

FEWER REPORTERS ON HAND

More Spectators Show Up For Ruby Jury Selection

By DON MILLSAP

Interest in jury selection for the murder trial of Jack Ruby apparently is on the increase, judging from the number of people in attendance in Judge Joe B. Brown's Criminal District Court Saturday.

But after a week of questioning prospective jurors — with only two qualified and accepted by both the defense and the district attorney's office—reporters covering the trial are becoming fewer.

"We've only had one day that every seat allocated to reporters was filled," said Sheriff Bill

Decker. "That was Monday, the first day. Since then there have been more and more vacant seats as the week went by."

More than 350 reporters and photographers from over the world converged on the city as the trial opened, each clamoring for space in the courtroom which seats slightly less than 200.

More than half of the seats—125 of them—were given reporters and artists, with the remaining seats allocated for spectators.

As more and more seats in the press section (the first rows of seats) remained unoccupied,

sheriff's deputies began allowing more of the waiting crowd in to watch as attorneys questioned prospective jurors. Those accepted will judge Ruby, charged with slaying accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Saturday morning, the number of reporters dwindled to about 65.

But with more persons off work on the weekend, an estimated 85 to 90 spectators were granted admittance.

The first of these arrived at the County Criminal Courts Building at 6 a.m. to stand waiting outside the door of the second floor courtroom. By 7 a.m. the line of curious citizens extended down the stairs almost to the outside door of the building.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade termed the crowd one of the largest he has ever seen fill a courtroom during jury selection.

"About the only time you get a crowd of spectators that big is during the last couple of days of jury selection on a highly publicized trial — when only one or two jurors remain to fill the panel," he said.

LIST SHOWS DISPOSITION OF RUBY JURY PROSPECTS

Here is the disposition of prospective jurors in the Jack Ruby murder trial through the 48th questioned at the end of court Saturday:

Accepted	2
Defense challenged	7
State challenged	2
Against death penalty	20
Hold opinions in case	15
Against suspended sentence	1
Illness	1

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