

D.A. Urges Court Quash State Law

The Calcasieu Parish district attorney is asking the Louisiana Supreme Court in New Orleans to set aside a state law so that he can comply with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. District Attorney Frank T. Salter Jr. obtained a conviction against Wilbert Rideau, Negro, for the murder of a Lake Charles woman bank employe.

RIDEAU WAS convicted and sentenced to the electric chair April 17, 1961. His attorney appealed the case on the grounds that a Lake Charles television program broadcast a confession by Rideau and therefore made a fair trial impossible.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that due process of the law was denied because Rideau's jury should have been selected from a community of people outside the KPLC-TV broadcast range.

THAT REQUIREMENT would force the trial to be held several parishes away. The problem is that Louisiana law requires that any change of trial site (of venue) can only be to the next judicial district—which in Calcasieu's case would be inside the broadcast range.

Heeding the U.S. court requirement, Salter on Jan. 24 asked District Judge Cecil Cutrer to transfer the case to another parish. Judge Cutrer refused. Salter then appealed to the state Supreme Court here.

He said today he is arguing that the state law should be set aside because it is intended to protect the rights of the defendant and the defendant's rights will best be satisfied by a trial transfer.

Mississippi City
Feb. 22, 1964

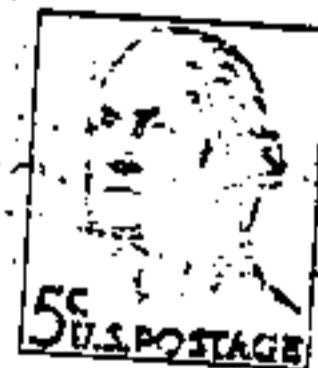
Dear Mr. Ruby

I think if you show the clipping to your attorney it may help you to have your trial change.

Would appreciate confirmation as to whether or not you received clipping.

Yours
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