

NEW WITNESS LIST

Wade Indicates Strategy Change

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade indicated Tuesday that prosecutors will change courtroom strategy for the Jack Ruby murder trial.

Wade's assistants said last week they planned to call Homicide Detective J. R. Leavelle as the first witness in their attempt to send Ruby to the electric chair. Leavelle was "the officer in the white hat" handcuffed to Lee Harvey Oswald when Ruby shot him.

Wade said Tuesday, however, that they may shuffle their witness list.

"We're not sure who will take the stand first," the district attorney said. "We'll have conferences into the night to decide the order in which we'll call witnesses."

Wade said also that prosecutors will suggest a motive which led Ruby to shoot Oswald two days after Oswald was accused of murdering President Kennedy and Officer J. D. Tippit.

Assistant Dist. Atty. William F. Alexander said during an earlier hearing that Ruby pulled the trigger "in the mistaken belief it would bring him fame and fortune."

When asked if prosecutors still believe this was the reason, Wade replied:

"I'm not going to comment on that. I'll let you hear our motive in the courtroom."

Wade said he "wouldn't be surprised" if Ruby fakes an emotional breakdown in the courtroom.

"You can take pills to produce such things," the district attorney added.

After Wade offers testimony that Ruby shot Oswald, the defense will get a chance to try to convince jurors that Ruby was temporarily insane. His lawyers say his condition has "deteriorated steadily" since officers ~~empowered~~ ^{disempowered} him after the slaying.

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HERE'S FINAL JURY COUNT

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said Tuesday that lawyers did not set a Dallas County record in choosing the jury for the Jack Ruby murder trial, even though they questioned 162 prospective jurors over a 2-week period.

"I've been in other cases in which we questioned larger numbers before completing the jury," Wade said. "Incidentally, the higher courts upheld convictions in those cases."

This is what happened to the 162:

Accepted	12
Challenged by defense.....	18
Challenged by prosecution..	11
Against death penalty....	67
Fixed opinions.....	58
Excused for illness.....	1

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