

NO CROSS-EXAMINATION

Press Conference Of Ruby Protested

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said Thursday he has protested to Judge Joe B. Brown over the courtroom press conferences of Jack Ruby.

"I think they are highly improper," Wade said. "Ruby can say anything he pleases and it goes out on the radio and television and is printed in the newspapers.

"Prospective jurors hear it and read it. His statements amount to unsworn testimony. And we don't have a chance to cross-examine him."

Wade noted Ruby talked with reporters and answered their questions at a time when his lawyers were complaining that "publicity" would prejudice potential jurors.

"I was hoping the judge would stop them (the press conferences)," Wade said.

A defense lawyer, Joe Tonahill, said he saw "nothing at all wrong" in Ruby's actions.

"He's still a citizen—he hasn't been convicted of any crime—and he still has the constitutional rights of free speech," Tonahill commented.

Although testimony ended in the hearing to determine whether Ruby should stand trial here, lawyers continued to exchange verbal jabs.

Wade said he believed defense lawyers requested the hearing "more to get publicity for themselves and their client than on the merits of the proposition." He said they subpoenaed more than

150 witnesses as "a publicity deal."

Referring to wrangling among lawyers, Wade said it was "a disgrace to the bar."

Tonahill retorted, "It darn sure was—I can agree with Henry on that—but one of his own men, Bill Alexander, was responsible. He's the one to blame."

Alexander termed Tonahill's comment "too ridiculous to warrant a reply."

Wade and Tonahill did agree they hoped for more decorum during the trial itself. Judge Brown, who warned lawyers about their conduct throughout the hearing, said he would demand decorum if he presides at the trial.

★ RUBY SAYS HE LOVES DALLAS

Jack Ruby fought back tears Thursday when reporters asked whether he thought he had "brought shame on Dallas" by shooting Lee Harvey Oswald while millions watched on television.

His face contorted, Ruby appeared on the verge of sobbing.

Then, in a choked voice, he replied, "I love this city."

Former Mayor Earle Cabell and other witnesses testified earlier this week that Ruby brought shame on the city by killing Oswald after Oswald had been accused of assassinating President John Kennedy.

The 32-year-old slayer said he likes Dallas "because there is so much culture here — so much civic-mindedness."