Kemper Trial Jury Choices Continue

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The Edmund Emil Kemper mass - murder trial jury selection proceeded gradually behind closed-doors today.

Both the defense and the prosecution say that a jury won't be picked until Friday — or even later. Twelve jurors are seated in the jury box, but all of them are subject to unlimited challenges by either defense attorney Jim Jackson or Dist. Atty. Peter Chang.

Prospective jurors streamed in and out of Judge Harry Brauer's chambers this morning, bringing the total of jury candidates who have been questioned to about 50.

Several of those people who have been rejected favor the private jury selection process, at least for a trial of great magnitude. One man said, after he had been dismissed, that answering questions in private "made it a little bit easier to talk." He added that the in-chambers questioning did not give complete privacy "because there are so many people in there."

Aside from the judge and the two principal attorneys, Kem-

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per, a court clerk, two guards, a court reporter and assistants for both Jackson and Chang are present during the questioning.

A woman, after being excused, said she was glad she was questioned in chambers "because of the kind of questions they're asking."

Tuesday afternoon, a woman was excused from jury duty when she told the judge she was a good friend of one of the victims in the case. She said she was an employe at UCSC, and knew Clarnell Strandberg very well. Mrs. Strandberg, Kemper's mother, was slain in her home in late April.

Previous to today, each court session would begin in open court, and then the judge would go to his chambers to preside over the jury selection process. Today, however, such formalities ended, and the in-chambers meeting commenced immediately at 9:30. Potential jurors now being questioned are allowed to leave the courtroom, but are required to stay in the immediate vicinity in case their names are called.