with the rest of them.

Q Did you hear him say anything?

A I don't recall any specific comments at that time.  
There was a lot of comment.

Q Was there anything unusual about his behavior at any time that you saw him that day?

A Nothing unusual I would say, no more than anyone else.

Q Have you looked out the window which is opposite Mr. Jeffery's door toward and across the Plaza towards the Dallas Hotel?

A Yes, sir.

Q I will ask you if it is possible to see the building known as the Texas School Book Depository, from that window?

A It is.

Q I will ask you if he could be characterized as a rather volatile excitable individual, talked fast, talked loud, perhaps waved his arms sometimes when excited, or just tell us how he appeared to you?

A Well, yes, I think Jack is excitable. Our conversations at times, he would tell me that he was, and sometimes he would be more so than others.

Well now, how long had it been since the President was assassinated, before you and Jack learned about it?

I would say possible fifteen minutes.

Fifteen minutes. And during that time, you learned he was assassinated, you say Jack appeared to be calm, and composed, is that right?

Yes sir.

What did Dorothy Kilgallen think of this testimony? Common sense dictates she must have wondered about Ruby having been in the newspaper office, one with windows clearly aimed at the Book Depository a short distance away, at exactly the same time when JFK was assassinated. Coincidence or on purpose and if the latter, causing the wily reporter to suspect that Ruby may have had prior knowledge of the exact location and time when JFK was set up to die?

In addition, what did Kilgallen think of Ruby, dubbed "excitable" by witness Newman, simply remaining "calm and composed" without any outburst over the death of the president, a contrary emotion to the one he projected later. Ruby also watched television coverage with a direct view of the Book Depository thus keeping abreast of developments by law enforcement.

If Ruby's conduct was deliberate, and he just didn't happen to be in the newspaper offices so conveniently located close to the Book Depository, then Kilgallen must have surmised that questions existed as to the veracity of the entire story had had told the authorities including how he happened to kill Oswald.

**Witness: William Duncan, Jr., Newsman, KLIF Radio**

Q Directing your attention back to Friday, November 22, 1963, in the early morning hours of Saturday, November 23, 1963, I will ask you if you were working as a newsman there at KLIF?

A I was.

Q At that time did you know the Defendant in this case, Jack Ruby?

A No, I did not. I met him by telephone, and later in person that same night.

Q All right sir, now I will ask you if sometime on Friday evening, late Friday, or early Saturday morning, if you got a telephone call from a man who identified himself as Jack Ruby?

A I did.

Q Will you tell us about what time that was you got the first call?

A That would have been around midnight or shortly thereafter.

Q Now, with that preliminary, will you tell us about the

conversation with him?

A Well, this came just after Lee Harvey Oswald had been charged. At that time I was working --

A Had been formally charged. At that time I was working alone, and we were short staffed. So I was quite anxious to get ahold of some information from the City Hall.

The man who telephoned, Jack Ruby, asked me if I would like to get some information, he asked me if I would like to talk to the District Attorney, Henry Wade. I said I would.

Then, the District Attorney was put on the phone, and I talked to him.

A The District Attorney was put on the phone. I talked to him, and recorded an interview with him, in line with the charging of Oswald.

Q All right, and about what time of night was it that he actually showed up at the radio station?

A This would be somewhere between 1:30 and 1:45.

Q And did you talk to him there?

A Well, he brought the sandwiches and some soda pop, some Exotic Cola, and he wanted to know if the talks I had with the District Attorney were satisfactory. It seemed he was interested in the things that were happening. And I told him it was.

And he stayed for about a half hour or thirty-five minutes, the best I can --

He seemed excited -- I shouldn't say excited, he seemed interested in what was happening; he was pleased that he had thought to ask Russ Knight, who is a KLIF disc jockey, who had gone over to the City Hall with a tape recorder, and also interviewed District Attorney Henry Wade with a tape recorder.

Jack seemed pleased that he had suggested to Russ that he ask the District Attorney whether or not Oswald was sane. We talked about the case and what was happening for about thirty-five minutes, and then Jack left.

A Did Ruby say anything about when they were going to move Oswald?

L Not to my recollection.

A Let me ask you, if he told you that he had seen Oswald?

L Yes, he did.

A What did he say about having seen Oswald?

L He said that he had been in the City Hall with the sandwiches and so forth in a bag, looking for someone from KLIF; then, he said, all of a sudden -- I am paraphrasing -- all of a sudden there was a large rush and commotion when Oswald was brought out to meet the Press. He said he was caught up in people rushing, and the first thing he knew he found himself standing in front of Oswald or close to Oswald.

A Was he pleased that he had seen Oswald?

It seems to me he used the term, "There I was standing there looking up, and he was right in front of me." Or "close to me."

A He seemed to be pleased. In the sense that he was being in on something, that was important to everyone, yes.

The exchange with witness Duncan provided Kilgallen with insight regarding Ruby's mindset on the night before he assassinated Oswald. Clearly, she knew, Ruby was "interested in what was happening," perhaps on a scouting mission of some sort. Kilgallen also must have realized some relationship had to have existed between Ruby and DA Wade permitting Ruby to set up not one but two interviews with Wade by reporters.

Kilgallen had also heard firsthand witness Duncan explain how Ruby brought sandwiches to the radio station ingratiating himself with the reporters whom he knew could provide information regarding Oswald, perhaps even when he might be transferred the next day. Certainly Kilgallen realized Ruby had no mental issues, he was calculating, all business, on the prowl. And she learned a most important point – Ruby admitted he had "found himself standing in front of Oswald or close to Oswald," clarified to "There I was standing there looking up, and he was right in front of me. Or 'close to me.'"

In the file she kept close to her vest, Kilgallen must have noted these continuing confusing aspects to Ruby's behavior. This was not the portrait of someone deranged but perfectly logical in nature with the main goal learning as much as he could about the man who he appeared to be stalking at every turn. That Ruby "seemed to be pleased . . . in the sense that he was in on something, that was important to everyone," must have caused Kilgallen to realize Jack Ruby was actually playing the part of a reporter through his words and actions.

## Chapter Fourteen

**Prosecution Witness: R. M. Sims, Detective, Dallas Police Dept.**

Q Directing your attention to Friday evening, November 22, 1963, I'll ask you if you were on duty in the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, taking the telephone calls for the Bureau?

A I wasn't necessarily taking the telephone calls, but I was up there, and I did answer the phone some. Yes, sir.

Q Directing your attention to some time around ten o'clock in the evening of that date, I'll ask you if you received a telephone call from a man who identified himself as Jack Ruby?

A I did. Yes, sir.

Q And what, if anything, did he tell you when he called the Homicide and Robbery Bureau?

A He said he had a sack of sandwiches made up, and wanted to bring them up there to the office to us.

Q Did you let him into the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, or tell him that he could come in?

A No, sir.

Q Now where was Lee Harvey Oswald at that time?

A He was in, I believe, either in Captain Fritz' office or another office we have there.

Q But they would -- Now those two offices you have mentioned, are in the Homicide and Robbery Bureau?

A Yes, sir. Room 317.

As Dorothy Kilgallen weighed the credibility of each witness called to testify, she could easily examine the demeanor of the witness, their facial expressions, whether they spoke in a loud or soft voice, everything about them. Unlike others in the future, authors and so-called JFK assassination experts, the savvy reporter was right there, sitting front row taking in the courtroom landscape. A veteran trial reporter who had covered many high profile cases, she also could assess the witness's propensity for truth telling, their veracity, and it appears logical she would have noted her personal thoughts along with the pertinent testimony in the file she carried to court each day.

Here, Detective Sims supplied additional evidence that Jack Ruby was indeed gathering a much information about Oswald as possible but Kilgallen must have been struck by the detective explaining that while he was present in the Homicide and Robbery Bureau on Friday night after JFK had been assassinated, where Oswald was located at the time, Ruby "had a sack of sandwiches made up and he wanted to bring them up there to the office to us." It's not a stretch to believe the respected journalist with the curious nature must have wondered whether Ruby had murder on his mind, whether he hoped to gain entrance to the Bureau so as to assassinate the man he believed had killed JFK. Apparently, based on previous testimony, Ruby had had the chance to shoot Oswald when he was close to him, but for some reason that didn't work out. Now Ruby was looking for a new opportunity but Detective Sims denied him entrance to the Bureau and thus to Oswald.

Q Jack enjoyed his friendship with the various police officers here in Dallas, did he not?

A I believe so. Yes, sir.

Q And he had an entre there at the police station, so to speak, because he knew so many of you men?

A Yes, sir.

When Detective Sims admitted Ruby "enjoyed his friendship with police officers here in Dallas," and "knew so many of you men," Kilgallen would have jotted down this evidence in her file for future reference and retrieved it when Ruby was arrested for killing Oswald since from the get-go, the DA's office denied Ruby had any such friendships with Dallas police officers. Later, Earl Ruby, Jack's brother, told reporters he accompanied Jack into police headquarters where he witnessed many police officers say, "Hi Jack, Hi Jack, Hi Jack."

**Prosecution Witness: T. B. Leonard, Lt. Dallas Police Department**

Q Directing your attention to Friday night, November 22, 1963, after eleven o'clock in the evening, did you have occasion to be out in the hall leading to the Burglary and Theft Bureau?

A Yes, sir.

Q (By Mr. Alexander) Now on that Friday night, November 22, 1963, I'll ask you if you had occasion to see Jack Ruby at the City Hall?

A Yes, sir.

Q And where was it that you first saw him?

A I first saw Jack Ruby in the police assembly room in the basement of the City Hall.

Q And about what time of night was that?

A It was around eleven-thirty. It was after eleven.

Q And what was he doing there? Or what did you see him do?

A Henry Wade, the District Attorney, was having a press conference in the police assembly room, and it was very crowded with newspaper reporters, and they -- there was quite a few people down there. I went down to listen to the press conference, and they asked me and some other officers to stand by and help secure the appearance of Lee Harvey Oswald when they brought him down for the press to see him and talk to him.

Q All right. Now where was Jack Ruby when you saw him first?

A Jack Ruby was standing about twenty or twenty-five feet back on a desk in the police assembly room, against the wall on the right side of the room.

He had a notebook and a pencil in his hand.

Lt. Leonard's testimony must have permitted Kilgallen to once again realize Ruby was on the trial of Oswald with his motive unclear. However, she must have wondered how Ruby was

able to be present at the press conference since he was not a member of the press corps and certainly did not have police credentials. This would have made her wonder who let Ruby into the hall leading to the Bureau while causing her to conclude that Ruby was dedicated to getting as close to Oswald as possible.

Also of interest to Kilgallen was Lt. Leonard's admission that Ruby "on a desk in the police assembly room" and that he had "a notebook and a pencil in his hand." Common sense had to have indicated to Kilgallen that Ruby's ruse to gain entrance to the assembly room close to the Bureau was to play a news reporter so he would blend in with the other journalists. All of this testimony added to the portrait Kilgallen was painting of Ruby, a clever man who had a plan to somehow, some way, slay Lee Harvey Oswald.

#### **Prosecution Witness: Wes Wise, Newsman KRLD Radio**

Q Directing your attention back to Saturday, November 23, 1963, were you working in your capacity as a newsman for KRLD?

A I was.

Q And directing your attention to about three o'clock that afternoon, did you have occasion to be across the street from the School Book Depository, down here on Houston Street?

A I did.

Q And what, if anything, were you doing there?

A I was on assignment to retrace as close as possible, the steps of Lee Harvey Oswald, after he allegedly shot the president.

Q And did you see Jack Ruby there that afternoon?

A I did.

Q And where was he when you first saw him?

A I tried to gain entrance to the building and failed to do so, so went back to my unit, called in to the station there, and I didn't particularly want anybody to hear the transmission. I had rolled up the window on the drivers side, and after I -- or right near the end of the transmission, somebody, as I recall, knocked on the window and I put it down and it was Jack. And he re-introduced himself to me.

Q Did you have a conversation with him then?

A I did.

Q And what was the nature of your conversation?

A Well, it's hard to recall the details, but we discussed the killing of the president, general conversation about how terrible it was. I mentioned that I had been at the Trade Mart the day before when he was due -- when the president was due to arrive. And we discussed the reactions of -- the terrible reaction there to the president's killing.

Q Did you see what direction Jack Ruby came from?

A He came from in the general direction of the railroad tracks, which is north, I believe.

Q That would be north of the School Book Depository?

A Yes.

Q Let me ask you if he mentioned that Captain Fritz and

Chief Curry were in the near vicinity at that time?

A As I recall it, we held a conversation, oh, maybe eight, nine, ten minutes there, then I believe I got ready to leave, and he came back -- as I remember it, he came back to the car and said, "Did you know that Will Fritz and Jesse Curry were here?" And I said, "No, where are they?" And he said, "Well, they're over there looking at the flowers which had been placed there by people in Dallas." And I think hinted that I might want to take pictures, which I did.

Wes Wise's testimony alerted Kilgallen to the fact that Jack Ruby was continuing to gather information about JFK's death and Oswald on the Saturday afternoon before Ruby shot Oswald. Obviously, she would have concluded that Ruby had more than a passing interest on every aspect of the Oswald matter even to the point of having either followed or come upon Detective Will Fritz and Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry. "Why was Ruby so intent on learning more and more about what was transpiring on the police end and through Wise, a reporter?" she must have wondered.



**Prosecution Witness: D. V. Harkness, Dallas Police Department Traffic Division**

Q Directing your attention to around two-thirty or three o'clock in the afternoon on that Saturday, November 23, 1963, I'll ask you if you were assigned to the vicinity of the entrance of the County jail to assist in traffic and handling people?

A Yes, sir, I was.

Q Now I'll ask you if you were anticipating the transfer of Oswald at around four o'clock?

A Yes, sir, we were.

Q Now, sometime after three o'clock, I'll ask you if a

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crowd began to block the driveway of the entrance to the County jail?

A Yes, sir. A crowd had merged to the entrance and was making it difficult for the Sheriff's department to operate.

Q All right sir. And at that time I'll ask you if you notified the Sheriff's department that they should block that off with either men or ropes?

A Yes, sir, I did.

Q And was that done?

A Yes, sir.

Q All right. Do you know the defendant in this case, Jack Ruby?

A Yes, sir.

Q I'll ask you if you saw Jack Ruby in that crowd that you moved back from the jail entrance?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did you see which direction he went after you moved him back?

A No, sir. The last I had seen of him was at Elm and Houston, on the jail side, on the east side of Houston.

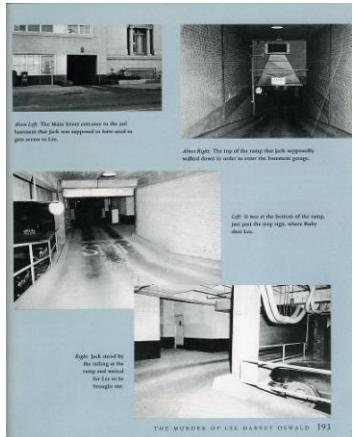
Q Now that was on Saturday afternoon, just before four o'clock?

A Yes, sir.

No doubt exists that Kilgallen paid close attention to witnesss Harkness' testimony for at least two significant reasons. First, it is clear, she would have realized, that the entrance to the count jail was blocked either by men or ropes. Second, Harkness confirms his sighting of Jack Ruby at the jail entrance and suggests the time was two-thirty or three o'clock on Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day *before* Ruby shot Oswald. Unclear is whether Ruby intended to enter the jail entrance but if he did, then the entrance being blocked prohibited this from happening, perhaps blunting a scouting expedition to learn the logistics of the jail area where he had to have known Oswald might be transferred from the next day.

Most significant though is Harkness spotting Ruby on the 23<sup>rd</sup> meaning that Ruby's later statements that he just happened to be at the jail entrance the next day before he shot Oswald fall short of the truth. With her sharp mind in full force, Kilgallen would have concluded visiting the jail entrance was now part of his plan to somehow gain entrance so he could be ready when Oswald was being transferred. [Note: In a little known publication by the *Dallas Morning News*

on November 20, 1988 entitled "Nov. 22 – Twenty-Five Years Later" secured by this author, page 31 features a statement by Dallas Police Officer Vaughn who stated, "Sometime later in the morning, I learned that allegedly Ruby had told them he came down that Main Street ramp. I'll tell you right up front I don't believe it. I think he came in another way."]



THE MURDER OF LEE HARVEY OWEALD 193

## Dallas County Jail Basement

### Prosecution Witness: John Rutledge, *Dallas Morning News*

Q Directing your attention back to the afternoon of the 22nd of November, the day of the assassination of the President, where were you at that time?

A Well, I am night police reporter, I come to work about 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon, but I came in early, I reported directly at the police station on the third floor, and was covering the activities inside Captain Fritz's office.

Q On that occasion, did you see the Defendant, Jack Ruby, there on the third floor of the Dallas Police Department?

A Yes. I saw him right outside of Captain Fritz's office in the hall.

Q Now, let's go back, were there police guards at the elevator, as you came in, to check all who were coming in?

A Yes.

Q Now, go ahead and tell us, how you saw, if you did see Jack Ruby, the Defendant, get by the guards there?

A Well, I saw Jack and two out-of-State reporters, whom I did not know, leave the elevator door and proceed toward those television cameras, to go around the corner where Captain Fritz's office was. Jack walked between them. These two out-of-State reporters had big Press cards pinned on their coats, great big red ones, I think they said, "President

Kennedy's visit to Dallas -- Press", or something like that.

And Jack didn't have one, but the man on either side of him did. And they walked pretty rapidly from the elevator area past the policeman, and Jack was bent over like this -- writing on a piece of paper, and talking to one of the Reporters, and pointing to something on the piece of paper, he was kind of hunched over.

Rutledge's testimony must have added to Kilgallen's realization as a journalist herself that Jack Ruby was continuing to set himself up as reporter so he could gain access to police headquarters, the jail entrance, wherever when the time was right. Like the other witnesses who had testified for the prosecution, Rutledge, a reporter not a detective, had no reason to lie but instead was a credible witness who had seen Ruby and observed "Jack was bent over like this . . . writing on a piece of paper, and talking to one of the reporters, and pointing to something on the piece of paper, he was kind of hunched over." Visualizing this happening, Kilgallen was smart enough to know Ruby was play acting, cozying up to out-of-state reporters, and that by being

"hunched over," attempting to avoid the look of police officers or investigators who knew he wasn't a reporter.

Q Now, directing your attention to Captain Fritz's and the Homicide office, that opens into the corridor there, did you see while you were there, Lee Harvey Oswald being brought in or out of the Homicide, more than once, or once, or any time?

A Yes sir, several times they brought him out from Homicide.

Q Is that where they were interrogating him, in Homicide, as far as you know?

A Yes sir, that's where he was being interrogated.

One time the District Attorney, Mr. Wade came out and then went back in, and they asked who that was, if that was Captain Fritz, and Jack explained to all of them and told them that it wasn't Captain Fritz, that it was Henry Wade, that he was the District Attorney.

Q He was just generally furnishing all the out-of-State Press, who everybody was that was there?

A Yes sir. He was very good making identification to the strangers.

Q Now, let me ask you, did any officer or somebody from over toward across the hall, ask Jack Ruby anything with reference to what he was doing there?

A Yes sir. I heard two, possibly three detectives speak to him. One of them I remember was standing near the Burglary and Theft Bureau door.



Q Was he asked any questions by anyone that you heard?

A One of these detectives knew him and yelled -- he had to yell almost at the top of his voice in the hallway to be heard, in fact all this I have testified to previously about the things Jack told the visiting reporters, that was shouted at the top of his lungs, everybody had to shout to be heard by the man right next to him, and they were all crammed together pretty tight.

This detective hollered over in the crowd and said words something like, "Hey Jack, what are you doing here?"

Q What did Jack Ruby say, if anything?

A He raised -- he got his arm out of that mass of people and waved his hand at this detective and said, "Hello there" -- and he called him by his first name and he said, "I am helping all these fellows." And he turned around and he pointed.

According to this testimony, Ruby continued to play a reporter while providing valuable information to the ones who didn't know who Henry Wade was and so forth. Continuing to blend in within proximity to where Oswald was being interrogated was working, Kilgallen realized, but then one of the detectives almost blew Ruby's cover story when he wisely asked Ruby, "Hey Jack, what are you doing here?" Only quick thinking on Ruby's part, first by calling the detective by name, and then shouting, "I am helping all these fellows" saved the day. Fortunately for Ruby, the detective moved on and Ruby continued to "help" the other reporters

while using them as cover since he had no business being in police headquarters in the first place.

Q Now, that was 6:00 or 7:00 o'clock in the evening. And now, later on that night did you see him anywhere?

A Later on that night I saw him, it was after that I saw him come past the police guard, from the public elevator down in the corridor.

And then I saw him again about midnight, in the basement, in the assembly room.

Q Was that on Friday night the 22nd of November?

A Yes sir.

Q 1963?

A Yes, it was.

Q Was that the conference where they brought Oswald in there in front of the Press?

A Yes sir, it was.

Q Where was Ruby, the best of your recollection at that time?

A At the time that Oswald was interviewed by the Press?

Q Yes.

A Well, I didn't see him while Oswald was there. My attention was focussed on Oswald. And Oswald was all I could see.

Q Well, Oswald was there a couple of minutes, or three

Q Did you see at that time Jack Ruby in the audience anywhere?

A Yes sir. He was just about directly in front of you, about as far from you as you and I are now, I believe. There were two little tables in this assembly room, and you were on the platform, and he was behind the second table.

Q During that conference there, was the question asked something about some Cuban movement, with reference to Oswald; did someone ask me about that?

A Some reporter asked you if Oswald was linked with being a member of the Cuban movement in this country.

Q I believe I answered something about the free Cuba movement, or something to that effect, didn't I?

A Yes, you did.

Q Now, at that time did the Defendant, Jack Ruby, say anything from out in the audience; did he volunteer any information?

A That's the time he answered the question, before you could answer it.

Q And he gave the name of the "Fair Play for Cuba

Committee," I believe?

If what Kilgallen had watched and heard thus far during the Ruby trial wasn't enough to convince her that there was much more to Ruby's story that was being told, this testimony had to have raised a red flag for one simple reason: All along Ruby would swear he never knew Oswald yet the strip club owner knew enough about him to correct the answer regarding whether Oswald was a member of "the Cuban movement in this country . . . about the Free Cuba" movement to "Fair Play for Cuba Committee." Learning of what Ruby had said must have made her eyes flash and caused the revered reporter to scribble a plethora of notes on the paper inside her ever

thickening file. It may very well be that this is when Kilgallen realized that Oswald and Ruby were indeed connected, linked together prior to the assassinations with the connection continuing through the assassinations themselves.

I don't recall that I was even looking at the detectives. I seem to remember somebody muttering, "That fellow

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Ruby" -- only he didn't use those words -- "ought not to be up here".

Q "That fellow Ruby ought not to be up here." You didn't think he should either, did you?

A No sir, I didn't, sure didn't. Now, that was up to them, I had never seen Jack Ruby, but I had heard about him for a long time, I was surprised he was up there.

Once again, Kilgallen had to realize, Ruby's plan was almost eliminated through quick thinking by somebody who believed "That Ruby fellow ought not to be up here." And the reporter Rutledge mentioned certainly agreed according to Rutledge's testimony. Whether Kilgallen followed up with questions for Rutledge or any of the other witnesses away from the courtroom is unknown, but it makes common sense that she would have done so thus confirming what these witnesses saw and heard and deciding on her own their credibility.

Q This man that he had never seen before, being introduced as Mr. Wade, did he say anything to him when he came in, when Mr. Wade came in, did Mr. Ruby say anything to him?

A Well, I was going to holler at Mr. Wade and ask him this one little question, but Ruby was closer to him.

Q What did Jack say?

A Ruby said, he first said on the phone, he said, "Here comes Henry Wade now." And he turned around and said, "Henry, Henry, come over here."

Q Would you repeat that, I didn't hear you? What did he say, "Here come Mr. Wade now"?

A He was talking on the telephone to somebody on the phone, I don't know who, and he said, "Here comes Mr. Wade now." And then he held the telephone up and said, "Henry, Henry, come over here," and pointed at the telephone.

Q Aren't you mistaken, didn't he say, "Mr. Wade"?

A No, I think he said, "Henry, Henry."

There is little speculation here that Kilgallen must have shaken her head in disbelief of this testimony, that Jack Ruby was actually calling Henry Wade, "Henry" as if they were close friends. Why Ruby felt he could do this and without apparent objection from Wade boggles the mind leading to important questions about Wade's relationship with Ruby to the point where he could let the strip club owner set up telephone interviews for him. Without doubt, Kilgallen's instincts that she needed to continue her investigation toward learning the truth about who killed JFK and why, and why Ruby shot Oswald in full force was a given. Too many unanswered questions existed, she knew, way too many.

## Chapter Fifteen

Prosecution Witness: G. C. Hallmark, General Manager, All Right Auto Parking, Dallas

Q Directing your attention to the 23rd day -- Saturday, after the assassination of President Kennedy, at around 2:50 P.M., did you see the Defendant, Jack Ruby, on that occasion?

A Yes sir, I did.

Q What parking lot was that, what is it called?

A The Nichols Brothers Parking, 1320 Commerce Street.

Q Is it a fact, Mr. Hallmark, that Ruby has parked his car there for a number of years at that place, is that right?

A Three years, yes.

Q And his place of business is close by, is that right?

A Yes sir, it is.

Q Now, when he came into your garage, did he ask permission to use the phone?

A Yes sir, he did.

Q The 23rd, Saturday afternoon, around 2:50 P.M.

What did he say with reference to being a reporter, if anything.

A He said that he was making like a reporter.

Q Making like a reporter?

A Yes.

Q At that time, was he looking for a number to call in the telephone book, or did he already know the number, do you recall?

A He knew the number, I am sure.

Q Well, did he dial a number?

A Yes, he did.

Q Do you know who he asked for on the phone?

A Not on the first call.

L The conversation was about the -- what I understood to be, the almost immediate transfer of Oswald from the City to the County Jail. Mr. Ruby informed whoever he was talking to, that people were strewing flowers at the scene of the assassination, and that possibly the transfer would be delayed.

THE COURT: The what?

A Delayed.

Q Now, did Ruby say anything with reference to whether or not -- concerning whether he would be there or not; what did he say on that?

A He told whoever he was talking to, that he would be there.

Q He would be there?

A Yes.

A He walked east on Commerce and was gone about two minutes, and then returned and stood immediately in front of my office. And then got in his car and drove out.

Q How do you determine the time on this, approximately, this was about 2:50 on the 23rd of November, 1963, is that right?

A We started about 2:50.

When Kilgallen later checked her notes regarding testimony on this day, the bet is that she circled Mr. Hallmark's testimony as arguably being the most significant at trial regarding Jack Ruby's culpability for assassinating Lee Harvey Oswald. First, the testimony that Ruby was "making like a reporter" confirmed what Kilgallen had to have suspected - that Ruby's ruse to make it look like he was a reporter and gain access whenever and wherever he chose was indeed a reality. Whether he thought of the ruse or whether others in concert with his plan to assassinate Oswald suggested it is unknown but the strategy was well conceived and successful across the board until Kilgallen realized the evil intent behind Ruby's actions.

Second, Ruby's contention that he just happened by the jail entrance on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> was destroyed since it was clear from Mr. Hallmark's testimony, Kilgallen knew, that he not only visited the jail entrance on the 23<sup>rd</sup> but that now Ruby was on the telephone talking about the transfer of Oswald being delayed meaning that he was monitoring it with whomever he spoke to on the phone. And, Kilgallen knew, Ruby telling the called "that he would be there" meant he had already made plans to be at the jail entrance the next day when the transfer would take place. This swept way, the famous reporter knew, any semblance of truth regarding Ruby's story that he went to the Western Union office, left and just happened to walk by the jail entrance at the exact time Oswald was being transferred.

#### **Prosecution Witness: J. R. Levelle, Detective, Dallas Police Department**

When Detective Levelle testified, Kilgallen paid close attention to the details regarding the actual shooting of Oswald by Ruby. With great detail the detective summarized how Ruby had stepped forward, gun in hand, and shot JFK's alleged assassin. While the testimony was mesmerizing at times, it, in all likelihood, would not have piqued the skilled reporter's interest since, it seems likely, she was now more interested in Ruby's activities as portrayed by the

witnesses who had already testified. This said, she would have found one piece of evidence compelling, that relating to what the detective swore Ruby said shortly after shooting Oswald.

Q Now what are the facts as to whether or not at the time you were examining his wound there on the floor, Jack Ruby had been brought into the jail office?

A Yes, sir. As I straightened up to put my handcuffs on my belt, I observed him standing by the elevator in the custody of the officers, waiting to go up to the jail.

Q What, if anything, did Jack Ruby say that you heard?

A At that particular time there --

A He said, "I hope the son of a bitch dies."

Ruby's caustic comments, "I hope he son of a bitch dies," could have been interpreted several ways but Kilgallen, in all likelihood believed Oswald's killer hoped that his intended prey would die so that his job would be complete. One may recall Detective Archer's later account of his believing Ruby was "relieved" when he knew Oswald was dead. This made common sense, Kilgallen must have surmised, a job well done instead of his having only wounded Oswald which could have triggered repercussions from those who ordered Ruby to kill Oswald.

#### **Prosecution Witness L.C. Graves, Dallas Police Department**

Q All right, what was he trying to do with the gun as you -- we'll move over here -- you grabbed ahold of it.

A I started down -- he kept pulling back and squeezing on the trigger.

Q Squeezing on the trigger, and pulling back?

A Yes sir.

Q Wrench it from my hand like you did.

A Like so (demonstrating).

Q Now, was that a minute or a second, or seconds, in that taking the gun, how long would you say it took you to get the gun away from him?

A A very short period of time, very short period of time.

Q Now, as you pulled it down, he was trying to push it back toward Oswald?

A That's right.

Q And was he squeezing on the trigger?

Little doubt likely existed in Kilgallen's mind regarding the shooting of Oswald by Ruby.

This testimony, however, may have interested her regarding Oswald's apparent intention to continuing shooting JFK's alleged assasination more than once.

**Prosecution Witness: Det. R. Archer, Dallas Police Department**

Q (By Mr. Belli) All right, did you hear people yelling there, "Oswald is shot -- Oswald is shot -- Oswald is shot"?

A I did not hear that statement, no sir.

Q Did you hear Ruby down on the deck say, "I am Jack Ruby."

A I heard him say, "You all know me, I'm Jack Ruby."

Q And that was when he was lying down on the deck?

A It was.

A As we got him down on the floor there he said, "I hope I killed the son-of-a-bitch."

Q He said, "I hope I killed the son-of-a-bitch"?

A Yes sir.

Q And that is a matter of twelve seconds after the shooting, probably?

A Yes sir.

Q Now, after you took him out -- that goes up to the fifth floor, as you went into the jail office upstairs, what,

Kilgallen would have been interested in Detective Archer's testimony regarding his hearing Ruby state: "You know me, I'm Jack Ruby," "I hope I killed the son of a bitch," and "I intended to shoot him three times." While the former statement rings true, the latter perhaps seemed out of line to her, that Ruby would say he wanted to shoot Oswald three times. *Why three?* she might have wondered. *Why three?*

A I said, "I think you killed him."

He said, "I intended to shoot him three times."

Q He said, "I intended to shoot him three times?"

A Yes sir.

Q Now, that's the Defendant, Jack Ruby, that said that?

A Yes sir, he did.

Q And that was a matter of minutes after the original shooting?

A Yes sir, it was.

#### Prosecution Witness: T. D. McMillon, Dallas Police Department

Q Prior to the shooting, did you hear him say anything?

A Yes, sir, I did.

Q Tell the jury what you heard the defendant, Jack Ruby, say at that time, Mr. McMillon?

A He said, "You rat son of a bitch, you shot the president." And then a shot rang out.

Q Was that all right the second before the shot went off, or about the same time as the shot went off?

A Yes, sir.

Kilgallen may have been puzzled by so many different versions of what Ruby said after the shot Oswald. It appeared to be overkill and one must wonder whether Kilgallen believed this testimony.

BY MR. BELL:

Q At some time later in the day, Ruby told you when you had told him that he had shot Mr. Oswald, "you all won't believe this, but I didn't have this planned. I couldn't have planned it so perfect." He said he had just got there and Oswald happened to be coming out and it was a coincidence. Did he say that?

A I believe that's not my statement, sir.

Q All right. And he ducked his head and kept going. Is that correct?

A Mr. Ruby told me he just ducked his head and kept going.

Q And he said he knew he could always act like a reporter?

A Yes, sir.

Q All right. Then he said "Yall --" Y-A-L-L "Yall won't believe this, but I didn't have this planned." Is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q "I couldn't have planned it so perfect." Right?

A Right.

Q And by that he meant that he was over at Western Union at eleven-seventeen, and the shooting happened about eleven -- what? Twenty-one at the very latest, wasn't it?

A I'm not sure at all of the time on that.

Q All right. He said he just got there and Oswald happened to be coming out at the time, isn't that correct?

A Yes, sir.

This cross-examination by Melvin Belli confirmed again Ruby's plan to "act like a reporter" so as to gain entrance to the jail entrance. Though Ruby states "Yall won't believe this, but I didn't have this planned," the admission that he could just "act like a reporter" rings true based on his behavior during the days leading up to his assassinationg Oswald. Kilgallen very likely followed up on this testimony perhaps with Belli since the "act like a reporter," if believed by the jury, completely blunted his story about just accidentally being at the jail entrance when Oswald was being transferred.

Q        And did you go over to where Oswald was, or Ruby was?

A        I ran immediately to the scene of the confusion, and there were some five or six detectives that were subduing this person, I didn't know at the time, I couldn't see him.

Q        Did you hear anybody saying anything?

A        There were conversation -- I mean, some talk, but I didn't hear any -- I mean, I did hear when they had him on the floor. In fact, I myself, asked who in the world was it. And Jack was on the floor, and that's when I first recognized him. And he said, "You all know me, I'm Jack Ruby."

Q        On the floor he said, "You all know me, I'm Jack Ruby"?

A        Yes, sir.

**Defense Witness: Roy Pryor – printer, *Dallas Morning News***

Q I'll ask you whether or not you know the defendant in this case, Jack Ruby?

A Yes, sir.

Q How long have you known Jack?

A Since approximately 1950.

station.

Q What was the nature of your conversation with Jack at that time?

A Jack had secured a board, it was approximately a foot square, called a twist board. Or that's the name that he gave me. And he was wanting to know if I had any ideas on exploiting the sale of it.

Q He was trying to promote the twist board?

A Yes, sir.

Q Is this what he talked to you about?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, when was the next time you had occasion to see Jack Ruby during the month of November, 1963?

A On the Saturday morning preceding the Friday that

Q Now, in reference again to this conversation that Jack told you that he had heard Mr. Wade, state the facts as to whether or not Jack told you that Mr. Wade stated on the phone that in Lee Harvey Oswald they had the right man?

MR. WADE: We object to that, Your Honor. It has nothing to do with it.

THE COURT: Sustain the objection.

Pryor's testimony permits the opportunity to indicate one instance, perhaps above all the others where Kilgallen's column exactly mirrored the Ruby trial testimony. Recall that on August 19, 1964, well after the Ruby trial, she had written a *Journal-American* column including the following words: "I find it hard to reconcile the picture of Jack Ruby performing on a twist board less than 24 hours after the President's assassination with the bereaved figure of a man [who says] he walked around in a state of emotional shock."

Where else could Kilgallen have gotten the information about Ruby being connected to a "twist board" than from Pryor's Ruby trial testimony? That it cut deep into her belief Ruby was a bold-faced liar is a given, but perhaps more importantly the "twist board" mention means Kilgallen was on the job at the trial and used the testimony accurately in what she wrote, a sure tribute to her integrity.

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