

EAVESDROPPING CHARGED

Ruby Defense Likens Watch to Nuremberg

Defense lawyers complained Thursday that security arrangements for the Jack Ruby murder trial were tighter than those in Nuremberg, Germany, during the Nazi "war crimes" trials there.

They claimed also that Sheriff Bill Decker's deputies were eavesdropping on strategy conferences at the defense table.

Melvin Belli of San Francisco, the chief defense lawyer, jumped to his feet during questioning of L. E. McBride, a prospective juror.

With a dramatic sweep of one arm, Belli cried out:

"We're surrounded by police officers. I've seen trials at Nuremberg where there were less officers around."

Reporters asked Belli later whether he had attended the Nuremberg trials.

The attorney conceded he had not attended the Nuremberg trials in 1945. He said, however, that he had been in Nuremberg later and had seen photographs of security measures taken during the trials of top-ranking Nazis.

Complaining about the lack of privacy, Belli noted that three deputies sat near Ruby at the defense table. The lawyer said defense attorneys couldn't confer without the deputies hearing their remarks.

"All he has to do is talk a little lower," suggested First Assistant Dist. Atty. A. D. Jim Bowie. "I think you call it sub rosa."

This brought Joe Tonahill, Belli's chief assistant, to his feet. Tonahill said he didn't like Bowie's observation.

Judge Joe B. Brown, who was obviously irritated, snapped, "Oh, sit down, Mr. Tonahill, and get on with your questioning."

Belli insisted that the defense table be moved nearer the bench so there would be more space between Ruby's lawyers and the deputies who guard him.

"Well, go ahead," Judge Brown said wearily.

Ruby, who had ~~donned~~ worn rimmed glasses to read news-

paper clippings, shoved his chair forward as his lawyers pushed their table nearer the bench.

Decker said the deputies were in the courtroom to guard against disturbances—not to eavesdrop.

The officers appeared to take little interest in the proceedings.

They spent most of their time watching the courtroom crowd for any sign of a suspicious movement. Their backs were to defense lawyers.

Decker indicated the guard would continue — unless Judge Brown orders him to drop it. From the attitude taken by the judge, who seemed unimpressed by the defense complaints, it appeared unlikely he would instruct Decker to abandon the guard.

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