

## Newsman's Mirth Not Easy in Mob

"Could a newsmen get a fair trial in Dallas?" cracked the deputy sheriff.

Those newsmen whose noses and mouths were exposed to air laughed.

But it wasn't exactly a riotous thing, because it's difficult to laugh with an elbow in your ribs and a television camera in your ear.

The deputy's remark came during one of the lulls outside the courtroom where attorneys are seeking a jury to try Jack Ruby.

There may be 150 or so newsmen inside the courtroom at all times but there's an equal number outside, too—all wedged into a hallway space in front of the courtroom that could uncomfortably accommodate 50 or 60 people.

### SPECTATORS TOO

The crowd is added to by the 50 to 75 spectators who come down to see the action. There has been room in the courtroom to handle most of them, but many just stay outside and watch the show.

Most of newsmen outside have still news cameras or microphones or huge television sound rigs in their hands.

They stand poised—if that's the word — to react every time the courtroom door opens.

The bright television lights come on when Ruby is brought in and out of the courtroom or when Judge Joe B. Brown makes his entrances and exits.

The defense entourage headed by Melvin Belli and Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's team also bring the lights on and the cameras clicking.

### CLEAR PICTURES FEW

The irony of the mob scene is that few if any of the crushers get clear pictures of anything or intelligible words on their recorders.

"All I got was a mob," lamented one photographer.

"I'm sure I picked up only a lot of people yelling questions — but no answers," complained a radio man.

But the news business is a competitive enterprise and as long as one man maintains a post outside the door the others are sure to follow.

Even if they do end up just taking pictures of and talking to each other.