

'I'm Going to Fight It'

Rice Says Trial 'Wasn't Fair'

David L. Rice, asserting he didn't get a fair trial, said Saturday that he had been "under the impression that the jury would come back with either a not-guilty verdict or a hung jury."

Edward Poindexter, who along with Rice was sentenced to life at hard labor in the Nebraska Penal Complex for their part in the Aug. 17 bomb death of Patrolman Larry Minard, declined to comment.

Rice commented at an impromptu news conference in the office of County Jail Warden Charles Terry.

Rice, the onetime deputy minister of information of the Black Panther-related National Committee to Combat Fascism in Omaha, said the prosecution "systematically excluded" young persons and members of minority groups from the jury.

A black man was allowed on the jury, Rice said, so the defense could not later charge "discrimination."

Rice said he will appeal "to the U.S. Supreme Court" if necessary.

Herzog 'Exception'

"I'm not going down to the state pen and say everything is beautiful. I'm going to fight it and I'm going to go back onto the streets and do the same things, speaking out against the evils of the system which got me convicted."



—World-Herald Photo.

Rice . . . as he talks to reporters after verdict.

Rice added: "I will continue to organize people to bring about a reconstruction of the government of the United States."

Rice said his attorney, David Herzog, "showed himself to be an exceptional person because he came to my aid when I needed him."

Rice attacked the credibility of Duane Christopher Peak, the state's chief witness against him. The prosecution, Rice added, presented the jury with a "maze of conjectures."

Rice said Peak "was 15 years old at the time of the incident" and was "frightened."

He said Duane gave police a "strange story" of the Minard bombing and made a "number of conflicting statements about involvement between Ed and me."

Criticizes Press

Rice criticized The World-Herald and local radio and television stations for pre-trial coverage of his case and for leaning "towards the prosecution" during the prosecution's presentation in the trial.

The World-Herald's coverage was the "most ridiculous," Rice said.

"They used the worst pictures possible which made us look bad," he added.