

Brown Begins Cracking Whip Upon Return to Ruby Trial

Dist. Judge Joe B. Brown returned to the Jack Ruby murder trial Wednesday after a 1-day absence and, following the example set by his substitute, started cracking the whip.

Judge Brown said he has been "rather tolerant" in conducting the trial. But, he said, he intends to maintain strict decorum throughout testimony and closing arguments.

The black-robed jurist cut short talkative defense lawyers when they attempted to make lengthy statements.

Speaking more brusquely than usual, Judge Brown told chief defense lawyer Melvin Belli, "We've gone into all that, counsel. Let's get on with the business at hand."

JUDGE J. FRANK WILSON

Tuesday after Judge Brown went to bed with "an awfully bad cold." Judge Wilson, a gruff-voiced former congressman, promptly told defense lawyers he didn't intend to put up with any temper tantrums or verbal outbursts.

Judge Brown returned to court Wednesday, telling reporters, "I feel pretty good today."

Out-of-state reporters, who had commented favorably on Judge Wilson's sternness, noticed a change in Judge Brown's attitude as soon as he resumed the bench.

Wasting no time, Judge Brown promptly rejected a batch of defense pleas.

Once and for all, he rejected a defense plea that he transfer the trial to another county.

Defense attorneys claimed they couldn't get a fair jury in Dallas County. But Dist. Atty. Henry Wade, who had commented earlier that "the proof was in the pudding," noted the jury box was filled with eight men and four women. Each had sworn he or she could give Ruby a fair trial.

THEN JUDGE BROWN rejected defense pleas that he:

—Disqualify the two women accepted as the final jurors Tuesday.

—Let Ruby's two sisters, Mrs. Eva Grant of Dallas and Mrs. Eileen Kamisky of Chicago, and a defense psychiatrist, Dr. Manfred Guttmacher of Baltimore, remain in the courtroom throughout the trial instead of waiting outside with other witnesses.

—Grant Ruby a separate sanity hearing.

—End the trial immediately because most courtroom seats had been reserved for the press. (Defense attorney Joe Tonahill argued unsuccessfully that this violated the constitutional guarantee of a public trial.)

Defense lawyers contended that Judge Brown should let Dr. Guttmacher stay in the courtroom so he could observe the 35-year-old Ruby and hear testimony about his actions.

Judge Brown said curtly, "No doctors will be excused (from the ruling requiring witnesses to wait outside)."

DEFENSE LAWYERS took the position they could insist upon a pretrial sanity hearing any time before Ruby entered a plea to the murder indictment against him. Judge Brown believed, apparently, that they waited too late before requesting it.

"Your request is overruled," Judge Brown said curtly.

The judge also had a word for reporters and spectators in the heavily guarded courtroom.

"There will be no talking, no gesturing, no rush for the door at any time, no demonstrations of any kind," he said. "I have been rather tolerant. But, with the jury completed and in the box, we're going to tighten up."