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UPI-16

(RUBY)

DALLAS--CONVICTED KILLER JACK RUBY AND HIS NEW DEFENSE ATTORNEY, MERCY FOREMAN OF HOUSTON, MET TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME AND DISCUSSED APPEALS STRATEGY.

FOREMAN, NICKNAMED THE "TEXAS TIGER," ALSO CONFERRED WITH RUBY'S TWO OTHER DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, PHIL BURLISON OF DALLAS AND J. H. TONAHILL OF JASPER, TEX. FOREMAN WAS HIRED AFTER RUBY FIRED CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY MELVIN BELLI FOR HIS TIRADES AGAINST DALLAS.

RUBY, SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THE SLAYING OF ACCUSED PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN LEE HARVEY OSWALD, DECLINED AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THE FAMED FOREMAN.

HE SENT A NOTE TO NEWSMEN AND PHOTOGRAPHERS THAT READ:

"IT IS NOT MY DESIRE TO COME DOWN AND BE PHOTOGRAPHED."

FOREMAN, AFTER A LONG CONFERENCE WITH RUBY, SAID "IT'S SORTA DIS-HEARTENING TO SEE A MAN IN HIS POSITION...LIKE A RABBIT ON A STRING."

FOREMAN WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE CASE OTHER THAN TO SAY IT "DESERVES A LOT OF WORK."

IN SHARP CONTRAST TO BELLI, HE DID NOT BLAME DALLAS FOR RUBY'S FLIGHT.

"NO SIR, I DON'T THINK THE CITY OF DALLAS WAS OUT TO GET JACK RUBY," HE SAID. FOREMAN SAID HE HAD A LETTER IN HIS POCKET FROM BELLI BUT WOULD NOT DISCLOSE ITS CONTENTS.

FOREMAN, IN COMMENTING ON WHETHER RUBY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A CHANGE OF VENUE, SAID "I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIED FOR A YEAR, IF IT HAD BEEN TRIED IN DALLAS."

HE SAID HE WOULD SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY WORKING WITH BURLISON AND TONAHILL, WHO HE DESCRIBED AS "FINE PEOPLE." FOREMAN WILL VISIT RUBY AGAIN AT NOON EST TOMORROW.

FOREMAN WOULD NOT COMMENT ON HOW RUBY WAS TAKING HIS DEATH SENTENCE BUT SAID "IT IS ALWAYS SAD TO SEE A MAN IN THIS SITUATION." FOREMAN SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE CASE ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT BECAUSE "A LAWYER WHO DIDN'T DO IT IF HE HAD TO WOULD BE DERELICT IN DUTY."

BURLISON AND TONAHILL PRAISED THE NEWEST MEMBER TO RUBY'S DEFENSE TEAM. THEY SAID THEY WERE HAPPY TO BE WORKING WITH HIM.

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