



CSU  
College of Law Library

Cleveland State University  
**EngagedScholarship@CSU**

---

[All Articles](#)

[Newspaper Coverage](#)

---

12-22-1954

## 54/12/22 Jurors' 39-Hour, 23-Minute Deliberations Among Nations Longest

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Follow this and additional works at: [https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage)  
[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Cleveland Plain Dealer, "54/12/22 Jurors' 39-Hour, 23-Minute Deliberations Among Nations Longest" (1954). *All Articles*. 242.

[https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper\\_coverage/242](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/newspaper_coverage/242)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newspaper Coverage at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Articles by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).





# Jurors' 39-Hour, 23-Minute Deliberations Among Nations Longest

## 5-DAY ISOLATION BRINGS VERDICT

Tops Thaw, Hauptmann, Snyder-Gray Marks

The Sheppard jury's deliberations, which kept the nation in suspense five days, rank among the longest and most grueling in the nation's history of murder trials.

The jurors spent 39 hours and 23 minutes in actual deliberations, cooped up behind locked doors in the chambers over the trial courtroom.

In all, they were isolated from the outside world for approximately 102 hours, starting last Friday morning.

Reporters covering the trial kept count of the jury's deliberation time, as there is no official court reason to clock such deliberations.

On Monday, the Sheppard jury exceeded the deliberation time in the famous trial of Harry K. Thaw in New York nearly 47 years ago.

The jury that tried Thaw for the murder of Architect Stanford White on June 25, 1906, deliberated 25 hours, bringing in a verdict of acquittal on Feb. 1, 1908.

One of the longest jury sessions on record was in the case of Hans Schmidt, who was tried twice in New York for the murder of Anna Aumiller on Sept. 2, 1913.

The first jury disagreed Dec. 30, 1913, after being out 34 hours, but records do not show whether the jury actually deliberated 34 hours or had the case that length of time when discharged as unable to agree.

### Convicted Soon

The second jury convicted Schmidt of first-degree murder in short order, taking only two hours and 37 minutes.

In two other famous cases, jurors were out 20 hours in each. The first was the trial of Gerald Chapman, who was convicted April 4, 1925, at Hartford, Conn., for the slaying of Patrolman James Skelly at New Britain, Conn., earlier the same year.

The other case was the third trial of Benjamin Feldman, a New York druggist, who was acquitted in November, 1949, of charges that he fatally poisoned his wife.

In two earlier trials Feldman had been found guilty and sentenced to die.

The famous trial of Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray 27 years ago of Mrs. Snyder's murder in New York, verdict in only

an hour and 40 minutes.

The jury that tried Bruno Richard Hauptmann, a carpenter, in 1935 for first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh, jr., son of the famous flier, found Hauptmann guilty in 11 hours and six minutes. The trial took six weeks.

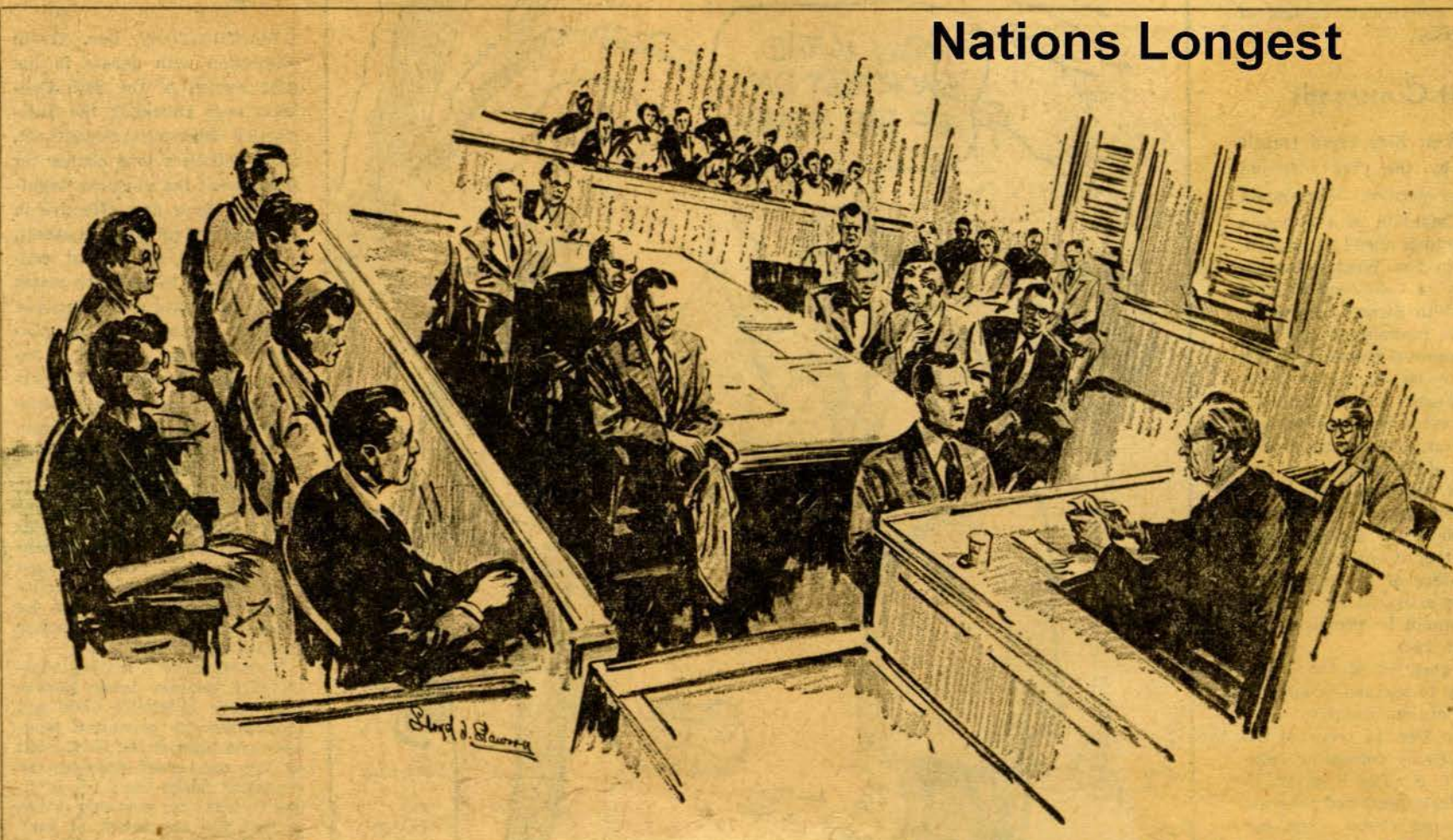
A jury in New Brunswick, N. J., deliberated five hours and eight minutes in 1926 before freeing Mrs. Frances E. Hall and two brothers of charges they slew Mrs. Hall's husband, Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor E. Mills.

Famous trials such as the Sheppard case are not the only ones that have given jurors difficult decisions to make or that require long study.

Newsmen waiting for the verdict yesterday dug into their memory notebooks and came up with cases of nobodies where the juries took more time than some of the more notorious trials.

There was the Pittsburgh case in 1922. Fourteen days a jury pondered the murder charge against James J. Fallner, whose wife had been killed in her bed. His defense: "I thought it was a burglar." The jury acquitted him.

The Sheppard jury had surpassed another wife murder case, in San Jose, Cal., in 1936. The jury had been out 97 hours and 46 minutes.



**FATEFUL MOMENT.** With photographers barred from the courtroom, a Plain Dealer artist, Lloyd J. Slawson, made this sketch while Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard faced Judge Edward Blythin to declare his innocence before sentence was pronounced. Others depicted, seated left to right at table (foreground), are Detective Harold C. Lockwood, Deputy Inspector James E. McArthur, Assistant Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau and Assistant Prosecutor Thomas J. Parrino. On the other side of the table, left to right, are Defense Attorneys Arthur E. Petersilge, William J. Corrigan and Fred W. Garmone.