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31DS

Rby

14 MAR. 1964

1224 PCS

1249 PCS

BULLETIN

DALLAS MARCH 14 (AP)-JACK RUBY WAS CONVICTED TODAY OF MURDERING LEE HARVEY OUWALD, AND SENTENCED TO DEATH IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

JA1224PCS

A32DS

BULLETIN MATTER

DALLAS--FIRST ADD JACK RUBY VERDICT A31DS) XXX ELECTRIC CHAIR.

JUDGE JOE B. BROWN READ THE VERDICT AT 12:22 P.M. (CST)

HE THEN ORDERED THE JUROR ESCORTED BACK TO THE DELIBERATION ROOM AND DISMISSED.

THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION--FOLLOWING THE JUDGE'S INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE COURTROOM AUDIENCE MUST REMAIN QUIET AND SEATED UNTIL DISMISSED.

CHIEF DEFENSE ATTY. MELVIN BELLI SAID "THIS JURY WASN'T EVEN CONCERNED WITH LISTENING TO OUR ARGUMENTS. THEY HAD THEIR MINDS MADE UP...WE'LL APPEAL...WE'LL APPEAL TODAY.

"RAILROAD? THIS WAS A KANGAROO JURY."

A33DS

BELLI SHOUTED TO NEWSMEN THAT JUDGE BROWN "WENT DOWN THE LINE WITH EVERY MOTION THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY MADE, AND THEY LED HIM INTO SOME 30 ERRORS."

HE

ASKED THAT THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE JURY DELIBERATED ONLY ABOUT TWO HOURS AND 20 MINUTES.

JUDGE BROWN, AS HE TOOK THE BENCH, SAID, "I AM ABOUT TO RECEIVE A VERDICT IN THIS CASE. I WANT NO DEMONSTRATIONS OF ANY KIND."

HE LOOKED TOWARD THE JURORS AND SAID, "YOU HAVE YOUR VERDICT READY?"

SEVERAL JURORS SPOKE OUT IN ASSENT.

A34DS

"MAY I HAVE IT?" THE JUDGE SAID.

A BAILIFF HANDED THE SLIP OF PAPER UP TO THE BENCH. BROWN RIFFLED THROUGH THE PAGES UNTIL HE FOUND THE WRITTEN VERDICT. HE THEN READ IT ALOUD.

TURNING TO THE JURY HE SAID, "IS THIS UNANIMOUS? SO SAY YOU ALL? PLEASE HOLD UP YOUR RIGHT HAND."

THE EIGHT MEN AND FOUR WOMEN, AS THOUGH ON CUE, MADE THE GESTURE.

INSTANTLY, A SPECIAL DETAIL OF THREE DEPUTIES SURROUNDED RUBY AND HUSTLED HIM OUT OF THE COURTROOM. THE CONVICTED MAN WAS WHISKED AWAY BEFORE ANYONE COULD TALK WITH HIM.

A35DS

DIST. ATTY. HENRY M. WADE SAID THE FACTS FULLY WARRANTED THE DEATH PENALTY. HE DESCRIBED RUBY'S KILLING OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, AS "AN ASSASSINATION IN ITSELF."

RUBY SHOT OSWALD IN THE BASEMENT OF THE DALLAS CITY HALL ^{NOV. 24/63} TWO DAYS AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED HERE, ~~NOV. 24~~

A36DS

THE DEFENSE'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE TO APPEAL THE CASE TO THE TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS. RUBY WILL BE HELD IN THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL PENDING THE DECISION OF THAT TRIBUNAL, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.

SO ENDED THIS CHAPTER IN THE STORY OF A MAN CHARACTERIZED BY THE PROSECUTION AS "A VICIOUS, COLD-BLOODED MURDERER...A THRILL KILLER" AND BY THE DEFENSE AS "A VERY SICK MAN, A CHARACTER AROUND TOWN, THE VILLAGE IDIOT, IF YOU LIKE."

37DS

BELLI AND HIS ASSISTANT, JOE TONAHILL, OBVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED THE VERDICT OF GUILTY. BUT THE DEATH SENTENCE PROBABLY STUNNED THEM.

WHILE WAITING FOR THE JUDGE AND JURY, BELLI SAID, "UNQUESTIONABLY THEY (THE JURORS) HAD THEIR MINDS MADE UP BEFORE THE ARGUMENTS AND THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE LAWYERS' ARGUMENTS."

BELLI, RED-FACED AND SHOUTING IN THE CENTER OF A WILD COURTROOM NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER COURT WAS DISMISSED, CLAIMED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT ONE JUROR, WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY TOLD HIS EMPLOYER THAT IF HE GOT ON THE RUBY PANEL HE WAS GOING TO VOTE THE DEATH PENALTY.

38DS

"ANY INDEPENDENT APPRAISAL OF THIS ALL OVER THE WORLD," BELLI SAID OF THE VERDICT, "WOULD GIVE A PRETTY GOOD IMPRESSION OF ONE OF THE SORE SPOTS OF AMERICA. IF THIS VENOM SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, GOD HELP US ALL. THIS IS THE MOST DISGUSTING THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE."

ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THAT RUBY HAD BEEN RAILROADED, BELLI ROARED: "THIS IS A KANGAROO RAILROAD."

RUBY DISPLAYED NOT A SINGLE TRACE OF EMOTION AS HE HEARD HIMSELF CONDEMNED TO DEATH. HE MOVED HIS EYES FROM THE JURY TO THE BENCH AS THE VERDICT WAS GIVEN TO JUDGE BROWN BUT THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO FACIAL MOVEMENT WHEN IT WAS READ.

TONAHILL SAID, BEFORE THE VERDICT WAS DELIVERED, "THE VERDICT IS TOO QUICK FOR THAT MANY WITNESSES."

THERE WERE 66 WHO TESTIFIED.

THE STRANGE CASE BEGAN ON TELEVISION, WHEN CAMERAS RECORDED THE FATEFUL INSTANT WHEN RUBY SHOT OSWALD, AND IT ENDED WITH CAMERAS TELECASTING THE CLIMACTIC SCENE, BOTH LIVE.

A39DS

IT ALL ENDED WITH DRAMATIC SWIFTNESS. THE TRIAL BEGAN FEB. 17 AND DRAGGED ON INTERMINABLY THROUGH FOUR FULL WEEKS.

THEN, LESS THAN 12 HOURS AFTER THE JURY RETIRED FOR THE NIGHT AT 1:05 A.M. (CST) TODAY, IT WAS ALL OVER.

THE COURTROOM, PACKED TO THE WALLS DURING THE FIVE-HOUR SESSION OF SUMMATION ARGUMENTS LAST NIGHT, WAS NOT ENTIRELY FILLED TODAY.

DOUBTLESS, FEW POTENTIAL SPECTATORS IN DALLAS EXPECTED THE VERDICT TO BE BROUGHT IN SO SOON.

A40DS

BELLI, FROM THE FIRST, INSISTED THAT RUBY COULD NOT GET A FAIR TRIAL IN DALLAS AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT OPINION EVEN MORE STRONGLY AFTER THE VERDICT WAS DELIVERED.

"THE DALLAS OLIGARCHY ORDERED JACK RUBY'S EXECUTION," BELLI SAID.

THE JUDGE WAS AT HOME WHEN THE JURY SENT WORD THAT IT HAD REACHED A VERDICT. HE STARTED TO THE COURTHOUSE AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND ATTORNEYS BEGAN ASSEMBLING.

A41DS

BROWN LEFT THE DALLAS COUNTY RECORDS BUILDING WHERE THE COURT SESSIONS ARE HELD 15 MINUTES AFTER THE VERDICT WAS ANNOUNCED.

FENDING OFF A BARRAGE OF REPORTERS' QUESTIONS, THE JUDGE SAID ONLY, "I'M GLAD TO GET IT OVER."

THE JURY ANNOUNCED XXX THIRD GRAF SECOND LEAD, A15-20DS

JA1249PCS