

Jury Picking Opens Ruby Sanity Hearing

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DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—The question of whether Jack Ruby was sane or insane when he killed Lee Harvey Oswald is to be decided by a District Court jury this week.

The sanity hearing—first requested and then opposed by defense attorneys—gets under way today with the selection of a jury.

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Ruby's lawyers, claiming their client's constitutional rights would be violated by having to present witnesses who might be called for a possible second murder trial, are expected to ask for a postponement. Judge Louis T. Holland indicated at a pretrial hearing Friday that he would not grant any delays.

Ruby, 55, former strip joint operator, is under the death

penalty for killing Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. The slaying in the basement of the Dallas police station occurred before a nationwide television audience Nov. 24, 1962.

After they were unsuccessful in forestalling the sanity hearing, two groups of lawyers, each representing Ruby, said they would not call their client to the stand nor would they present witnesses or evidence to support their earlier contentions he is insane.

One group is headed by Phil Burleson of Dallas, currently representing Ruby. The other is headed by Joe Tonahill of Jasper, named by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to represent Ruby in the sanity hearing. Judge Holland said Friday he would recognize both groups.