

# Foreman Quits Ruby Defense

DALLAS, March 23 (AP) — Attorney Percy Foreman withdrew today as chief counsel for Jack Ruby, blaming interference by the condemned killer's family for his decision.

The Houston lawyer had replaced Melvin Belli only four days ago.

This latest development in the bizarre murder case came as Ruby spent his 53d birthday in the county jail, sentenced to die in the electric chair for slaying Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's accused assassin.

## Ruby 'Barbecued'

Foreman, 61, told newsmen he thought Ruby had been "barbecued" at his trial this month, but felt he had to quit the defense team because of disagreements with Ruby's family and a Dallas civil lawyer.

"No criminal lawyer with integrity can let a civil lawyer or a layman tell him what to do, especially when a man's life is at stake," Foreman told newsmen at the Dallas County Courthouse as he announced his severance from the case.

Stanley Kaufman, the civil lawyer referred to by Foreman, was quoted by the Dallas Times Herald as saying: "If Foreman says I have curtailed his activities, he's lying."

## Advised Ruby Before

Kaufman, who denies any connection with the Ruby case, has given Ruby advice in the past on civil matters.

Foreman announced his resignation from the case in a letter written today to Ruby.

He cited the following reasons:

"Your sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, insists on retaining and exercising the general power of attorney from you.

"Attorney Kaufman thinks criminal cases should be tried as he tries civil cases. I do not agree with his opinion.

"Both attorney Kaufman and Mrs. Grant believe that your attorney should not answer questions of the news media except with 'no comment.' I do not agree with this, especially in your case. The peculiar facts of your case make it necessary that the public know whatever facts mitigate the offense.

"I do not agree with the news media before you were in court.

"Both convictions ought to be set aside. Change in public opinion may help bring about a reversal in the appellate courts."

Toison   
Belmont   
Mohr   
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
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MAR 24 1964

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# CLAIMS 'DIVIDED AUTHORITY' Foreman Quits Ruby's Defense

## Houston Lawyer Says He Prefers Working Alone

By **JERRY RICHMOND**, Staff Writer  
Percy Foreman resigned Monday as chief defense counsel for convicted murderer Jack Ruby only four days after he officially entered the case.

Mr. Foreman said his resignation was due to "the system of divided authority" under which the Ruby defense effort was being conducted.

The Houston attorney announced his withdrawal from the case in a letter hand-delivered to Ruby in his jail cell shortly before noon Monday.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"The Dallas Times-Herald"  
Dallas, Texas

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Mr. Foreman entered the case after Ruby's family fired the former chief counsel in the case. Melvin Belli, in an apparent disagreement over his tactics during and after the trial.

#### MONEY NOT FACTOR

In his letter to Ruby, the Houston attorney said "there is no possibility that you and I could not agree on a fee and a method of payment. When a human life is at stake, there should be no quibbling about money.

"But the conditions under which I would be required to work as your counsel on appeal, and in any future trials, would so handicap my efforts that I do not think it worthwhile to discuss further my employment in your case," he concluded.

He listed these conditions as:

"1. Your sister, Mrs. Eva Grant, insists on retaining and exercising the general power of attorney from you. This means I would have to 'represent' her as well as you. Such would make my work twice as time-consuming.

"2. Attorney (Stanley) Kaufman has, and deserves, your confidence. He thinks criminal cases should be tried as he tries civil cases. I do not agree with his opinion. But since he is closer to you than I could ever become I would possibly have another person criticizing my conduct of your appeal and retrial."

Mr. Kaufman was identified as a friend and adviser of the Ruby family.

The Houston lawyer said Mr. Kaufman considers the record of the Ruby case closed and that there is nothing to be done but write the brief and argue the case on appeal.

#### MORE WORK YET

"I do not concur," Mr. Foreman's letter said. "There is a tremendous amount of work to be done, both out of court and at the hearing on the amended motion for a new trial. Unless this is done, in my opinion, several important legal points will not be properly preserved for consideration on appeal."

Mr. Foreman said it was not true that he was rejected by Ruby after his Sunday interview with the former nightspot operator.

Mr. Ruby didn't tell me he didn't want me. He did want me," Mr. Foreman stated.

The defense attorney said he likes to "try a case alone" and not be responsible to people other than his client.

"I'd just as soon represent Eva Grant as Jack Ruby, but I don't want to represent both of them," Mr. Foreman added. "I'd just as soon represent attorney Kaufman, but not all three of them."

The Houston attorney was asked whether he objected to attorneys Joe Tonahill and Phil Bursleson remaining in the case. The two were members of Ruby's defense team under Melvin Belli.

"I don't object to them individually, but I'd rather work alone," Mr. Foreman said. "Working with others slows me down. I spent 16 hours Sunday and we got nowhere. If I had been alone I could have dictated the amended motion in that time."

In a press conference Mr. Foreman summed up his reasons for withdrawing from the case this way: "I do not think a lawyer assuming the responsibility for this man's life should have to share that responsibility with a civil lawyer and numerous unlicensed relatives."