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Wichita Falls Mayor Says Trial Not Sought

Staff Special to The News

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Wichita Falls Mayor R. C. Rancier, attending the National League of Cities convention here, said Tuesday he didn't believe Jack Ruby, accused killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, could get a fairer trial in Wichita Falls than in Dallas.

"I feel Ruby could get as fair a trial in Dallas as in any other part of the state," said Rancier, after receiving the news that District Judge Louis Holland had granted a change of venue to Wichita Falls for the former Dallas nightclub operator.

"Wichita Falls didn't seek to get the trial," said Rancier, an attorney. "Some cities did, perhaps because of the economic advantage of it. If I were in the motel business, I guess I would be interested in a great many people coming to town. But otherwise, the trial will not be of great import to the people of Wichita Falls."

Rancier added that it "made me mad when Dallas was unjustly criticized in the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination. It was an emotional matter. There will be no emotionalism in Wichita Falls over it at all."

Rancier said he believed Ruby could get a fair trial anywhere in the state, since jury selection would be painstakingly to assure the panelists could adjudge Ruby impartially and

make a decision based only on the facts presented.

"There's nothing distinctive about Wichita Falls in that regard. I couldn't say why our city should have been selected. The judge could just as well have selected Amarillo or Fort Worth. But the size of the town may have had something to do with it. It's a substantial and stable community and is representative of the state.

"I believe this is something the city will take in its stride. I don't think people will be unduly excited about it.