

COUNSEL FOR RUBY

Percy Foreman Replaces Belli

By CARL FREUND

Percy Foreman, a Houston lawyer who has tried more than 350 murder cases, became chief defense attorney for Jack Ruby Thursday and announced he would fly to Dallas Sunday to confer with the condemned slayer.

Foreman replaced Melvin Belli, the controversial San Francisco lawyer fired by Ruby Wednesday night.

Like Belli, Foreman has a flair for the spectacular. Foreman is regarded, however, as far better versed in Texas legal procedures.

Foreman said he signed a contract with Mrs. Eileen Kaminsky, a sister of Ruby, and three brothers of the slayer. He said the contract provides he shall serve as chief defense attorney and shall have the final voice on decisions made by Ruby's legal staff in its battle to save Ruby from the electric chair.

A jury ruled Saturday that Ruby should pay with his life for the Nov. 24 murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, the 24-year-old Marxist accused of assassinating President Kennedy here.

Mrs. Kaminsky told reporters: "We preferred Foreman in the first place. We preferred him to Belli. But Foreman was contacted by another man, and there was some misunderstanding about the part Foreman would take in the case, so we went with Belli."

Foreman said this "misunderstanding" involved his fee.

"The intermediary told the slayer I wanted four times the amount I cited to him, and they decided they could not afford me," Foreman said.

Foreman said he has "a high regard" for Joe Tonahill of Jasper and Phil Burleson of Dallas, who were associated with Belli in defending Ruby during his month-long trial.

"My agreement provides I will be chief defense attorney, but I would certainly have no objection to Joe and Phil remaining in the case," Foreman said. "In fact, I would like to have them with me."

Burleson said Ruby asked him to remain on the defense staff, and he intends to do so. Burleson's statement came after he conferred with Ruby for 35 minutes while the slayer ate breakfast in his county jail cell.

Tonahill said he also intends to remain a part of the defense team.

"I think I owe it to Jack," Tonahill said from his Jasper home.

Foreman said he will add other lawyers to the staff which will work with him.

"I have five lawyers over the state who assist me," he said. "At least one of them will work with me in the Ruby case."

Foreman said his contract provides specifically that he will "have the right to determine with whom I associate in the case."

Minutes after the family hired him, the Houston lawyer began preparing legal papers in the case.

Foreman said he has never met Ruby.

"I would like to see him sooner, but I'm tied up in court," Foreman said. "I'm preparing a motion for a new trial. I will file it Monday."

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Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
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Mr. Felt	_____
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