

# Surgeon Goes On Trial In Wife Murder

HOUSTON (AP) — Opposing lawyers were expected to pick the 12 jurors today who will hear the murder trial of Dr. John R. Hill, prominent Houston plastic surgeon.

Hill, 40, is charged under a rarely used homicide law with the "murder by omission" of his socialite wife, Mrs. Joan Robinson Hill, 38, who died March 19, 1969 of what pathologists have described as a "massive infection."

State prosecutors will attempt to prove Hill deliberately withheld proper medical treatment from his wife.

Defense lawyer Richard Haynes worked his way through only a dozen prospective jurors during a day of examination Wednesday.

Haynes spent as much as an hour on a single juror, mixing questions with lengthy lectures on the legal points of the complicated case.

The jury panel, whittled down to 40 persons, sat together on the wooden benches of Dist. Judge Fred M. Hooey's court as Haynes worked his way down the rows.

Opposing attorneys will pick all 12 jurors at once after Haynes has completed his questioning. Testimony may not begin until Friday.