

ERROR

Witness Seized by Deputies

A defense witness in the Jack Ruby murder trial was arrested and detained by sheriff's deputies Tuesday morning when officers misunderstood his intentions as he tried to enter the crowded courtroom.

Leo Torti, who served as secretary of the corporation owning the Carousel Club which Ruby managed, was seized in the small anteroom outside the court.

Deputies said they did not know that he was a witness and that Torti had not told them who he was.

A multitude of reporters and photographers waiting in the corridor saw the exchange between Torti and deputies.

When special lights used for television and movie cameras were switched on, Torti refused to obey deputies' orders to leave the anteroom because he didn't want to "go before those cameras."

Torti told officers he was trying to get into the courtroom to tell defense attorney Phil Bursell that he was leaving the building to eat breakfast.

After deputies learned his story was correct, Torti was released to go to a nearby restaurant.