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RUBY TRIAL SEATS TWO MORE JURORS

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Sharp Words Exchanged by Defense and Prosecution

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DALLAS, Feb. 25 — Jury selection for the trial of Jack L. Ruby moved rapidly today with the swearing in of two more jurors.

After spending all last week to qualify three jurors, the defense and prosecution quickly approved the fourth and fifth jurors this morning. But the afternoon was marred by an ugly exchange between defense attorneys and Assistant Prosecutor William F. Alexander.

Melvin M. Belli, the chief defense counsel, accused Mr. Alexander of having used an offensive expression—"Jew boys"—at a hearing two weeks ago for a change of venue. Ruby belongs to the Jewish faith.

What Mr. Alexander had done at the hearing was to ask Dr. Walter Bromberg, clinical director of the Pinewood Psychiatric Hospital in Westchester County, N. Y., if under general circumstances a person of Anglo-Saxon descent would not react differently than "a Jewish boy from Chicago." Mr. Alexander had also referred sarcastically to Mr. Belli's efforts to get a jury of "peasants" by attempting to get the trial moved from Dallas.

These phrases, removed from context, were thrown back at the hot-tempered Mr. Alexander today. The tall, lanky assistant prosecuting attorney, who has a reputation for being irascible, was questioning a prospective juror who obviously wanted to be excused quickly as one who opposed capital punishment.

The prospective juror Larry C. Reynolds, an electronics engineer, was so eager to be dismissed that he mistakenly answered "no" to the question, "Do you approve of the Texas law against murder?" instead of waiting for the question as to whether he was for or against capital punishment.

"You mean we shouldn't have a law against murder?" demanded Mr. Alexander incredulously.

Mr. Belli and his assistant, Joe H. Tonahill, were on their feet immediately, protesting that Mr. Alexander's remark was "insulting" and that he should have explained the law to the witness.

"I don't have to educate the defense attorneys," Mr. Alexander retorted sarcastically.

Mr. Belli pointed his finger at Mr. Alexander and shouted: "this man can last about four hours and then he becomes insulting. Maybe that's why he was kept out of here until today."

Mr. Alexander took no part in the examination of prospective jurors last week.

"A few weeks ago we heard

him talking about peasants out in the country and the Jew boys," Mr. Belli went on.

Judge Joe B. Brown cut in: "Let's cut out the horseplay and get the trial going."

"By God . . ." began Mr. Alexander in a rage.

"Judge," interrupted Mr. Tonahill, Mr. Belli's assistant, "you going to let him take the Lord's name in vain?"

"I don't want any more outbursts," said the judge, and everyone quieted down.

An imputation of racial prejudice came in the morning session.

As the day's first Negro venireman, D. S. Roseborough, was led to the witness chair, Mr. Tonahill asked Judge Brown to "protect" prospective Negro jurors from "further abuse by [District Attorney] Henry Wade," Mr. Wade had seemed a little gruff to earlier Negro prospects and had not addressed them as "mister."

"Sit down, Mr. Tonahill, that's uncalled for," admonished Judge Brown.

"I've never seen anything as contemptuous as that last remark," Mr. Wade said. He said to Mr. Tonahill:

"You've had your little scene, let's go on."

Both Mr. Roseborough and another Negro, Emmanuel Allen, were quickly excused when they told the District Attorney they opposed capital punishment.

The two jurors chosen today were Luther E. Dickerson, 27 years old, a thin, sharp-featured man with crew-cut hair, the vice president of a chemical company, and Douglas J. So-well, 34, a husky aircraft mechanic for Braniff International Airways, who had received his high school education while serving in the Air Force.