

St. James 4/1/67

Yale Mock Trial for Oswald Ends with Jury Deadlocked

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) —A mock trial of Lee Harvey Oswald on a charge that he assassinated President John F. Kennedy ended today with the jury deadlocked.

The trial, conducted by Yale law students and presided over by New York trial attorney Jacob D. Fuchsberg, lasted over six hours. The jury of 12 laymen deliberated for one hour and at 3:30 this

morning said they had split 6-6.

They could not decide whether Oswald was guilty of murder or attempted murder.

ONLY ABOUT 50 members of a standing-room-only crowd of 600 remained to hear the final verdict.

The trial had begun with a real-life controversy as Fuchs-

berg ruled that no photographs were to be taken during the trial, citing recent Supreme Court decisions limiting trial publicity.

One CBS TV man refused to comply, saying that he had been invited to cover the trial by Yale law school's associate dean Ralph Sharp Brown. He left only when the

See TRIAL—Page 2

Trial--

Continued from Page 1

"bailiff" extinguished his floorlights.

The trial itself was based largely on the 26 volumes of testimony collected by the Warren Commission in the months following the assassination.

The time of the event was reduced by telescoping testimony and creating "composite witnesses" so that the

72 persons appearing before the commission could be brought to light by questioning the 15 men and women who took the witness box last night.

The "witnesses" were student representing the key figures in the case, including Gov. John Connally of Texas and Oswald himself.

THE "ATTORNEYS" for the prosecution were Kevin J. McInerney, 24, of Washington, D. C., and John N. Bush, 24, of Summit, N. J.

They argued in favor of the finding which had been reached by the Warren Commission: That Oswald had killed President Kennedy and wounded Gov. Connally deliberately and singlehandedly.

Walter Rockenstein II, 24, of Morgantown, W. Va., and Charles O. Blaisdell, 23, of Pound Ridge, N. Y., represented the defense. They pictured Oswald as a "convenient man" whose leftist background made him an easy scapegoat.

While not explicitly alleging a deliberate frame-up, Os-

walds representatives mustered considerable direct and circumstantial evidence placing in doubt the origin of the fatal bullet, the sole responsibility of Oswald, and his presence at the window from which the shots were said to be fired.

"Oswald," who was portrayed by John A. Strait, 23, of San Francisco, gave a minute-by-minute alibi, maintaining that he had been on a lower floor of the Texas Book Depository at the time of the assassination and had fled when he heard of the shooting for fear that his record as a "subversive" would make him a target for trigger-happy assassin-hunters.