

Werner, Richard

Jury Selected For Mayor's Trial

A jury composed of eight women and four men was selected this morning to hear the case against Mayor Richard J. Werner of Santa Cruz.

Mayor Werner is accused of "willfully, unlawfully and maliciously" taking down a Viet Cong flag from the residence of Larry Bell, 1520 Escalona Drive, on Nov. 11.

It took one hour for the jury to be selected. One man was

excused because of hardship.

Defense Attorney Ray Goodrich challenged one woman.

In questioning the jurors, District Attorney Peter Chang, who filed the charge against Werner, centered his inquiries on whether they would "follow the law and disregard opinion."

Asked Chang, "Would the fact that he (Bell) may be a disenchanted veteran from Vietnam and a hippie-type have any effect on your reaching a decision?"

All answered, "No."

Chang did not challenge any of the jurors, even though one man said he sent a congratulatory telegram to Mayor Werner after the incident.

Goodrich asked the jurors if they would base their decision "on all three elements (willfully, unlawfully, and maliciously) in coming to a decision and not only on the physical violence."

Municipal Judge Donald May

said he would instruct the jury on the definition of the three terms, especially the legal meaning of the word "malicious."

No testimony was taken this morning.

The trial was recessed at 11:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and it is expected to continue through Wednesday.

As the principals in the case arrived at the courts building this morning, they were met by television newsmen and other

reporters for pre-trial interviews.

A photographer and sound man from CBS News in Los Angeles were among the contingent of reporters who gathered for the start of the trial.

Among spectators in the courtroom was Stanley Stevens, chairman of the Santa Cruz County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and a number of students.

(See photographs on pages 2 and 20.)



Larry Bell and an unidentified companion arrive at the courts building this morning for the start of the trial arising from the Veterans Day incident in which a Viet Cong flag was torn down at Bell's home.

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