ON THE LINE:

ose Couch Will Fit Jury?

By BOB CONSIDINE

DALLAS: In the end it will all come down to which psychiatrist the jury believed.

That's how the Ruby case looks as it nears its most difficult phase. As one prospective (and rejected) juror said the other day,

"Everybody in the world knows Jack Ruby killed Lee Oswald." The case will turn on whether Ruby knew what he was doing when he pulled the trigger. He pulled it with his middle finger, the defense will point out, and try to make something of that oddity.



One set of headshrinkers, the state's, will say he was in full possession of his senses. The defense's professors will hold to their earlier diagnoses that he was battler than an abandoned belfry when the shot rang out. Each group will take great abuse under the respective cross-examinations. Some of the most distinguished figures in American psychiatry, psy-chology and psycho-analysis will hear themselves characterized as mail-order snake-oil purveyors.

Whose couch fits this jury best? Melvin Belli protested after the 12th and final juror was picked that you can hardly tell one of these persons from another. But, in the end, they may prove as distinct and different as

their fingerprints.

Somehow there doesn't appear to be much implied "togetherness" among three engineers, a lady secretary, a vice president of a small chemical company, an airplane mechanic, a tissue paper salesman, a bookkeeper, a mailman, a furniture salesman, a lady who has been with the local phone company for 37 years and a lady accountant with 30 years' experience with an oil company.

mpany. * * * NO FIGURES are available as to the cost of obtaining the jury in the Ruby case. The state spent about \$4,000 during the first two weeks and two days needed to fill the jury box. Most of it went into \$5 per head payment for waiting panelmen and \$5 per head for selected jurces, plus \$3 a day for their meals. A figure of about \$10,000 might cover the state's expenses for the period.

The defense is tight-lipped about what it is spending. The tone of its standard of living is set by Melvin Belli, a millionaire, who sees no reason why he should not live like one. His suite in the Statler Hilton has been on an open house basis for some weeks. including the period of bail bond and venue change hearings. It is expensive digs. The house he wants to rent for the duration of the trial belongs to Mickey Mantle. It will be more expensive than the hotel?

The brain croakers that the trial is bringing to Dallas don't come at bargain rates, even in the interests of psychomotor epilepsy. Belli did not build the Belli Building in San Francisco. nor Joe Tonahill the building that bears his name in Jasper, Texas, by retaining their A.A.U. cards.

A guess: The defense will spend five times as much as the state in this case.

THE MONEY that Ruby and his brother made out of the defendant's syndicated articles, which detailed his movements from the time of the assassination of JFK until after the shooting of Oswald, came in handy.

But the articles also may loom heavily over Ruby's head. Either he or his ghost writer displayed total recall in the course of creating the epic. He even remembered what he had ordered when, in a fit of deep grief, he splurged at a delicatessen counter. One would think it will make more difficult his defense—which is that he remembers everything except the split second of the trigger-pulling.

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