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Ruby Is Headlined in Europe

Some Say Doubt Cast on Texas Justice

LONDON (AP) — Europe's Sunday newspapers headlined the death sentence for Jack Ruby, with some saying it cast doubt on Texas justice.

In Stockholm, the Social Democratic Stockholm-Tidningen regarded as a government mouthpiece, said editorially that the trial was a macabre affair. "The defense will appeal the death sentence and the case is not yet closed. Meanwhile, the speculations about Lee Harvey

Oswald's guilt have been intensified. Against the background of the half-truths, the shuffled facts and the plain lies of the Dallas police, more and stronger doubt has arisen about the assumption that Oswald killed President Kennedy or at least that he was a lonely hunter," the paper said.

TRUTH LOST

Jack Ruby's shot in Dallas has perhaps forever prevented the world from learning the real truth.

"But if he is executed it will by no means add new light to the affair — regardless of the fact that capital punishment is principally condemnable in a country that claims to be civilized.

The way in which the Ruby trial has been carried out has by no means created confidence in American justice on the state level.

"New federal investigations are necessary if we ever shall learn the whole truth about Jack Ruby's motives. That clarity wasn't brought about by the Dallas trial."

'PATRIOTIC DEED'

Sweden's biggest morning newspaper, the Liberal Dagens Nyheter, however, declared editorially that the death sentence in the Ruby trial "shows that the Dallas jury succeeded in resisting the local opinion that the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald was a patriotic deed or at least something that shouldn't be punished."

"The sentence will surely be appealed and there are several reasons to believe that new facts can be brought into daylight during the future dealing with the case," the paper said. "Every death sentence is, of course, condemnable. But what we today regard as most obvious is that Jack Ruby has not been treated as a hero but as a criminal."

VIVID IN BRITAIN

Ruby's conviction and sentence were reported with vivid headlines and pictures in the British mass circulation Sunday press.

Every London paper carried the story prominently on its front page. Sample headlines:

—"Ruby to Die — Lawyer Rages at the Jury" — Sunday Express.

—"The Chair for Ruby" — News of the World.

—"Ruby to Die — Then Hell Breaks Loose" — The People.

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

Section One
Page Six

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Dallas Citizens Disagree on Ruby Death Sentence

Lawyers Express Fears for His Life

By ARTHUR EVERETT
DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—Citizens of Dallas, deeply disturbed by a cycle of historic violence in their city, disagreed Sunday over Jack Ruby's condemnation to death. His lawyers, meanwhile, expressed fears for his life.

Chief defense counsel Melvin M. Belli said: "Ruby is worried, and so am I, that they may slip someone into his cell—another prisoner—with a shiv (knife) in order to prevent our appeal. Then they would make it appear as a suicide and this vicious city would have him off their hands."

PRECAUTIONS-ASKED
Belli said he is asking Sheriff Bill Decker to take every precaution. The lawyer added that he has the utmost confidence in the sheriff, who maintained a tight guard with 21 deputies at the courthouse where Ruby, 32, was tried.

Saturday, after a 23-day trial, a jury of four women and eight men took two hours and 19 minutes to convict Ruby of the Nov. 24 slay of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

The jury speedily rejected the insanity plea of the defendant, operator of a Dallas strip tease joint. Instead, the panel held that he "did then and there with malice aforethought kill Lee Harvey Oswald, by shooting him with a gun."

The jury assessed the maximum penalty of death in the electric chair.

Under Texas law, the jury gets the penalty, which could have been as little as a two-year suspended sentence.

"FAIR AND IMPARTIAL"

Dist. Atty. Henry M. Wade, 50, a prosecutor who has obtained 25 death sentences in 14 years in office, and lost only one capital case, declared: "I think it was a fair and impartial verdict. I think the facts and circumstances warranted it."

There were those who agreed with him.

Attorney Robert Meskan, not connected with the case, said for example: "I agree with the verdict. The death penalty was justified in his case, and the jury's quick decision was no surprise. I wouldn't be surprised if some of them did have their minds fixed when they went in to deliberate."

Said E. L. Trout: "It was a fair trial."

Another man - on - the - street, L. D. Ennes, declared: "I think if it had gone any other way, it would have been a disgrace to our laws."

"VICTORY FOR BIGOTRY"

There were those, however, who sided with Belli. Beside himself with rage at the verdict, the normally suave San Francisco lawyer roared in court: "This is a victory for bigotry. Don't worry Jack, we'll appeal this and take it out of Texas."

Belli, 56, was equally vehement Sunday in asserting, "This city stinks."

Agreeing with him in random interviews was Sandra Roden, who said: "Surprised at the verdict? I was amazed. It was unreal. I think Ruby is a sick man. Dallas is prejudiced, but no one wants to admit it."

Rabbi Hillel Silverman, spiritual adviser to Ruby who testified at the trial that he thought the defendant was legally insane, declared: "I was really startled. And I'm floored that a jury could reach a decision in

such a speedy fashion. I had hoped that even if the jury did not find him insane, at the very least they would have come to the conclusion that this was not premeditated murder, and that consequently the verdict would have been something less than the death penalty."

And an unidentified man in a Dallas bar said: "I don't think he should have gotten the chair. I think he should have got off."

RUBY TRIAL JURY SAID COMPATIBLE

Many Common Interests Noted in Group

DALLAS (AP) — The jurors who took two hours and 19 minutes to convict Jack Ruby of murder were "an extremely compatible group," according to one juror, Mrs. Mildred McCollum.

The brunette mother of six said the men, in particular, discovered many common interests. Four were pilots and two others worked with airplanes.

Jurors pooled resources to make their jail quarters more livable during the lengthy trial.

One contributed a hi-fi record player and others added records "from classical to Ray Charles," Mrs. McCollum said.

In a separate lounge, a television set brought in the drama and variety shows and sometimes ran as late as 2 a.m. for late movies. Bailiffs switched off the set before newscasts. The only bulletin to reach the jurors concerned a tornado alert not the Ruby trial.

Solitaire, monopoly, and other card games took up some of the idle time. The twelve also could read books or censored newspapers.

Only after being dismissed did they learn about the sensational jail break last week, just a wall away from their jury box.

Jurors ate noonday meals near the courthouse but at night and on weekends they sometimes voted to splurge and drive to a steak house.