

been disturbed by a tendency of some law enforcement authorities as well as some defense counsel to try their cases outside the courtroom. Responsible elements in the news media also have recognized that the media have sometimes contributed to such violations of fair trial by sensational and prejudicial stories and pictures relating to accused persons.

The American Bar Association does not suggest the imposition of involuntary restrictions on freedom in news presentation, but recent events have dramatically emphasized the urgent need for voluntary restraints on the part of law enforcement officers, members of the bar, and the news media alike.

The trial of Jack Ruby may afford a partial opportunity to repair some of the damage to the image of criminal justice in America. The judicial process must not be further impaired by additional sensationalism, which would inevitably result if television of the trial were permitted. Such a use of television also would violate Canon 35 of the Canons of Judicial Ethics of the American Bar Association, which provides in part as follows:

"... The broadcasting or televising of court proceedings detract from the essential dignity of the proceedings, distract participants and witnesses in giving testimony, and create misconceptions with respect thereto in the minds of the public and should not be permitted."

Canon 35 recently has undergone the most careful study and re-examination, and was reaffirmed by the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association in February, 1963.

The American Bar Association believes that the paramount interest in the trial of Ruby is a fair trial, conducted with the full dignity of the law. It urges that the public authorities, defense counsel and the news media join in reaffirming by example what is meant in America by justice under law.

San Francisco Bar Decries News Media in Dallas Case

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 27 —The Bar Association of San Francisco called today for a greater degree of self-control by the news media. It said, "We believe that television, radio and the press must bear a portion of the responsibility which falls primarily on the Dallas law-enforcement officials."

"Both press media and law-enforcement officials must seek to protect the rights of accused persons against the damage to them, and consequently to our system of justice, which can come from revealing information concerning the accused at times when the revelation might inflame the public," said a letter signed by Ben. K. Lerer, president of the association.

The letter suggested that a joint committee of news media representatives and law-enforcement officers be set up to work out rules governing such highly publicized criminal arrests as that of Lee H. Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy.