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 Mr. Casper _____
 Mr. Callahan _____
 Mr. Conrad _____
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 Miss Holmes _____
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Judge Denies Defense Plea For Acquittal

Jury Selection to Begin In Murder Trial of Ruby

By CARL FREUND

The Jack Ruby murder trial opened here Monday, but attorneys ended the day where they started—still needing 12 jurors.

Judge Joe B. Brown spent the morning session rejecting defense pleas and listening to excuses of potential jurors. He decided against an afternoon session and joined other courts in closing as a tribute to Robert L. Thornton Sr., former Dallas mayor who died Saturday.

As a result, lawyers have yet to question their first prospective jurors.

That will come Tuesday morning.

Judge Brown told reporters he was pleased with progress made Monday "in disposing of the preliminaries."

THE JUDGE commented: "We've got the preliminaries out of the way. Now we can get down to the serious business of selecting the jury."

The jury must decide whether

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

1 "The Dallas
 Morning News"
 Dallas, Texas

Date: 2-18-64

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Jack B. Krueger

Title:

Character:

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Being Investigated

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Ruby committed murder when he shot Lee Harvey Oswald in the City Hall basement Nov. 24. —Officers jailed a 38-year-old Oregon man who carried a 22-

Oswald died only two days after his arrest as the prime suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy. —district attorney's office and "talked incoherently" there about the Kennedy assassination and the Oswald slaying.

DIST. ATTY. Henry Wade contends Ruby pulled the trigger in the mistaken belief he would win "fame and fortune" by killing Oswald. As a result, Wade says, Ruby should die in the electric chair. —Defense attorney Tom Howard of Dallas received permission to withdraw from the case, but refused to comment on reports that dissension within defense ranks led to his decision. Howard would say only that he "remains on friendly terms" with the Ruby family and defense lawyers.

Defense lawyers say Ruby suffered from a mental illness which caused him to "act like a robot" without realizing what he was doing. They say he should stay in a mental hospital until cured of his illness. —A DEFENSE lawyer, Joe Tonahill of Jasper, said Dr. Martin Towler of John Sealy Hospital in Galveston believes Ruby "suffers from organic brain damage and psychomotor epilepsy and is therefore innocent." Assistant Dist. Atty. William F. Alexander termed Dr. Towler "a psychiatrist employed by defense lawyers."

In fact, they told Judge Brown as the trial opened Monday, he should rule Ruby insane and throw out the murder case. —Melvin Belli, the chief defense lawyer, told reporters that "our rooms have been bugged, our briefcases gone through and our telephones tapped." Wade termed this statement "another attempt by Belli to get publicity."

First Assistant Dist. Atty. A. D. Jim Bowie jumped to his feet with an objection. —"Judge, there is no procedure for this," Bowie said.

JUDGE BROWN agreed and said the question of Ruby's sanity is a matter for the jurors to decide.