

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

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TRIAL OPENS WITH QUESTIONING OF JURORS

# Ruby Lawyer Charges Phone Bugging

DALLAS, Feb. 17 (UPI)—Defense lawyer Melvin Belli chose the opening of the Jack Ruby murder trial today to allege that his hotel room and telephones have been "bugged" by somebody or other.

"My phone has been bugged, room has been bugged," he said. "that's the reason we've been working away from here."

The statement was made at the end of an interview in Mr. Belli's hotel.

He and his assistants have been working elsewhere preparing for the questioning of prospective jurors in a town whose image—he says—"is that is has to vindicate itself."

### QUESTION

After his brief utterance about the "bugging"—a word that could denote wire taps on phone lines and microphones hidden in rooms—a reporter asked if he had positive proof.

Mr. Belli turned to his chief assistant, Joe H. Tonahill, a big, bluff, skilled courtroom attorney from Jasper, Tex., and said:

"Joe?"

Joe said that they had pretty good proof.

"Whos's doing it?"

There was no reply from Messrs. Belli, Tonahill, nor Phillip-Burleson, another associate defense attorney.

That was the end of the discussion about bugging.

Mr. Belli—a man so skilled in the medical nuances of the law

### KNEW TACK

THAT HIS CRONIES CALL HIM "Doc"—today was on a new tack: trying, by actually quizzing prospective jurors, to convince a down-to-earth judge that Dallas is sick with a fever of subconscious guilt.

It's a fever that permeates the citizenry so thoroly, he contends, that they rendered unfit to sit in judgment on the killer of the man accused of killing John F. Kennedy.

That is the announced intention of the chief defense counsel for Ruby, as the long-awaited murder trial came up to opening today with the defendant increasingly edgy.

JACK L. RUBY  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD - VICTIM  
CR

BUFILE: 44-24016

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- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News p. 7
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
- Date FEB 17 1964

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