

Saturday, May 26, 1984

# 2 more selected for Spence jury

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A 35-year-old staff recruiter at Texas State Technical Institute and a 58-year-old registered nurse at the Waco Veterans Administration Medical Center became the third and fourth jurors selected Friday in the capital murder trial of David Wayne Spence.

The new jurors join a 63-year-old Baylor University psychology professor who was selected Wednesday and a 21-year-old substitute each chosen Thursday.

Eight prospective jurors will return to 54th

State District Court Tuesday for the resumption of jury selection. The courthouse will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

Spence, 25, is charged in the July 1982 stabbing deaths of three teen-agers whose bodies were found near Lake Waco. If convicted, he faces life imprisonment or death by injection.

Two other prospective jurors were questioned Friday by court-appointed defense attorneys Russ Hunt and Hayes Fuller and prosecutors Vic Feazell and Ned Butler.

A 60-year-old maintenance supervisor for

Newman Rentals was excused because he said he could not give Spence the death penalty. A 58-year-old retired U.S. Postal Service employee was rejected because he said he would require a greater burden of proof of prosecutors than the law mandates.

Fourteen prospective jurors have been questioned since jury selection began on Tuesday. Court officials had predicted that jury selection would take from two to three weeks, but Judge George Allen said Friday that the process is "proceeding very well."

Neither side used any of its 15 peremptory

strikes to dismiss jurors on Friday. Feazell and Butler have used two of their peremptory strikes, and Hunt and Fuller have not used any.

Both sides are granted 15 peremptory strikes, in which they are not required to cite a specific reason to dismiss a juror.

Both sides can use an unlimited number of "strikes for cause," in which they must give a legal reason for the person to be rejected as a juror. Allen then rules on whether the person should be dismissed.