

# Ruby Defense Psychiatrist Undergoes Stiff Questioning

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade contended Thursday that a defense psychiatrist in the Jack Ruby murder trial left his staff position with a California mental hospital because he "thought sex criminals should be released and allowed to roam around."

Wade ripped into the psychiatrist, Dr. Walter Bromberg, in the most scathing cross-examination of the trial.

Dr. Bromberg testified during questioning by Melvin Belli, the chief defense lawyer, that Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald while "in a state of suspended consciousness."

The psychiatrist pictured Ruby as a psychomotor epilepsy victim who had delusions that he was "a messiah . . . the savior of the Jewish race . . . a man who wanted to prove that Jews have guts."

Wade raised his voice at times while questioning Dr. Bromberg, who is now clinical director of a New York psychiatric hospital. The district attorney at other times spoke in a voice syrupy with derision.

Wade noted that Dr. Bromberg left a Mendocino, Calif., hospital after spending 14 months on its staff.

"You left after a disagreement because you thought sex criminals should be released and allowed to run around, didn't you?" Wade asked.

Dr. Bromberg replied that he left after a disagreement with the state director of mental hygiene.

Q. Well, you did recommend that these sex criminals should be furloughed, didn't you? You thought they should be furloughed?

A. That was the interpretation placed upon it by the director of mental hygiene. I said they shouldn't be locked up behind brick walls if they became better, and should be allowed some freedom on the grounds, and that was where the difference of opinion arose."

Q. You've testified a number of times for Mr. Belli and his associates, haven't you?

A. Not on numerous occasions. In two or three cases, I would say.

Q. Are you telling this jury that two times is all, for him or any member of his firm?

A. Yes, as far as I can recall.

Q. And they're paying you \$350 a day?

A. That depends on the hours I spend . . .

Q. That's your fee, isn't it — \$350 a day?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And they pay travel and expenses?

A. That's right.

Ruby leaned forward in his chair, his face expressionless, his jaws chomping on the gum in his mouth. Jurors kept their eyes on Dr. Bromberg, but they appeared exhausted. Two jurors on the front row puffed on pipes.

Belli called Dr. Bromberg as his first witness Thursday in an attempt to bolster the defense

contention that Ruby blacked out and acted like a robot, unaware of what he was doing, when he shot the Marxist accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy. The defense theory came under heavy attack from prosecution psychiatrists Wednesday.

A white-haired, neatly attired man, Dr. Bromberg gestured with his hands as he testified. His horn-rimmed glasses, which he removed at times, and his precisely clipped mustache added to his distinguished appearance.

Dr. Bromberg's testimony paralleled that of Dr. Manfred Guttmacher, a Baltimore psychiatrist called by the defense.

After Dr. Bromberg told the jury about his background as a psychiatrist and lecturer in the field of mental health, Belli asked:

"Do you have an opinion whether Jack Ruby knew right from wrong, and the nature and consequences of his acts, on Nov. 24, when he shot Lee Harvey Oswald?"

Dr. Bromberg replied: "I feel he was mentally ill and did not know the nature of his act. I feel he was in a state of suspended consciousness due to a complicated mental illness . . . He was an extremely emotional, unstable person . . . an epileptoid personality . . . prone to acts of an instinctive, automatic nature not subject to control."

The psychiatrist said that, like Dr. Guttmacher, he thinks Ruby has suicidal tendencies.

"I think he has a definite suicidal potential," Dr. Bromberg told jurors. "All depressives have suicidal tendencies."

"Here we have a man with a low self-esteem . . . the feeling that he was a nothing person. When you find this type of man, you find suicidal tendencies."

"Well, there wasn't any indication, was there, that he intended to shoot himself when he shot Lee Harvey Oswald?" Wade asked derisively.

Dr. Bromberg conceded there wasn't