

Foreman Has Long Career

Percy Foreman, the Houston lawyer who started calling signals for the Jack Ruby defense team Thursday, is a big man experienced in trying big cases.

Foreman stands 6 foot 4 and weighs 250 pounds. That makes him even bigger than Joe Tonsill, another mammoth defense lawyer who has variously listed his weight at 230 and 240.

Foreman said he has represented more than 700 clients charged with murder and has defended more than 350 before juries during his long legal career.

Only one, a restaurant owner who shot his wife, died in the electric chair.

Foreman's clients included George Parr, the so-called "Duke of Duval." Parr and four other defendants were convicted of mail fraud charges, but the convictions were set aside.

Foreman this year represented Jack Bonds, a Houston elevator mechanic, in a murder case which lasted as long as the Ruby trial. Bonds was accused of shooting a 17-year-old youth. Foreman turned the trial into a forum on juvenile delinquency, and jurors found Bonds innocent.

Foreman appeared in December on a nationally televised panel which discussed the legal rights of Lee Harvey Oswald, shot to death by Ruby.

LAWYER QUIET

Rumor That Belli Back In City Proves False

Reporters and photographers converged on the courthouse area Thursday after rumors spread that Melvin Belli had flown back to Dallas and was driving to the county jail.

The rumors proved false.

Belli told reporters in Mexico City, where he went "for a rest" after a jury here sentenced Jack Ruby to the electric chair, that he would fly to his San Francisco home.

Belli refused to discuss his dismissal as Ruby's chief defense attorney with Mexico City reporters, but said he might issue a statement in California.

Ruby and his family replaced Belli with Percy Foreman, a 61-year-old Houston attorney.

Attorney Victor Velazquez, a Mexico City friend of the volcanic San Francisco lawyer, said Belli expressed a hope that the public and fellow lawyers would not judge him until all "technical details" of the Ruby trial are known.

Velazquez said Belli also stated:

"I feel I did everything that could be done. I am not repentant. I did my utmost."

Belli's tirades against Dallas Judge Joe B. Brown, Dist. Atty. Henry Wade and jurors brought widespread criticism and demands for an American Bar Association investigation.

Velazquez said Belli stated he hoped lawyers would not condemn his actions "on the basis of newspaper accounts." He made no mention of the fact that some of his outbursts were on national television.