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By ROBERT HANLEY Special to The New York Times  
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## ***De La Roche Pleads Insanity in Murders Of All 4 in Family***

By ROBERT HANLEY

Special to The New York Times

HACKENSACK, N. J., Jan. 24—A 19-year-old Montvale youth charged with killing his parents and two brothers 14 months ago did in fact slay them but was legally insane at the time, his lawyer said today in an abrupt change in his defense that seemed to startle the judge and Prosecutor.

The defense counsel, John R. Taylor, had devoted considerable time during the trial to attacking the admissibility and credibility of Harry De La Roche Jr.'s original confession to all four slayings.

Mr. De La Roche himself had testified that he killed only his brother Ronald, 15, in a fit of temporary insanity after Ronald killed his parents, Harry Sr. and Mary Jane, and his brother Eric, 12, following a fight with his father over his use of marijuana.

The judge, James F. Madden, said from the bench that Mr. Taylor's shift had left him confused.

After a luncheon recess, Judge Madden let Mr. Taylor change his defense because he found that Mr. Taylor had previously notified the Bergen County Prosecutor's office in writing that the defense would be insanity. That document never specified how many murders the insanity defense would apply to.

However, Mr. Taylor's repeated suggestions out of court and his constant line

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