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Garrison / Jury didn't take long to reach verdict

Continued from 1A
terrorizing the victim in waves of attacks.

"That's a nice man for you," the prosecutor said, sarcastically. "What do you suppose he had on his mind when he broke into that apartment? Why was he there? This was no friendly visit. This was sheer stark-naked terror."

She asked for the maximum. Guilty of forcible rape with a weapon. Guilty of forcible sodomy with a weapon. Guilty of first-degree robbery, for the \$552 he took from the victim. Guilty of first-degree burglary for breaking into the apartment.

There was no doubting the victim's tale, Rushefsky insisted. Garrison claimed the woman let him into her East Walnut Street apartment at 3 a.m. and lent him, a complete stranger, the money. Rushefsky branded that "illogical and irrational."

But then arose Price, the court-appointed defender, who began with a lyrical story of a young man seeking advice from his grandmother, his mentor.

"She turned to the young man and said, 'Beware of promises unfulfilled,'" Price said. "This entire case has been about promises unfulfilled."

The state had promised that the victim had bruises on her legs and arms. "What did the doctor find? Two hickeys," Price scoffed.

He called the woman's account "an uncorroborated, unfulfilled promise from a young woman who's playing a game... it is time to tell her to stop... we can't trust her."

The jurors, six men and six women, appeared to be paying attention to Price for the 43 minutes he spoke.

They went off to the jury room to think.

Words of praise

But not for long.

The jury had seven counts to consider. The rape, sodomy and robbery charges each had lesser offenses listed in the jury instructions. The jury also had to pick a foreman and eat lunch.

They went in at 11:50 a.m. They summoned the bailiffs at 1:20 p.m.

After the verdict was read and Garrison was led away, Judge Sweeney told the sequestered jury the secrets that had been kept from it.

"The job of being a public defender usually has, as its rewards, long hours and low pay," Sweeney said. "Mr. Dean Price defended Mr. Garrison by court appointment."

"On what was to have been the opening morning of trial, Wednesday, Mr. Price and his family were threatened by an unknown person."

A few of the jurors began slowly shaking their heads.

"This has been a very difficult and traumatic thing for Mr. Price and his family," the judge said, "and I want you to know he has my thanks for the job he has done." Sweeney called Price "courageous."

Outside the courtroom, Rushefsky also praised Price. So did a handful of lawyers who crammed onto a back bench to watch the trial.

Price hurried downstairs to his truck. He spoke of the "very difficult circumstances" but said of Garrison, "I do believe he got a fair trial."

Then he quipped:

"Well, it turns out he did it."

Steven Garrison - Guilty - Part 2

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