

O.J. jurors decide verdict after swift deliberation

■ **DELAYED:** The decision, reached Monday afternoon, was withheld until 10 a.m. today

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After less than three hours of deliberation, jurors yesterday reached a verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder case, but the decision was sealed until this morning.

Jurors, who have been sequestered since Jan. 11, were in the jury room only a few hours when they returned to the courtroom to listen again to the testimony of the limousine driver who took Simpson to the airport shortly after the killings.

But on a break following 75 minutes of recitation by the court reporter, jurors sent the judge a note saying they had heard enough, then requested that verdict forms be provided to them.

Then jurors were brought

back into the courtroom and the judge confirmed they had reached a verdict. It was one of the fastest verdict decisions in memory for such a long, high-profile case.

The request for the repeat of Allan Park's testimony suggested jurors were looking at the critical issue of whether Simpson had enough time to kill ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Park, who picked Simpson up for a trip to the airport to catch a red-eye flight to Chicago, was considered one of the most important timeline witnesses, joining houseguest Brian "Kato" Kaelin, the last person known to see Simpson before the June 12, 1994, knife murders.

Their testimony created a 78-minute window of opportunity for Simpson, who contends he was at home preparing for the Chicago trip but presented no alibi testimony.

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