

How Ellsberg 'Educated' Juror

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Daniel Ellsberg often said he hoped the Pentagon Papers would be an education for the American people, showing that the past four administrations had deceived and even lied to the public about U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.

For Phyllis Ortman, looking on from the jury box, Ellsberg's trial was exactly that.

"I think I suspected it. I'd seen the news — for how many years? — of the war before the trial started. I don't like to see killing and all that, and yet when you don't know enough about it, you don't know what else there is."

'Deceit in Government'

Mrs. Ortman, 27, sat in her living room in suburban Monterey Park and talked of what she'd learned during

L.A. Woman Disillusioned

more than four months of sitting in judgment of Ellsberg and co-defendant Anthony Russo.

"I think this trial either had to disillusion you a little bit . . ." she said.

"I think the thing that impressed me the most was some of the deceit that goes on — the deceit in the government. One person will say something and then they go over here in a huddle and decide what they want the public to know. That part really made me upset."

How She'd Vote

A pleasant-looking, thick-set blonde, Mrs. Ortman is a registered Republican born in Green Bay, Wis. Her

husband Terry, also 27, works for an aerial mapping company and they have a 6 year old daughter.

Like many of her fellow jurors, Mrs. Ortman said she would have voted to acquit the defendants of the espionage and conspiracy charges. As for the theft charges, she said that decision would have rested on the judge's instructions.

The jury never got to deliberate. On May 11, U.S. District Judge Matt Byrne dismissed all charges, saying improper government conduct had "offended a sense of justice."

'Need to Know'

Mrs. Ortman said she was disappointed that the issues of the case had not been resolved.

"Afterward I kept thinking we're going to have to go through another whole Vietnam and another Pentagon Papers before issues like



MRS. PHYLLIS ORTMAN
Ellsberg juror reflects

—AP Photo

this can be resolved, before there'll be a case on record where people can divulge information that the American people have a need to know," she said.