

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

RUBY SHOWS NO EMOTION

2-Hour Deliberation Ends with Death Verdict

By ARTHUR EVERETT
DALLAS (AP) — Jack Ruby, his pallid face devoid of the slightest trace of emotion, was condemned to death Saturday in a jury's swift verdict of murder with malice.

It took the panel of four women and eight men only two hours and 19 minutes to order the maximum penalty against Ruby for the Nov. 24 slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The jury flatly rejected the plea of Ruby, 32, operator of a Dallas strip tease joint, that he was temporarily insane when he shot Oswald.

'MORE THAN ONE' VOTE

Mildred McCollum, one of the 12 jurors, said afterwards they had agreed not to disclose how many ballots they took. But she added: "We did take more than one."

Ruby's conviction was an aftermath to a stark sequence of American tragedy that began just 79 yards from the courthouse where he was condemned. That was the spot where an assassin's bullets struck Kennedy.

Chief defense attorney Melvin M. Belli, known as an outstanding civil court trial lawyer, but a loser in the biggest criminal case of his career, told newsmen after the verdict that one juror, whom he did not identify, had boasted to his employer that if he got on the Ruby trial he would vote the death penalty.

In reply, Judge Joe H. 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."

SAYS 'MINDS MADE UP'
"Unquestionably they had their minds made up," Belli said of the jurors. He conducted a long, futile fight to have the trial transferred outside of Dallas, claiming that Ruby could not get a fair hearing here.

A portly, gray-haired San Francisco attorney, Belli was beside himself with rage in the courtroom in the instant after the verdict was returned at 11:22 p.m. He sprang to his feet. His face reddened. Judge Brown tried vainly to quiet him. But he shouted:

"This is a victory for bigotry. We'll appeal this to a court where we can get due justice and law."

Then as Ruby, still seemingly uncomprehending, was led past him in the custody of a phalanx of burly sheriff's deputies, the defense chief cried:

"Don't worry Jack! We'll appeal this and take it out of Texas."

The nearly packed courtroom was thrown into wild confusion immediately after the verdict, although Judge Brown had warned against any demonstra-

tions. Network television cameras, admitted to the room for the verdict by a last-minute decision of the court, recorded the scene. It was believed to be the first time in the history of major American criminal trials that such a scene was televised.

EXPECTS LONG BATTLE

Dist. Atty. Henry M. Wade, 50, a blunt-faced, gray-haired prosecutor who 24 times before has sent a defendant to the chair, said he anticipated it would be at least two years before Ruby can be executed, assuming the verdict stands. He said the appeal process would probably take at least that long.

Ruby was returned to the Dallas County Jail where he has been held without bond since the day he killed Oswald. Sheriff Bill Decker said he will remain there until his last appeal is exhausted. Then the actual date for execution would be set by Judge Brown.

Ruby, a paunchy, slight man with a few wisps of dark hair across a nearly bald head, stepped from a crowd in the basement of Dallas police headquarters at 11:21 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 24. With a single bullet, he cut down the 24-year-old Oswald, a loner, a professed Marxist and the man charged officially with the assassination 48 hours earlier of the 35th President of the United States.

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

Page One

TIMES PICAYUNE
New Orleans, Louisiana

Date: 3-15-64

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: JACK LEON RUBY, A.
LEE HARVEY OSWALD,
AKA. - VICTIM deceased
Character: CR

or

Classification: 44-2064-16
Submitting Office: New Orleans Being Investigated44-2064-A-27
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

FBI - NEW ORLEANS

STATES CONTENTION

The state called the crime murder with malice. Wade described Ruby as a glory seeker, and told the jury he hoped to gain materially as the killer of an accused presidential assassin. State testimony quoted Ruby as saying he killed Oswald "to show the world that Jews do have guts."

The defense pleaded temporary insanity. Their witnesses told of youthful head injuries which they said led to Ruby's suffering psychomotor epilepsy. This was described as a rare form of the disease, characterized by violent rages, and black-out seizures. It was during such a robot period, Belli insisted, that Ruby killed Oswald, not knowing what he was doing in advance and without any clear memory afterwards of what he had done.

JURY SETS PENALTY

Under Texas law, a jury sets the penalty when it convicts a defendant.

The jury had a wide range of choices in Ruby's case. He could have been acquitted. He could have been put in prison for any number of years up to life.

But the jury chose the maximum punishment — death in the electric chair at the Huntsville State Prison.

The trial began Feb. 17 and the case went to the all-white, all-Protestant jury at 1:05 a.m. Saturday after a gruelling night session, marked by final hours of summation oratory by the defense lawyers and the prosecutors.

The jury had breakfast, then began deliberations at 9:15 a.m. in a mezzanine room above and behind the second floor courtroom.

CAUSEY FOREMAN

The jury's first item of business was the selection of a foreman. They chose Max E. Causey, 35, a husky, red-haired cost analyst for an electronics firm, a Baptist, and the father of two boys.

Attorneys for both sides had forecast a speedy verdict. But even they were caught by surprise when, at 11:34 a. m., Causey knocked on the courtroom door at the bottom of a flight of stairs leading to the jury room.

"We have a verdict," he announced.

Telephone summonses went out to attorneys and to Judge Brown.

Belli, a model of sartorial perfection throughout the trial, rushed to the courtroom in a dark suit, wearing a black sport shirt, buttoned at the neck but without a tie.

At 12:10 p.m. Judge Brown, who had been at home, ascended the bench.

RUBY BROUGHT IN

Then Ruby was brought in, a short man dwarfed by his guards. Four of the security men took seats behind him at the defense table. Three others sat in a front row courtroom seat outside the railing, ready to spring up and form a human barricade at the verdict.

Ruby, as on every day of his trial, wore a dark suit, a white shirt and a dark tie.

The defendant blinked his eyes once or twice, then cocked his head slightly to the left and settled into a seemingly composed attitude of waiting.

EXPRESSIONLESS

The jurors filed in and Ruby shifted his eyes to them, about 20 feet to his right. He might have been watching an orchestra file into its chairs to begin an overture, so expressionless was the mask he wore.

"You have your verdict,

ready?" Judge Brown asked. As several jurors spoke assent, a bailiff carried the written verdict up to the bench.

Now Ruby's eyes moved slowly to the left until they were fixed on Judge Brown. His lips were firm, his body motionless.

Judge Brown read the verdict — "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty of murder with malice and assess the penalty at death."

Ruby kept looking at the judge, as though not a word had been spoken.

12 RAISE HANDS

"Is this unanimous?" Brown asked. "So say you all? Please hold up your right hands."

Twelve hands shot up.

By now his guards were on their feet and so was Jack Ruby. He automatically took his familiar position in their midst and marched to his left and out a courtroom door. From the time he entered to the time he left—a space of no more than three minutes—Ruby acted like the most disinterested man in the entire packed courtroom.

Not so Belli. As Brown adjourned court, the lawyer was engulfed by a wave of newsmen and photographers.

BELLI BLASTS VERDICT

"Any independent appraisal of this all over the world," the defense chief shouted, perspiration boiling up on his forehead, "will give a pretty good impression of one of the sore spots of America."

"If this venom spreads throughout the country, God help us all. This is the most disgusting thing I have ever seen in my life."

Would he appeal, someone shouted.

"Appeal?" Belli cried. "Appeal? Today!"

He was asked if he considered that Ruby was railroaded.

"Railroaded — yes railroaded," Belli responded, so emotionally worked up that he seemed unable to form a complete sentence. "This is a kangaroo railroad. I hope the people of Dallas are proud."



—AP WIREPHOTO.
MELVIN BELLI (right), chief defense attorney for Jack Ruby, and his assistant, Joe Tonahill, stand by jail bars in the Criminal Courts building in Dallas, Tex., Saturday as they were interviewed after Ruby was found guilty. Belli protested the verdict and declared that a new trial would be sought.



JACK RUBY
Sentenced to electric chair.