

Ruby Tense During Jury Selections

Jack Ruby, on trial for killing Lee Harvey Oswald before a nationwide television audience Nov. 24, has appeared tense and somber during the first week of jury selection.

Only occasionally has the straight-faced facade been disturbed, and then only momentarily.

Only one brief smile appeared on his face Saturday. It came during the questioning of prospective juror Marion C. David.

Defense attorney Joe Tonahill, delving into David's legal knowledge, quipped: "You seem to know more law than I did when I went to law school."

"I don't know anything about it," retorted David, bringing laughter from spectators and reporters and a brief smile to Ruby's face.

Then he returned to his routine of clasping his hands in front of him, conferring with his attorneys, and leaning forward,

straining to hear a juror's answer to a question.

But he did not read sections of law books which are piled on the table in front of him as he had done earlier in the week.

Several times during heated arguments between attorneys, Ruby vigorously chewed, faster and faster as legal points were debated.

His eyes would dart from the juror being questioned to attorneys for both sides to Judge Brown.

Asked about Ruby's physical and mental condition after Saturday morning's court session, Melvin Belli, chief defense counsel replied: "He's becoming more tense as the days go by, but generally he's holding up well."

Faced with the prospect of still another long weekend in the county jail, Ruby has asked permission to watch television, Belli said.

"He particularly wants TV tonight (Saturday night) so he can watch the Saturday night fights," Belli reported.

"But I don't know whether this can be arranged or not."