

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Shocking, Says Defense Chief

**Belli Blasts Jury, Judge,
City of Dallas**

By JAMES MANGAN
DALLAS Tex. (AP)—Defense attorney Melvin M. Belli was furious when the death penalty was assessed against Jack Ruby on Saturday. He said angrily he would stop practicing law if he didn't reverse the verdict.

Above the tumult of the courtroom, he shouted: "This was a kangaroo railroad. I hope the people of Dallas are proud of this jury that was rammed down our throats. This is the most shocking thing I have seen in my lifetime.

"Do you believe this is part of the United States? We have seen a little bit of Russia here."

He said there were 30 reversible errors committed during the trial, and he intended to appeal without delay.

BLASTS AT DALLAS

Belli was especially angered at the city of Dallas.

Gesturing strongly, he shouted: "This is one of the sore spots in America. The festering sore that is Dallas is now the most shocking place in the nation. If this venom spreads, then

God help us all."

Belli charged the state with wanting a conviction regardless of due process of the law.

He said presiding Judge Joe E. Brown "went down the line" with the prosecution.

Belli said Judge Brown failed to take action even when informed that one of the jurors had been overheard before the trial saying he would give Ruby the death penalty if he were chosen as a juror.

HEARSAY, JUDGE REPLIES

Questioned about this later, Brown said: "I heard something about that, but I didn't know when, where or under what circumstances it occurred. It was hearsay to me. All sorts of rumors go around. Mr. Belli has a right to his opinion."

Belli, normally carefully and nattily dressed, appeared in court for the verdict wearing a black polo shirt under a black sport coat.

Joe Tonahill, the No. 2 defense attorney, looked somber after hearing the verdict.

"It is a violent miscarriage of justice," he said.

Belli was especially bitter that the psychiatric testimony presented by the defense to absolve

Ruby was not effective.

"They disregarded every bit of the psychiatric testimony," he told newsmen angrily.

He also was disturbed by the late court session Friday night that lasted until 1:05 a.m. Saturday.

"Even in the heart of darkest Africa you would not argue a man's life at midnight," he said, adding that tiredness prevented him from making an adequate closing argument.

He heaped scorn on the jury for the short period of deliberation, and claimed they had already made up their minds before they started.

NO CHANCE, HE SAYS

Before the verdict was announced, Belli told newsmen that there was no chance of getting a fair decision.

An acquittal, he said, would show that the jury had been forced to bend over backwards against pressure to reach an honest verdict.

Conviction, he said, would show the jurors followed what he called the dictates of the business rulers of Dallas.

When the decision came in, he called it a "victory for dignity."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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