

TRIAL VIEWED AS FAIR

Most Agree

Verdict Just

Some Persons Feel Penalty Too Severe

By CARLOS CONDE

The man on Downtown Dallas streets agreed Saturday afternoon the guilty verdict against Jack Ruby was just. He got a fair trial, a majority concurred.

But many disagreed on the punishment he received.

Fred Faust of 3207 Crestview said, "I don't think he should have been released on the streets, but I have a feeling the decision came out wrong. (Defense Attorney Melvin) Belli has a point in saying the jury's verdict came in too soon."

"I agree with the verdict, but in my mind I am mixed up as to whether he should be executed. I realize our laws do not set aside any other way to compensate for the crime," said Mrs. Antone H. Freeman of 807 Waldrop Drive in Irving.

ROBERT MESKAN of 328 Galahad, an attorney said, "I agree with the verdict. There was no question that the man was not insane. He was seeking publicity.

"The death penalty was justified in this case, and the jury's quick decision was no surprise. They had probably put this case through their heads many times as the trial progressed. I wouldn't be surprised if some of them did not have their minds pretty well fixed when they went in to deliberate," Meskan said.

VINCI LaDUCA of Houston, here for the Texas Safety Association convention, said, "Ruby got what he deserved. The jury was right in imposing the death sentence. I feel he got a very fair trial here. He couldn't have done any better in Houston."

"Surprised at the verdict? I was amazed. It was unreal," said Mrs. Sandra Roden of 230 N. Stuart, Lancaster. "The way the district attorney put it, it was either life or death and that's a pretty big margin. I think Ruby is a sick man. Dallas is prejudiced, but no one wants to admit it."

DWAYNE COUCH of 2315 Beacon Hill said, "I think he got a fair verdict. This case is universal. It could have been the same anywhere. I don't believe in capital punishment. Perhaps a fair punishment would have been life imprisonment with no parole."

(Texas law does not provide a prison sentence without consideration for parole.)

Miss Linda Moore of 414 Easton Road, said, "The verdict was right."

"I don't think he was insane or overtaken by a violent urge. I believe he did it rationally. Whether death was justified is hard to say. So much depends on a person's convictions and principles."

"HE GOT WHAT HE deserved," was the opinion of M. E. Nalley of 5625 Culver. "As an airport limousine chauffeur, I carry people from all over the United States and the world, and everyone seems to think he was guilty and that Dallas was as fair a city as any to try him. He had too much against him. There it was all in black and white for everyone to see."

Branko Beronja of Milwaukee, Wis., termed the verdict fair.

"Insanity was the issue and it was not strong enough. I believe he was an opportunist who took the opportunity, and it dealt him death," Beronja stated.

SANDY BEAN, a Texas Christian University student from Fort Worth said, "For a while, I was afraid he might get off free, but I never thought the jury would have the guts to give him the chair."

"The verdict was clear cut, and it would have been the same anywhere. The sentiments were no different in Dallas than anywhere else."

"It was all the jury could do. If death is justified, then it was in this case," said W. L. Means of Mount Pleasant.

"It seems that instead of Ruby being on trial, psychiatry vs. the death penalty was," said Mrs. Paul Conroy of 1649 Pine, Grand Prairie. "I think that after a reasonable amount of appeals, it (the sentence) will be lessened."



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—Dallas News Staff Photos.

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