

LAWYERS FIGHT IN D.W.I. TRIAL

Fists flew again at the Dallas County Courthouse Thursday—this time between Criminal Lawyer Tom Howard and Fred Bruner, chief misdemeanor prosecutor for the District Attorney's office.

Bruner and Howard clashed over testimony of Mrs. Lucille Thomasson, a state's witness in the drunk driving trial of Thomas Glen Raines before a jury in Judge Joe B. Brown's county criminal court.

Howard took Mrs. Thomasson, the first prosecution witness, on cross-examination. He began asking her about a conversation she had with Bruner and with Asst. Dist. Atty. Sam Daugherty and Investigator Dee Garrison.

Howard hinted that Bruner had been coaching Mrs. Thomasson about her testimony. Bruner objected to Howard's remarks and Judge Brown sustained him.

"If I was going to build up a case," said Bruner, "I'd build up a lot better case than she's testifying—I'd do a good job."

Howard turned to him and said, "Well, you tried to do some good jobs and you couldn't get away with it."

The judge interrupted, saying, "All right, gentlemen, that's enough of that." But the two attorneys kept at it.

"Are you accusing me?" Bruner demanded of Howard.

"I'm saying that you tried it."

"You're not accusing me of it, are you?" Bruner asked again, rising from his chair.

Howard, already on his feet, rejoined, "I am saying you tried five of them and tried to put innocent men in jail that you didn't—"

That was as far as Howard got. White-faced with fury, Bruner swung a right that connected to the side of Howard's face. Howard went down.

He was up again a split-second later, and the two lawyers, both good-sized men, started slugging toe to toe. Investigator Garrison and Bailiff V. E. Barksdale, aided by spectators, grabbed them and put a halt to the hostilities.

Judge Brown recessed court for the day and told the jury to go home.

It was not the first time Howard had tangled with a prosecutor. He and Dist. Atty. Will Wilson mixed it up late last year in Judge Henry King's criminal district court, but were separated before anyone got more than his feelings ruffled.

Fights between prosecutors and defense lawyers are not uncommon at the Courthouse, but they usually don't get far. Asst. Dist. Atty. Clarence Bentley earlier this summer was peeling off his coat for a go at Milton K. Norton out-

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