

Marcello Trial Jury Is Selected

By BARBARA STRONG

(Special to the States-Item)

HOUSTON, Tex. — A jury of two women and ten men, plus two men alternates, was selected today in the trial of Metairie rackets figure Carlos Marcello.

After the jury was seated, assistant U.S. Atty. Ronald J. Blask read aloud the indictment in which Marcello is accused of a Sept. 30, 1966, assault on FBI agent Patrick J. Collins Jr. at New Orleans International Airport.

MARCELLO STOOD and pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The jurors then were taken to lunch and to their homes to get clothing and other articles, since they will be sequestered in a Houston hotel for the duration of the trial.

The 58-year-old Marcello was tried in May on the same charge, but a mistrial resulted when a federal jury in Laredo, Tex., failed to reach a verdict.

The case then was transferred to Houston for trial before U.S. District Judge John V. Singleton.

The charge was filed after Marcello was accused of

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striking or attempting to strike Collins, one of two agents present in a crowd of newsmen and photographers.

Marcello is being represented by G. Wray Gill of New Orleans, Jack Wasserman of Washington, D. C., and C. Anthony Friloux of Houston, a former government prosecutor.

ATTEMPTS BY Marcello's attorneys and by Judge Singleton to minimize unfavorable pre-trial publicity apparently worked.

Of about 80 jury candidates who were asked whether they had previous knowledge of Marcello, only two said they had heard of him.

Judge Singleton met with the editors of Houston's two daily newspapers last week and won an agreement not to mention Marcello's background before the jury is selected.

Prosecuting attorneys for the government are local Asst. U.S. Atty. Ronald J. Blask and Owen Neff of the Justice Department's criminal division.