



—Dallas News Staff Photo by Bill Wisfrey.

Joe Tonahill, Henry Wade and Melvin Belli, from left, enjoy a bit of humor in a meeting prior to Saturday's session.

Shortly afterward, the smiles between the Jack Ruby trial lawyers turned to leers.

STRESS DISCUSSED

Freak Gridiron Plays Injected During Trial

A defense lawyer and a prospective juror talked about football during the Jack Ruby murder trial.

J. Waymon Rose, a furniture salesman who became the 10th juror, injected football into the trial while defense lawyer Melvin Belli questioned him about his qualifications.

Belli, who contends Ruby's mind snapped before he shot Lee Harvey Oswald, wanted to know if Rose thought a man could "lose control of himself completely" while under stress.

"Well, I remember a football game in which a tackle came off the bench and tackled the man from the opposing team who was carrying the ball, Rose replied.

This was the famous play in the 1954 Cotton Bowl game between Alabama and Rice. Tommy Lewis, Alabama cocaptain, ran from the bench and tackled Dickie Maegle after the Rice all-America halfback broke into the clear. The referee awarded Rice a touchdown.

Belli, who lives in San Francisco, showed he also knows something about football.

"We had the case in the Rose Bowl when Roy Riegels ran the length of the field in the wrong direction," Belli told Rose. "That was another example of what stress can do."

Belli referred to the 1929 game in which Riegels, the California center, grabbed a loose ball and headed in the wrong direction. A teammate finally tackled the confused Riegels a foot short of the goal, but the freak play led to a victory which won the game for Georgia Tech.