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- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
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BELLI FEARS FOR CLIENT'S LIFE

Ruby's World Today: A Windowless Cell

By **BOB CONSIDINE**
Special to N. Y. Journal-American

DALLAS, March 16.—Jack Ruby was just another man with a number today. There will be no court in the morning, no baleful TV lights, no explosion of flash bulbs, no juror's face to scan with his darting little birdlike eyes, in search of compassion.

Ruby's world now is his green, windowless cell. Its only "chair" is the seatless commode in the corner. A jailer brought him a razor and stood at his side as he shaved, ready to pounce on him if he made the least motion that hinted of attempted suicide.

CITES SECURITY

Sheriff Bill Decker said "maximum security" surrounds Ruby.

But Melvin Bell, Ruby's attorney, said he fears a possible attempt on Ruby's life and has asked for more protection for him.

Sherriff Decker said, "When he has adjusted to the shock of the verdict, he may be put in a large cell with others. He's had maximum security from

the beginning and he will continue to have it."

Authorities refused to comment on a statement Mr. Bell has made several times since Ruby was convicted Saturday morning of killing Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy.

FAIR TRIAL?

"Ruby is worried," Mr. Bell said, and so am I, that they may slip someone into his cell — another prisoner — with a shiv (knife) in order to prevent our appeal. Then they would make it appear a suicide and this vicious city would have him off their hands."

Ruby was visited by his sisters and brothers. They brought him the only two

articles he is permitted to receive: powdered coffee and shaving cream.

Did he get a fair trial?

The consensus around Dallas today is that he did. A slightly smaller percentage appears to believe that death in the electric chair is a proper punishment for the man who killed Oswald, saluted by the prosecution as "an American citizen who loved life just as dearly as any of us."

SPEED OF VERDICT

A few Dallasites expressed shock at the enormity of the verdict. Nobody seemed to be very much bothered by the aspect that hit the visiting press the hardest: The 139 minutes it took the jury to elect a foreman and agree to hand down the death penalty without asking to see any of the evidence or exhibits.

What are his chances for a reversal?

Melvin Bell maintains that they are excellent. The San Franciscan who consigned Dallas to Gehenna in the immediate wake of the verdict is sure Judge Joe E. Brown committed at least 30 reversible errors.

His associates, Joe Tonahill and Jim Burleson are less sure of that, or more knowing of Texas law.

"Let's git along to something else."

'SPREADING VENOM'

Mr. Bell spent yesterday in Dallas "spreading venom," as he said. Today he flies to Austin to begin the appeal process at the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Ruby family cannot afford the expense of the kind of appealing Bell speaks of—appeals right up to the Supreme Court.

Indeed, it will have trouble paying for the first Ruby trial. It will cost perhaps twice as

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much as the \$25,000 Ruby obtained by permitting his memoirs to be syndicated.

Was Ruby properly defended?

His first lawyer, a local barrister, does not think so and is writing a book entitled "How I Would Have Defended Jack Ruby."

Henry Wade, the District Attorney who now has won the death penalty in 25 consecutive murder trials (24 lost their appeals and went to the chair) says that Mr. Belli blundered when he put all of his eggs in a scientific basket.

WOULDN'T BUY IT

The jury wouldn't buy a defense based on words neither it nor the defendant could understand, Mr. Wade says. If he had been the defense lawyer?

"Well, "He said yesterday, "I think I'd have made a pitch for mercy or leniency. The way they did it was to give the jury only two choices: Believe the man was insane just long enough to pull a trigger, or send him to the chair. You know what happened."