

Ex-Policeman's Rape Trial S

A legal question postponed closing of the state's case Thursday in the rape-kidnaping trial of former Wichita policeman Willie Richard Adams Jr.

The question arose when the defense moved at the apparent close of the state's case that one aggravated kidnaping charge against the defendant be reduced to kidnaping because "no evidence of injury or trauma had been shown."

Earlier Sedgwick County Dist. Court Judge James Riddel had overruled defense motions dismissing six of the seven charges against the terminated police officer.

Riddel also refused admission of a statement that Adams gave to police about the assaults of Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 of two west Wichita housewives.

Defense counsel Stephen Jones told the court the defense felt that the state's evidence had not fulfilled the requirements of statute definitions for aggravated kidnaping.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Larry Wall said the state considered the act of rape sufficient evidence of physical injury in itself.

The judge said the count of rape and the evidence shown could not be implied in the aggravated kidnaping charge, however.

"I will give you time to present any further evidence of injury," Riddel told Wall.

At that point Jones strongly objected to the judge allowing the prosecution to reopen its case, particularly since one of the alleged victims had sat through most of the testimony since she had left the witness stand.

RIDDEL DISAGREED with Jones' objection and allowed Wall to recall the victim who testified she had been bruised by the gun in the defendant's coat while the rape allegedly occurred.

Jones asked the woman why she had not reported the injury earlier or if she had pictures of the injury.

"Did you report the injury to your physician?" Jones asked.

"No," the woman answered.

"Did the bruise require any kind of treatment?" defense counsel added.

"No," she said.

After review of the injury, Riddel said he felt the victim was telling the truth but the injury still did not meet the statutory requirements of aggravated kidnaping.

However, the judge allowed Wall to research the legal question overnight and said he would withhold a final

ruling on the matter until this morning.

Adams, 29, is charged with aggravated battery, battery and kidnaping for in the alleged assault of one housewife Feb. 14.

The defendant faces charges of aggravated burglary, aggravated kidnaping (the count in question)

Ex-Policeman Guilty on

A Sedgwick County District Court jury today returned guilty verdicts on all seven counts against ex-Wichita policeman Willie Richard Adams Jr.

Adams was found guilty of aggravated battery, battery and kidnaping in connection with a sexual assault of a west Wichita housewife Feb. 14.

The 30-year-old former policeman also was found guilty of aggravated burglary, aggravated kidnaping and rape in connection with a Feb. 21 assault of another Wichita housewife.

The seven-man, five-woman jury also returned a guilty verdict on an aggravated burglary count against Adams for his entrance into another woman's home Feb. 21.

The jury listened to testimony it requested this morning and was out of court when the verdicts were returned.

Adams' wife was in court after she heard the verdicts were returned.

The jury had the defendant Adams guilty on several counts of the charges but found