

Jury Gets Ruby Murder Case

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

State Asks For Death Penalty

American Justice
On Trial, Panel
Told by Prosecution

By Arthur Everett
DALLAS, March 14 (Saturday) (AP)—Jack Ruby's murder case went to a jury at 2:05 a.m. (EST) today after the state made an impassioned plea for the death penalty in the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The defense, on the other hand, asked that Ruby be turned free despite his slaying of the accused presidential assassin because he is a "very, very sick man."

Judge Joe B. Brown instructed the jury to select a foreman but to defer their deliberations until later today. The panel had been through a grueling five-hour night session, the first of the trial.

District Attorney Henry M. Wade ended the state's summation of the case by declaring:

"Jack Ruby was a glory seeker. He wanted to go down in history as a man who killed an accused assassin . . .

"The Communist world would be happy to know you can commit murder on a handcuffed man in police custody and walk out a free man."

Defense Appeal

By contrast, Chief Defense Attorney Melvin Belli told the jury:

"This poor, sick fellow . . . and sick he is. And you know in your hearts he is. This man should be turned out. You can't free him completely, he's had four months in jail.

"He is one of the afflicted, he is sick. Give him a just and fair verdict, compatible with modern science. That's what the world wants to see."

A standing-room-only crowd packed the courtroom for final summations during which defense attorney Joe Tonahill told the jury:

"A good government doesn't take the life of a man with a sick mind and never will."

Ruby, who shot Oswald to death Nov. 24, blinked his eyes rapidly as Assistant District Attorney William Alexander opened the state's summation by declaring:

"I'm not going to defend Oswald to you. I tell you this—American justice is on trial. American justice had Oswald in its possession. Oswald was entitled to the protection of

the law until the law chose not to protect him but to punish him. He was entitled to a fair trial."

Alexander then wheeled around and pointed a finger at Ruby and shouted:

"You denied him the very thing you demand the loudest. How horrible can an act be when you realize he shot a man who was in the hands of the law, who was in handcuffs. There is no justice in that."

In concluding his summation, Alexander demanded the death penalty for Ruby and thundered:

"This is a wanton killing. I tell you Jack Ruby misjudged public opinion. He thought he could kill Lee Oswald and become a hero. He thought he could make money out of it.

"He's nothing but a thrill killer, seeking notoriety. He has mocked American justice while the spotlight of the world was on us."

The final testimony of the trial came yesterday from Dr. Frederic Gibbs of Chicago. He concluded Ruby's innocent by reason of insanity defense

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- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
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- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date _____

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by testifying that the night operator suffers from psychomotor epilepsy. But Dr. Gibbs, an expert on epilepsy, could not say whether Ruby knew right from wrong at the time of the Oswald slaying.

The Chicago psychiatrist was the 35th witness called by the defense. The prosecution used 31 witnesses in the trial which began Feb. 17.

The trial was delayed for 10 hours yesterday by a prolonged argument over the Court's charge to the jury, which preceded the summations by both sides.

Testimony ended at mid-morning, but it was not until 9:05 p.m. (EST) that Judge Joe B. Brown began his 17-minute charge to a jury of eight men and four women.

Defense attorneys took full advantage of their right to

question Brown's interpretation of the law before he presented his finished charge to the jury. They filed 24 typewritten pages of objections to the charge as it originally was written.

Most of them were turned down by Brown.

Possible penalties under the state's charge of murder with malice range from acquittal or a minimum of a two-year suspended sentence to death in the electric chair. In Texas, the jury sets the penalty if it convicts the defendant.

"The reason I am allowing television (and radio) of the verdict," Brown said, "is because it does not interfere with any process of the court . . . it is merely making public the verdict of the jury at the time it is announced."