

Tonahill Shouts in Anger As DA Questions Venireman

Defense attorney J. H. Tonahill, the 245-pound Tonahill, "then of Jasper appeared almost violent. Heaven help this court and this Wednesday as Dist. Atty. Henry Wade questioned potential juror Charles S. Toon, a Mesquite postman. Toon admitted that he had formed opinions about the innocence or guilt of Jack Ruby, charged with killing Lee Harvey Oswald last Nov. 24 in the City Hall basement. Toon told Wade he could lay aside these opinions and be an impartial juror, if chosen. "If he isn't disqualified," retorted

the 245-pound Tonahill, "then Heaven help this court and this nation if we have to live under these conditions." "I didn't make the laws," Wade snapped. "No," bellowed Tonahill, "but he wants to exercise the laws of Communist Russia in this court. If we have to live under these standards, then the district attorney doesn't deserve to live as an American." The jury candidate was excused a few moments later by Judge Joe B. Brown.

★ HELLI WARY OF WEEPERS

Melvin Belli, chief counsel for Jack Ruby, explained Wednesday that he has a right to be suspicious of jurors.

He recalled one of his early criminal cases. "There was this woman juror who wept during the whole trial." Belli thought she was a cinch for the defendant he represented.

The jury voted 11 to 1 for acquittal. The single vote hung the jury and Belli found out later that the weeping woman had cast that single frustrating vote. "Why?"

"Well, she said, 'I could see you were just out of law school. And I have a son who's just out of law school. You reminded me of him, and I felt sorry for you.'"