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Mother of 6 Is No. 3 On Jack Ruby's Jury

By THEO WILSON

Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Dallas, Feb. 24—A suburban mother of six children, who works as a secretary in Dallas, was sworn as Jack Ruby's third juror today. She joined his two male jurors in almost complete isolation.

Until Ruby's first-degree murder trial for the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald ends—and this has been estimated at from 30 to 45 days—Mrs. Mildred McCollum will not see or speak to her four sons, her two daughters, her machinist husband or her boss, a building contractor.

The 40-year-old, slender brunette wears no makeup but is pert and attractive. She was the 49th prospective juror questioned since the jury selection started last Tuesday morning.

Defense attorneys Melvin Belli and Joe Tonahill, trying to save the 52-year-old defendant from the electric chair for the shooting of President Kennedy's accused assassin, plan to plead temporary insanity for Ruby. They established that Mrs. McCollum would accept such a plea as more than a "sham."

Defense Keeps Hammering

Every day since the trial opened the defense has been asking Judge Joe E. Brown for a change of venue, charging that the former strip joint operator cannot get 12 impartial jurors here.

They also have been trying since last week to subpoena as defense witnesses prospective and sworn jurors who saw the Nov. 24 Oswald murder on TV.

Today they asked the Texas Supreme Court in Austin to order Judge Brown to let them issue the subpoenas—one for a sworn juror, Max E. Causey, and one for an excused juror, H. C. Connally. In both cases the judge had quashed the subpoenas on Mo-

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tions by District Attorney Attorney Henry Wade and his aid, Jim Bowie.

Within a few hours after the nine justices received the defense request, they voted unanimously not to consider it.

If it had been accepted, it could have made it almost impossible to get a jury here or anywhere in Texas, since witnesses to a

murder can be disqualified as jurors.

Wade called the defense maneuver "another frivolous motion to delay getting a jury here." He said that at the rate the selections are going, "we may not get a jury until the latter part of next week."

Mrs. McCollum was sworn as a juror at 11:15 P.M. and was taken immediately by a woman bailiff to join the two men jurors in the jury deliberation room behind the judge's bench.

Could Have Asked Exemption

Like Causey, she is from the Dallas suburb of Garland. She belongs to the Assembly of God Church.

Although she could have exempted herself because she has children 14 years old and younger, Mrs. McCollum did not do so.

Both the prosecution and defense found her acceptable after only 25 minutes of questioning—the fastest examination of an accepted juror so far.

Mrs. McCollum said her six children range in age from 10 to 20. The oldest is a son attending Texas A. and M. University. She told Wade that she saw part of the TV rerun of the Oswald shooting, that she had read very little about the case, that she believed in capital punishment, and that she had formed no opinions on the case.

Denies Prejudice

She told Tonahill she could accept insanity as a defense and would not convict a defendant if it were proved he was insane at the time of the act.

Asked by Tonahill if she had any prejudice toward Ruby because he used to run a strip joint here, she said: "What he does is his own business." Asked if she felt Dallas was "as much on trial as Jack Ruby," Mrs. McCollum said, in her clear, rather sharp voice:

"No, the people I have spoken with think Dallas is the same city it always was."

Mrs. McCollum's husband, Drexel, told reporters his wife's jury service would not cause the family any trouble.

"Our 10-year-old daughter, Patricia, can do the cooking," he said.

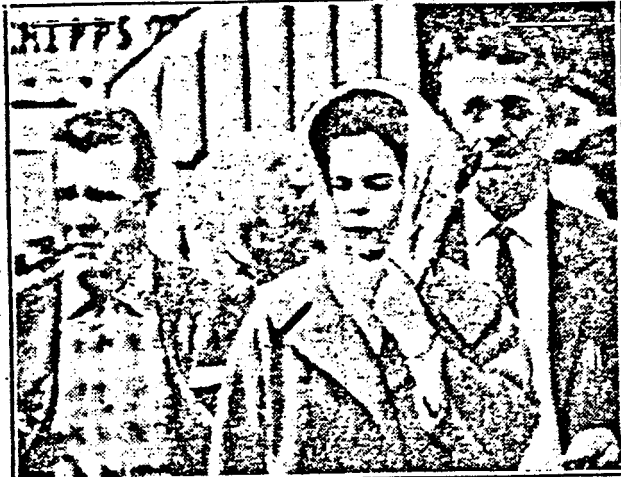
A bailiff went to the McCollum home to get clothing for the new juror.

In the morning session four other jurors were excused, a woman because of scruples against the death penalty and two men because they had fixed opinions.

The defense used its eighth peremptory challenge during the afternoon session to rid itself of a retail grocer it believed was overeager to get on the jury and who apparently was not of the "sophisticated" type Belli has said he wants for the trial.



(By Associated Press)
Sketch by artist Woodi Ishmael catches Mrs. Mildred McCollum, third Ruby trial juror, as she is questioned by Judge Joe B. Brown.



(Associated Press Wirefoto)
Ruby jurors return to court after lunch. They're (l. to r.) Max E. Causey, Mrs. Mildred McCollum and Allen McCoy.