

# Joan's death called Robinson case key

HOUSTON (UI) — The death of Joan Robinson Hill has become the mainstay of the defense in the \$7.6 million wrongful death suit against her father.

The suit contends oilman Ash Robinson arranged the slaying of Dr. John Hill to avenge the death of his daughter, who was Hill's first wife

Robinson, 79, said he was "potentially incapable of causing the death of anyone," and his attorneys have tried to show Hill caused the death of Robinson's daughter. She died of a mysterious illness in 1969.

Hill was awaiting trial for the woman's death when he was slain.

Robinson at the outset of the complex lawsuit denied that he was indebted to Hill's widow, Connie Hill, 37, for anything or that she suffered injury or actual damages by the doctor's death

Robinson also claimed Hill abandoned Joan Robinson Hill to marry Ann Kurth, his second wife, that he was a womanizer, drug abuser, homosexual, and failed to give proper medical attention to his patients.

For the first time in five weeks of testimony the defense maintained the allegations of conspiracy by family lawyer Ray Bass had not been proven and that the accusers brought suit after the two-year statute of limitations on wrongful death expired.

Hill was shot to death Sept. 24, 1972 and the lawsuit was filed March 5, 1975. No criminal case has ever been brought against Robinson

But the judge overruled the defense contentions

Lawyers in the suit are forbidden to discuss specifics of the case with reporters but there apparently have been no overtures by either side for an out-of-court settlement

Robinson has waited since 1969 — the year his daughter died — to have Hill revealed as the cause of her death, and Hill's survivors have sought for nearly four years to link Robinson to Hill's death

"Money is not the only cause in this lawsuit. We want justice," Bass said midway through the trial.