

RUBY CASE

Picture Yourself Called for Jury

By LEWIS HARRIS

Think of yourself as one of the 800 prospective jurors in the Jack Ruby case.

You may be a baker, a barber, a housewife, a banker or any other day-by-day person.

But now you are suddenly a minute particle of history in the making.

You seat yourself in the witness stand—directly under an unfurled Texas flag — before a packed courtroom.

Most of the 250 spectators are reporters, poised to record your every word, every reaction.

To your right sits the defendant, dark, brooding Jack Ruby, self-appointed executioner of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John Kennedy.

Clustered around Ruby are his attorneys. Chief of these is silver-thatched Melvin Belli, a man who uses words like a scalpel.

Belli is determined to cut away at anything he feels will keep him from gaining his client's freedom.

To the left sits somber, benignant-looking Dist. Atty. Henry Wade, who is just as determined to put Ruby in the electric chair.

Did you see the Oswald shooting on television? Have you formed an opinion about the case? Have you discussed the case?

In fact, didn't you tell "John Jones" that you thought Ruby had disgraced Dallas, and that the electric chair was too good for him?

So the questions will go. Belli and his staff have done everything possible to find out as much as they can about each prospective juror.

The old-fashioned ceiling fans are revolving at full speed. But it still seems hot and stuffy.

Then it's the state's turn. Can you lay aside any opinions you may have and reach a verdict strictly on the evidence? Is there any reason why you couldn't assess the death penalty?

On and on it may go. Belli has indicated that he may take as much as a full day to examine a single potential juror.

Fifteen women, eligible to be excused under a ruling that women with children under 18 do not have to serve on juries, gladly took the out Monday morning.

The first three veniremen to be called Tuesday in order, will be Hilliard Stone of Irving, Mrs.

C. C. Cherry and J. E. Emerson, both of Dallas.

All they needed for this chance at a \$5-a-day change in routine was to have their names on some

convenient list, such as the county's poll tax register or other taxpayer rolls.

The names were picked at random two weeks ago from the jury