

# Thoresen Case Goes To the Jury

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Opposing attorneys painted two strikingly different pictures of Louise Thoresen yesterday as her murder trial reached its final hours.

Judge Joseph J. Joy gave the jury final instructions and the eight-man, four-woman panel began deliberations. A verdict was not reached by midnight.

During summation Deputy District Attorney Frank Wells showed the jury color photographs of the bullet-pocked back of gun czar William E. Thoresen III. All of the holes could be covered by a man's hand.

## AIM

"That, ladies and gentlemen, is known as a good group. To get that kind of group you have to aim, and that takes time."

Kenneth DeVaney, one of two lawyers representing the woman accused of the June 10 murder, put on a defense that at times rivaled stem-winders of the sort popular 40 years ago.

Alternately waving a huge throwing knife that Thoresen plunged into his wife's buttocks hours before she killed him — and beating the floor with a riding crop the gun czar used to "discipline" the 34-year-old defendant, DeVaney cried out:

"Either Louise Thoresen is guilty of murder in the first degree or she is not guilty. We say she is not guilty!"

## LIFE

The trial is a non capital case; if found guilty Mrs. Thoresen could receive a sentence of up to life imprisonment.

Throughout the trial the prosecution has argued Mrs. Thoresen killed for what was left of her husband's estate and for the love of another man; that Thoresen was asleep when "she sent her child off to school" and then, calmly, put an end to her husband's tormented life.

The defense has taken the position that Thoresen, by his repeated attacks on his wife, became "like an animal that gives warning before it strikes" and had given her such a warning before he died.

The prosecution's summation  
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tion was low-keyed and thoughtful, making the most of several inconsistencies that appeared in Mrs. Thoresen's testimony.

Deputy District Attorney Stephen Henry admitted that Thoresen, hoist by his own petard in that he was killed by one of his many guns, was not much of a human being.

"As bad as he (Thoresen) was, as bad as you think he was, there is no right to shoot a bad man. There is no right to take the law into your own hands, as Jack Ruby learned when he shot Lee Oswald."

Mrs. Thoresen lost her composure several times during yesterday's long summation.

## TEARS

As Henry accused her of being less than honest about the tragedy her shoulders heaved and silent tears fell down her cheeks.

And when defense attorney James Shepard took the .38 caliber revolver she used on her husband and repeatedly pulled the trigger, DeVaney was obliged to pat her hand.

Henry made much of an abortion Mrs. Thoresen had in February, attempting to link the child with Joe Hinojosa, a man who befriended her and who the prosecution claims is her lover.

"I think it is apparent why she does not want you to know about this," Henry said of the incident, which was not brought out when she first testified.

## TEMPER

Throughout the trial much testimony was introduced indicating Thoresen was, at best, a psychopath with an uncontrollable temper.

Shepard said of this:

"If you must blame Louise, do not blame her for shooting him but for not committing him" to an institution. "But if you blame her for that, everybody in this case knew this man was viciously insane. That blame has to be shared with everybody connected with this case, parti-

cularly everybody who testified."

## VIOLENT

Shepard said that only Mrs. Thoresen, during the ten years of their sometimes violent marriage, "had any sympathy for her husband." Of her stay with Hinojosa while recovering from a beating, Shepard said, "She had nowhere else to go."

Shepard told why she killed her husband.

"She was standing there by the bed with two broken ribs and a punctured ear drum" from a beating administered a few hours earlier.

"She could hardly raise her left arm. She could drop that gun and run but how far do you think she is going to get? After that first shot was fired, she didn't have any choice..."

## JURY

He paused and eyed the jury. "I don't know what you would have done," Shepard concluded, "but I have my own thoughts on the matter."

Prosecutor Wells, admittedly overwhelmed by the wealth of evidence showing Thoresen's wretched character, advised the jury, "If you allow emotion, passion, sympathy or pity" to enter into their deliberations, "we are not going to have a just verdict."

Wells theorized that an empty purse found lying near the stairs may have contained the revolver used to kill Thoresen — as opposed to the story Mr. Thoresen told about finding it in the bedroom — and said "she decided to kill her husband."

"And if you find the facts to be such, that's first degree murder."