

## DALLAS AREA TOWNS

# 'Jurists' Ok Verdict

By JOE THORNTON

Arm-chair jurists from neighboring towns, agreed generally Saturday with the verdict handed down by the jury in the Jack Ruby murder trial, a Dallas News phone survey indicated.

But a Paris, Lamar County, minister said he felt "just sickness for the poor devil (Ruby) who is the victim of environment and many other factors."

Ruby was found guilty of murder with malice, and the jury recommended he be sentenced to death by electrocution for the Nov. 24 shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Rev. Mel Nesbit, minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Paris, acknowledged that there

"must be law and he (Ruby) must be punished."

Dallas, the Rev. Mr. Nesbit said, is "too fearful of being too hypocritical, and I wish it would not take itself quite so seriously" in referring to the verdict.

A Corsicana appliance store employe declined comment and the use of her name, saying: "The decision belongs to Dallas."

Mrs. Martha Howard, a Paris housewife, said she was in agreement with the verdict. "It is fitting that a man who openly and brazenly takes the life of another should be punished for his crime and not be allowed to hide behind a cloak of feigned insanity," Mrs. Howard said.

"Ruby's action," she added,

"was inexcusable and closed the door of solution on the greatest tragedy of the century."

Warren Reynolds, manager of the Western Auto Store in Denison, said, "The verdict is justified because in any case where one takes another's life, the death penalty is the only right one."

A Waxahachie department store manager, James M. Ratcliff, expressed surprise at the death penalty. "From what I have read, I believe him to be guilty, but I thought the jury would assess a long prison term," Ratcliff said.

Joe Recer, clerk in a Downtown McKinney dry goods store, said he thought it "fill be so long before another decision is handed down from an appeals court that it is hard now to imagine him being executed."

Recer observed that townspeople "have been excited about the trial since it started (Feb. 27) but with the announcement of a verdict, they seem to be a little let down."

Keith Maxwell, Paris insurance man, said, "I am personally against capital punishment, but under the state laws they can do that (execute Ruby). I also think Belli was way out in left field with his comments."

Melvin Belli, Ruby's chief counsel, said after the verdict was handed down, "You've got a little bit of Russia here."

A Terrell furniture store employe said he and "the majority of the people I have talked to agree with the decision as rendered." He added: "It was a wise decision on the part of the jury."

Carl R. Adams of Sherman said he believed the penalty to be severe. "I did not see it on TV, but I heard about it at the grocery store," Adams said. "I thought he was guilty, but I did not think he would get the death penalty."

Another Sherman man, Ray Goff, said he did not believe anyone should commit murder. "But if they do, they must pay the penalty. In this case the penalty is fair," Goff said.

A Cleburne department store manager said he felt that the guilty verdict was fair, but he believed the penalty too severe. "Life in prison would have been a better sentence," he said.