

# The Defense Rests in Thoresen Murder Case

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## Fresno

Attorneys representing Louise Thoresen rested their case yesterday and Superior Court Judge Joseph L. Joy indicated the jury will begin deliberating murder charges against her on Friday.

If she is found guilty of murdering her millionaire, gun-hoarding husband, she could be sentenced up to life in prison.

The prosecution is expected to present rebuttal witnesses today and both sides are expected to sum up their arguments before the eight-man, four-woman jury tomorrow.

## RECALL

The defense concluded its case in rapid-fire order by recalling Mrs. Thoresen to the stand.

She testified that shortly after she fired five bullets into the back of William E. Thoresen III on June 10 she ran across the street to the house of a neighbor.

"I told her (Dianne McDermott) that I thought he was asleep" just before she fired the gun, Mrs. Thoresen said.

She added that before he was able to tell Mrs. McDermott the whole story she was interrupted by someone — possibly a policeman — who came into the room.

## CONVERSATION

Mrs. Thoresen indicated that while she could not recall her exact conversation with Mrs. McDermott's he would have told her that her husband was awake when she killed him.

The prosecution has contended Mrs. Thoresen killed her husband while he was asleep and that her motives

were love for another man and her husband's estate.

The defense has contended Mrs. Thoresen shot her volatile husband after ten years of beatings and intimidation and in the sure and certain knowledge that he was awake and about to take her life after she had learned he had had his brother assassinated.

## TEMPERAMENT

Three Phoenix, Ariz., lawyers who knew or represented the Thoresens testified that the late gun czar was a violent bigoted, unpredictable and in general the sort of man one would not wish to have a sa house guest.

Robert D. Myers said Thoresen, telephoned him on May 28 and said, "I had better watch my back . . . that I was in cahoots with the city of Phoenix to get him . . . that i was a dirty kike and all kikes are the same."

Myers had defended Thoresen earlier on traffic violation charges.

Richard T. Treon testified that he felt sorry enough for Mrs. Thoresen to loan her \$50 and have her spirited away from her husband after she had related an account of yet another beating at his hands.

## SCENE

Treon related a scene here in 1968 when Thoresen and his wife were facing trial on federal gun charges stemming from the seizure of 77 tons of munitions at his posh Pacific Heights mansion in San Francisco.

"Bill just blew his mind," Treon recalled as he recited how Thoresen, in a fit of pique, attempted to impale an attorney defending him with a long floor lamp, "using it like a javelin."

The attorney was able to

order the screaming Thoresen out of the conference room without sustaining any injuries, Treon said.

Donald E. Wolfram, who was to represent Mrs. Thoresen in a divorce action, testified the gun czar chased his wife to Phoenix in late 1969 and persisted in harassing her even after a uniformed policeman was called in to head off possible violence.

Thoresen later pestered Wolfram in an attempt to get his wife to return home, the attorney said, admitting during the conversation that he had beaten her up and had practiced repeated infidelities.