

A68DN (BJT)

AMS BUDGET (450)

PERSONALITY: JUDGE LOUIS HOLLAND

(WIREFOTO DN1)

BY TOM JOHNSON

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MONTAGUE, TEX., JUNE 22 (AP)-A TALL, SOFT-SPOKEN JUDGE WHO SPEND HIS SPARE TIME WORKING BLACK ANGUS CATTLE ON HIS RED RIVER VALLEY RANCH WILL CALL THE LEGAL SIGNALS HENCEFORTH IN THE CELEBRATED JACK RUBY CASE.

HE IS JUDGE LOUIS T. HOLLAND, A LAWYER FOR 35 YEARS AND DISTRICT JUDGE HERE FOR THE PAST 19 YEARS.

A FELLOW JURIST, MONTAGUE COUNTY JUDGE T.D. HOWARD, DESCRIBED HOLLAND THIS WAY:

"HE'S FIRM, BUT NOT A BLUSTERY TYPE."

A 59-YEAR-OLD NATIVE OF SAINT JO (CQ), TEX., HOLLAND WAS NAMED TRIAL COURT JUDGE IN THE RUBY CASE TODAY AFTER JUDGE JOE B. BROWN, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE RUBY MURDER TRIAL, WAS REMOVED FROM THE CASE AT HIS OWN REQUEST YESTERDAY.

BROWN GAVE NO REASON FOR HIS WITHDRAWAL BUT DEFENSE LAWYERS HAD TRIED TO OUST HIM FOR SOME TIME. THEY SAID HE HAD A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CASE SINCE HE WAS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT IT.

RUBY WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH MARCH 14, 1964, FOR FATALLY SHOOTING LEE HARVEY OSWALD, PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN.

JUDGE DALLAS BLANKENSHIP, JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WHO MADE THE APPOINTMENT, SAID HOLLAND WOULD ASSUME THE CASE IN BROWN'S COURT ROOM IN DALLAS.

HOLLAND SAID HE WOULD SET A DATE FOR RUBY'S PENDING SANITY TRIAL AND FOR A CHANGE OF VENUE MOTION ON THE SAME ISSUE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND THE DEFENSE.

THE TANNED JURIST-CATTLEMAN HAS LIVED IN THE COUNTY OF HIS BIRTH (MONTAGUE) ALL HIS LIFE EXCEPT FOR TWO PERIODS: WHEN HE WENT AWAY TO COLLEGE AND WHEN HE SERVED IN THE ARMY IN WORLD WAR II.

MONTAGUE, THE COUNTY SEAT, IS ABOUT 90 MILES NORTHWEST OF DALLAS.

ONE COURTHOUSE OBSERVER IN THIS TINY NORTH TEXAS COUNTY SEAT (POP. 284) SAYS THE NEW RUBY JUDGE IS "VERY WELL LIKED BUT VERY WELL RESPECTED TOO."



EA69DN

HOLLAND RUNS HIS OWN COURT. WHEN HE PRESIDED OVER A HEARING MAY 24 TO DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF A MONTHS-OLD OFTEN-BITTER WRANGLE OVER WHICH LAWYERS WOULD REPRESENT RUBY IN THE SANITY TRIAL, HOLLAND IMPOSED NO-SMOKING RULES.

BROWN, LIKE MOST OTHER TEXAS STATE JUDGES, PERMITTED SMOKING IN THE COURT ROOM.

HOLLAND MADE A DECISIVE RULING WHEN THE HEARING ENDED: JOE TONAHILL, A RUBY LAWYER SINCE BEFORE HIS MURDER TRIAL, WAS OUSTED.

BROWN HAD TEMPOERARILY STEPPED OUT OF THE CASE FOR THAT HEARING.

HOLLAND RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY NEAR THE END OF WORLD WAR I, AND THEN STUDIED LAW AT CUMBERLAND COLLEGE, WILLIAMSBURG, KY.

HIS FORMAL STUDIES OVER, HE CAME BACK TO MONTAGUE AND SERVED AS COUNTY ATTORNEY AND COUNTY JUDGE BEFORE ENLISTING IN THE ARMY IN 1942.

"HE DIDN'T HAVE TO; HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DRAFTED," MRS. HOLLAND SAID, "BUT HE SAW ALL THE YOUNGER FELLOWS JOINING UP, AND WENT WITH THEM."

HE WAS DISCHARGED AS A BUCK SERGEANT AFTER THE WAR.

FORMER GOV. COKE STEVENSON APPOINTED HIM TO FILL OUT AN UNEXPIRED DISTRICT JUDGESHIP IN 1946, AND HE HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED PERIODICALLY SINCE.

GOV. JOHN CONNALLY HAS APPOINTED HIM PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 8TH ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL DISTRICT, LARGELY AN HONORARY POST.

HOLLAND AND THE FORMER LELIA SMITH OF NEARBY BELLEVUE, TEX., WERE MARRIED IN 1932. THEY HAVE ONE DAUGHTER, A COLLEGE STUDENT.

"HE HELPS EVERYONE HE CAN, AND HE DOESN'T TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY," MRS. HOLLAND SAID. "HE'S AT HIS RANCH (25 MILES EAST OF MONTAGUE) EVERY MINUTE HE'S NOT IN COURT."

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