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Ruby Jurors Can Prepare for Long Stay

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Want a month away from the wife and kids?

You may get it if you're chosen for jury duty in the Jack Ruby murder case.

Attorneys estimate they will need from three to five weeks to try Ruby on a charge of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the Marxist sniper accused of assassinating President Kennedy here.

As each juror is accepted, he will be "locked up" with other members of the jury. He won't get a chance to go home or visit friends until the trial ends.

IF HE GETS to read a newspaper, he'll find numerous stories scissored out. Since he is not allowed to read about the trial, bailiffs must "censor" papers given jurors and clip out stories written by reporters in the courtroom.

The judge can bar radios and television sets from their quarters to keep jurors from hearing newscasts which might influence their deliberations.

Attorneys will refer to veniremen, peremptory challenges, conscientious scruples and the court's charge repeatedly during the tedious task of choosing the jury.

They use these words daily. But they may confuse the 800 men and women called for jury duty.

These men and women are veniremen. The word refers to prospective jurors.

When a lawyer uses a per-

emptory challenge, he says, in effect, "Judge, we don't want this man on the jury."

THE LAWYER need not give any reason. It may be that he didn't like something about the venireman's background or the way he shifted his eyes around the courtroom during questioning.

Each side is limited, however, in the number of peremptory challenges it may use during a trial.

The prosecution and defense are allowed 15 each in a capital case.

Lawyers place a high value on these challenges. Their use may determine the outcome of a trial.

An attorney asks himself, "Should I reject this man? He's not the type of juror I would prefer. But, if I use up my challenges too soon, I may be forced to accept veniremen I really don't want on the jury."

There is another type of challenge—the challenge for cause.

A prosecution or defense lawyer may challenge a venireman on grounds he would not make a fair juror because of opinions he cannot set aside.

IF THE JUDGE agrees, he disqualifies the venireman.

There is no limit on these challenges. They may involve the venireman's views on various aspects of the case.

Obviously, a venireman would be disqualified if he testified he had a strong opinion about

Ruby's guilt and could not cast it aside.

A venireman would disqualify himself also if he said he could not give Ruby a fair trial because the 52-year-old slayer had managed a striptease club.

Attorneys could challenge a venireman if he said he would not give "fair consideration" to a defense request for a suspended sentence.

This does not mean he must promise to suspend the sentence if he convicts Ruby, but merely that he would consider suspending the sentence if it is five years or less.

Lawyers will talk about conscientious scruples when they question veniremen about their views on the death penalty.

A VENIREMAN has conscientious scruples against the death penalty—and is subject to disqualification—if he says he could not assess it in any case because of his moral or religious views.

A judge may rule that a venireman is not disqualified on this point if the potential juror says he can imagine a case so horrible that he could assess the death penalty.

Each juror will be told he

must agree to follow the court's charge. This is a legal term which means instructions from the judge.

The jurist will outline the various verdicts which the jury could return. He will tell jurors they must find Ruby innocent unless prosecutors prove him guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." On the other hand, he will say, the burden is on defense lawyers to prove Ruby was temporarily insane.

Unusual situations may arise as lawyers play a cat-and-mouse game while choosing the jury which could send Ruby to the electric chair or set him free.

For example, defense lawyers may try to show that a venireman has conscientious scruples against the death penalty and, as a result, is disqualified. They could use this strategy if they opposed the venireman and wanted to disqualify him instead of spending a valuable peremptory challenge.

IF ATTEMPTS to get a jury here fail, Judge Joe B. Brown will transfer the case to another county. Dist. Atty. Henry Wade and his assistants would team with prosecutors there in trying to convict Ruby.

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If usual procedures were followed, the judge of the new court would preside.

Veniremen will wait in the central jury room and a district courtroom after they report Monday. The central jury room alone isn't large enough for the record number summoned to the courthouse.

The panel also will provide jurors for other courts.

Unless chosen on a jury in a felony case, veniremen can return home each night.

Judge Brown will request 125 veniremen Monday morning. They will wait in another courtroom and enter his court individually for questioning.

Defense lawyers say some veniremen may spend an entire day on the stand answering questions over a wide range of subjects.

"THE U.S. SUPREME Court says we have a right to ask any question short of disgrace and infamy," defense attorney Joe Tonahill said. "We don't intend to insult any veniremen, but we

do intend to learn ~~their true~~ feelings, regardless of the time it takes."

Wade said one question will stand out over all others:

"Could you, as a juror, lay aside anything you may have seen or heard and decide this case strictly on the evidence you hear from the witness stand and the charge given you by the court?"

If attorneys fail to select a jury from the 125 veniremen, Judge Brown could summon another group from the central jury room.

JURORS WILL HAVE the satisfaction of performing a civic duty.

They will get "rown and board" and \$5 for each day they serve.

Jurors will spend their night in quarters in the same building which houses the courtroom—and Ruby's cell. They'll eat together in a cafe near the courthouse.

They'll earn every cent of their pay.