

Notion of Dallas' Guilt Debunked by Attorney

By JOE THORNTON
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IRVING, Texas — The notion that the City of Dallas is to blame for the assassination of President Kennedy was debunked here Thursday night by a Dallas attorney.

"The question of whether Jack Ruby is guilty or not has been substituted by the question of the collective guilt of Dallas," David Witts told the Plymouth Park School Parent - Teachers Association.

"But guilt is always and only personal," he noted. "Guilt can never be collective."

Jack Ruby is the man accused of shooting to death Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged Marxist assassin of the President.

"Almost as shocking as the tragedy itself (the president's assassination) is the use made by ignorance or plan of different sources to turn the murderous act of a Communist into a violent complaint against Dallas and Texas," he said.

The sources, Witts said, were national magazines, propagandists, high governmental officials and "the man in the street."

"Those who would indict a whole nation with collective guilt have themselves yielded to the hysteria they would charge to others, and in so doing, show their own country is part their understanding," Witts charged.

It need be no disgrace to Dallas, the attorney said, "that President Kennedy was killed here by a confessed Communist. It could just as easily have happened in San Antonio, Or New York, Or Washington."

The time has come, however, he said, "that each individual citizen must rise to the defense of his city, state and country," he said.

"It is time," he continued "to stop and ask what is wrong with those who spread deliberate falsehoods or hurl vicious innuendoes.

"It is time that we rise up against this perversion of truth — this damning of our innocence.

"For if we do not, then it will have become very late in the night of history and very late in the life of Dallas. And of America."

★ WOMAN HAS FORESIGHT

A Cincinnati housewife Thursday offered a solution to one of the legal wrangles in the Jack Ruby trial.

"What's wrong with all those lawyers? Why don't they use their heads?" asked Mrs. Philip Steiner in a telephone call to The News.

"If they want a jury that has not seen the Oswald shooting on television, why not pick a jury of 12 blind men?"