

## 'Fair People'

# Angry Ellsberg Jury Dismissed

### Los Angeles

The Pentagon papers trial jury was sent home yesterday and several jurors expressed disgust that they waited four months in vain to judge the case.

One member of the panel arose in court and, in an emotional speech, told the judge the jurors were unhappy because their lives had been upset for no reason. The judge said he understood, but would make no change in his decision to replace them, adding:

"You no longer have anything to do with this case."

### FAIR

As the judge was dismissing them, juror William Abata, a rubber company maintenance man, stood and, in a trembling voice, asked to speak. He lauded his fellow jurors as "a fair and impartial group of people."

"They feel in the four months their freedom of speech, their freedom to read and see the news have

been taken away from them," he said. "They think people had plans they were going to make, and now they're all goofed up and messed up."

U.S. District Judge Matt Byrne decided to dismiss the panel after lengthy legal arguments in the trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo on charges of espionage, conspiracy and theft. He acted out of concern that they had formed opinions about the case in advance.

### SHIELD

The jurors had told the judge previously they were impartial about the trial and indicated they hadn't minded shielding themselves from all news of the case.

But after the court session, Abata told reporters, "We felt we were being taken, in one way or another ... We were angry at the judge. We felt he should have been running his courtroom. The attorneys seemed to be running it."

*Associated Press*