

Police Captain Welcomes End of Pressure in Dallas

A forgotten onlooker stood far away from the bedlam Saturday following the death penalty verdict in the Jack Ruby case.

While hundreds of news media men clamored about key figures in the courtroom drama, Will Fritz was ignored in the Criminal Courts Bldg. lobby.

The robbery detective captain of the Dallas police homicide bureau, who directed questioning of Lee Harvey Oswald, and was scant steps away when Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby, obviously was pleased at the outcome of the case.

"Maybe things will slow down for a little while," he smiled. "I guess they'll have 14 appeals—those lawyers still have a lot of work to do."

Fritz — the target of many pointed pens in days following the assassination—also obviously enjoyed the shift in the limelight to courtroom officials.

"They didn't need me in court," he said. "It would have just been duplication."

Another swarm of photographers rushed by en route to Judge Joe Brown or Melvin Belli.

"I may try to get a few days off now," Capt. Fritz said. "You know, I was just about to start my vacation in November."

"Yep, maybe things will slow down for a while."

The veteran captain looked healthier than he had for months.

★ JURY AGREED FROM FIRST

Jurors in the Jack Ruby murder case spent more than two hours deliberating the defendant's fate Saturday morning, but there apparently was little disagreement among the 12.

Courthouse sources told The Dallas News that the panel took no more than two ballots in setting the former striptease-club operator's sentence at death.

From the beginning, they agreed Ruby was sane when he shot Lee Harvey Oswald on Nov. 24, and now.

"There was no real disagreement. One juror apparently wasn't sold or unsold at the beginning on the death penalty and wanted to talk about it a little," a source said.