

Jury Duty Trial for Wives

By BETTYE ANDING

"It's been ROUGH," said Kay Ordes of husband Charles' absence from home while serving as a juror for the Clay Shaw trial.

"Our main worry has been that Oliver wouldn't be home to see our son before he leaves for Vietnam," said Jocelyn Schultz, wife of another juror.

They agreed that while their husband's prolonged jury duty has presented no major problems for them, neither has been completely free from anxiety during the past month.

Schultz was second named on the panel trying Shaw on charges of conspiring to kill President John F. Kennedy and Ordes was fourth. Both have been away from home for about four and a half weeks.

"I have plenty of family in New Orleans," said Mrs. Schultz. "So while I've missed Oliver, naturally, I haven't been lonely. Everybody has been very nice to me.

"Our oldest son, who is in the Marines, will be home on leave about the middle of March before leaving for Vietnam, and we were afraid Oliver wouldn't be home by then. But, now it looks as though he will."

MRS. ORDES has understandingly, if somewhat unhappily, held the fort at the Ordes home in Gentilly.

"Oh, I'm capable," she laughed rather shakily. "But a parent who's always had someone else to depend on feels a little lost alone.

"We haven't been separated for longer than a night or two—when I went to the hospital to have our children."

Mrs. Ordes said she spoke to her husband for the last time on the evening of the day he was selected for the jury.

"Well, I'm in," he said. Then he told me what clothing he would need from home and an officer picked it up.

"He'd been a juror before on a day-to-day basis, but never for anything like this. He enjoyed it in the past."

No family crises have arisen during Ordes' absence, but his wife said she probably wouldn't have bothered him even if they had.

"I wouldn't want to distress him," she said.

"I have worried about our boys—Danny, 14, and Stephen, 12—a little. Teenaged boys sometimes have special problems and I don't think a mother always understands them."

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Bonnie Ann, said her mother, demonstrates her unhappiness over the situation by crying herself to sleep each night.

"She just misses that masculine affection," laughed Mrs. Ordes.

Unaccustomed tasks performed recently by the housewife have included replacing a broken window-pane and building a seat on a ladder so Bonnie Ann

could watch the Mardi Gras parades.

"A friend told me she felt sorry for Charles on Mardi Gras," said Mrs. Ordes, "and I told her she had some nerve.

"He was nice and comfortable up on the balcony on a St. Charles home with the other jurors and I was down in the street, freezing, with three kids!

"I know he would rather have spent the day with us, though."

Mr. Ordes has been paid by his company during the trial, his wife said.

"Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to exist," she said.

"A Sgt. Farrell calls me every now and then at night, and Charles and I talk through him.

"He says, 'I miss you, I love you, how are the kids?' and I say, 'I miss you, I love you, the kids are fine, do you need anything?'"

"All in all, there have been no problems. I've just been a little anxious, and we do miss him very much."

MEMBERS OF the families of two other members of the Shaw jury expressed the same sentiments.

"I hope he'll be home by this weekend," said Mrs. David Powe, mother of David I. Powe.

Powe, unmarried, lives with his mother and grandmother.

"He's the man of the house; takes care of practically everything for us," said Mrs. Powe.

"I call the deputy periodically to see if he needs or wants anything."

Powe's mother said he is using some of his vacation time to serve as a juror.

"But if the trial goes much longer, it will be a hardship on him financially," she said.

The mother of another jury member, William Ricks Jr., said she misses his frequent visits home.

"He's a teacher and I think the school board does pay him while he's out," she said.

"He has his own place, but is here most of the time. We miss him and will be glad to see him home."