

EA229DN

Rby

18 FEB 1964
151 Pcs

EA229DS

AMS BUDGET (170)

RUBY COLOR

BY SID MOODY

AP NEWSFEATURES WRITER

DALLAS, FEB. 18 (AP)-HILLIARD STONE ISN'T MUCH OF A TV WATCHER.

WHEN HE LEFT HIS SUBURBAN IRVING HOME THIS MORNING HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THOSE TV COURTROOM DRAMAS LIKE "PERRY MASON," "SAM BENEDICT" AND "THE DEFENDERS" WERE ALL ABOUT.

HE DOES NOW.

MUCH OF THE DAY HE WAS THE CENTER OF A GAME OF LEGAL WITS, THE FIRST CANDIDATE FOR A JURY TO TRY JACK RUBY FOR THE MURDER OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. IF THE DRAMA WOULDN'T RATE A HIGH TV RATING, IT DID GIVE STONE--AND THE HUNDREDS OF NEWSMEN AND SPECTATORS--A LOOK AT THE SCRIPT DEFENSE ATTORNEY MELVIN BELLI HOPES WILL SAVE RUBY'S LIFE. AND THAT IS TO TALK, TALK, TALK TO TRY TO PROVE THAT RUBY CAN'T GET A FAIR TRIAL IN THE CITY WHERE THE PRESIDENT FELL.

EA263DS

INSERT

DALLAS--INSERT RUBY COLOR (A229) INSERT AFTER FOURTH GRAF "MUCH OF XXX PRESIDENT FELL."

AFTER BELLI DECIDED IN THE AFTERNOON HE WOULDN'T TAKE STONE ON THE JURY, A NEW PROSPECTIVE JUROR--MRS. C. C. CHERRY, A 58-YEAR-OLD HOUSEWIFE--TOOK THE STAND. A NEW DEFENSE LAWYER, MOUNTAINOUS JOE TONAHILL FROM JASPER, TOOK OVER THE QUESTIONING. THE SCRIPT WAS THE SAME.

TONAHILL BARRAGED HER WITH QUESTIONS. HAD SHE SEEN RUBY SHOOT OSWALD ON TV? HAD SHE READ LOCAL PAPERS OF THE SHOOTING? ABOUT RUBY? HAD SHE TALKED ABOUT THE CASE WITH HER HUSBAND, A RAILROAD CLERK?

"I DON'T KNOW." "I DON'T REMEMBER." "WHAT DO YOU MEAN?" SHE KEPT REPLYING.

BOWIE WAS UP AND DOWN WITH OBJECTIONS, AT ONE POINT MAKING 22 IN 27 MINUTES BEFORE OBSERVERS LOST COUNT. DIST. JUDGE JOE B. BROWN SUSTAINED HIM REPEATEDLY. HE HAD DONE THE SAME EARLIER WITH BELLI.

LIKE A PATIENT WRANGLER TRYING TO KEEP THE HERD MOVING, BROWN WOULD DRAWL SLOWLY:

"LET'S GET X X X SIXTH GRAF PVS.

JJ242PCS

"LET'S GET GOING, MR. BELLI." OR: "MR. BELLI, YOU GOING TO STAY HERE ALL DAY?" AND: "SOMEONE'S GOING TO RUN THIS COURT AND IT'S GOING TO BE ME."

BUT BELLI, WHOSE VOICE ONLY OCCASIONALLY ROSE ABOVE A POLITE, HELPFUL TONE, WOULDN'T BE RUSHED. HE EVEN KINDLY BROUGHT THE 35-YEAR-OLD STONE A COOL GLASS OF BRANCH WATER TO EASE HIS VOCAL CHORDS.
LA230DS

AT TIMES THE DIALOGUE REACHED SUCH HEIGHTS AS THIS INSISTENT EXCHANGE:

BELLI: "DO YOU READ THE OAK CLIFF TRIBUNE?"

STONE: "KI DON'T THINK I READ ANY (CAPS) TRIBUNE."

BELLI: "YOU SAY YOU DON'T LOOK AT TV SHOWS LIKE "PERRY MASON" OR "SAM BENEDICT" OR "THE DEFENDERS"?"

STONE: "I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT."

ONCE, IN SEEMING WEARINESS AT BELLI'S SINGLE-MINDED QUESTIONS, THE
78&3)3-,3\$?-:('9 !-4 8, 88' 78& '28;3) :E-84' 83 -).9'5 \$49003\$
149. '8&E5 73E8,\$'E8' 73,:E. THEN HE STRAIGHTENED UP TO PURSE HIS
IPS, OR REST HIS CHIN IN HIS HANDS OR READ THROUGH A THICK TOME,
MURMURING "OBJECTION SUSTAINED" FROM TIME TO TIME WITHOUT EVEN
LIFTING HIS LEONINE HEAD.

TO HELP CLEAR THE AIR--OF SMOKE, IF NOT OF LEGAL VERBIAGE--JUDGE BROWN DOUSED THE SMOKING LAMP FOR ALL HANDS WHILE COURT WAS IN SESSION. COUNSEL PUFFED ON REGARDLESS. THE PROSECUTION CLEARLY OUTSMOKED THE DEFENSE, HOWEVER, AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY HENRY WADE CHAIN-PUFFED WHILE IHIL BURLESON, ONE OF BELLI'S ASSISTANTS, ONLY HAD A CIGARETTE OR TWO.

STONE SAID IT FIRST AND JUDGE BROWN AND THE PROSECUTION FINALLY AGREED THAT HE COULD RENDER A FAIR VERDICT. BUT NOT BELLI. HE PROBED INTO STONE'S READING HABITS (LIFE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, DLLAS TIMES HERALD, READER'S DIGEST); HIS SHOP TALK AT THE AEROSPACE PLANT WHERE HE WORKS ("YES, WE TALKED ABOUT THOSE SENSATIONAL DAYS IN NOVEMBER"); WHAT HE AND HIS WIFE SAID TO EACH OTHER WHEN THEY SAW A TV RERUN OF OSWALD'S MURDER (HE DIDN'T REMEMBER: "CONVERSA-TION BETWEEN A MAN AND WIFE USUALLY GETS LOST, YOU KNOW") AND WHETHER STONE COULD EVER FORGET THAT MEMORABLE FILM ("NO, I DOUBT IT").

(MORE)

JJ151PCS

EA232DS

DALLAS--FIRST ADD AMS BUDGET RUBY COLOR (A229DS) BY MOODY
X X X I DOUBT IT").

STONE WAS SERIOUS FACED, INTENT, LITERATE (HE SPOKE EASILY WITH
SUCH WORDS AS "GENERIC," PER SE", "SUPERFICIAL") AND ONCE ALMOST
ELOQUENT. ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY, HE REPLIED:

"EVERY CONSCIENTIOUS MAN HAS THOUGHT THAT OVER AND IT'S NOT A
QUESTION YOU CAN GIVE A SIMPLE YES OR NO TO. I WOULDN'T RESTRICT ANY
SOCIETY NOT TO ELIMINATE AN UNDESIRABLE ELEMENT--LIKE A SURGEON,
AMPUTATING A GANGRENOUS FINGER--BUT YOU STILL HAVE LOST THE FINGER."

WHEN HE LEFT HOME THIS MORNING, STONE ADVISED HIS WIFE, WHO DOESN'T
LIKE TO STAY ALONE OVERNIGHT, TO MOVE IN WITH HER FAMILY. HE MIGHT
BE GONE A WHILE.

~~HE COULD BE SO RIGHT.~~

~~JJ155PCS NM~~

IT TURNED OUT HE WASN'T. BUT FOR THOSE BACK IN THE COURTROOM, HE
COULD BE SO RIGHT.

JJ343PCS NM