

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Belli Visits Ruby, Defense Attorneys

By HUGH AYNESWORTH

Dapper Melvin Belli, the San Francisco attorney who headed the defense in the trial of slayer Jack Ruby, Friday night paid a surprise 26-minute visit with the condemned man and conferred with lawyers now appealing the case.

Belli joined attorneys Phil Burleson and Emmett Colvin Jr. in an 11 p.m. visit to the Dallas County jail where Ruby has been confined since the Nov. 24 killing of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Earlier Friday, Belli — using a false name — registered at the Western Hills Hotel in Fort Worth where he met for six hours with Colvin, Burleson and Clayton Fowler, who now heads the defense team. Belli was fired by the Ruby family after a jury assessed the death penalty on March 14.

Belli's encounter with his for-

mer client was their first since Ruby was sentenced.

The conference touched off speculation that the Dallas lawyers wanted to discuss strategy which they will follow in appealing the death penalty.

One source said the lawyers wanted to discuss the record with Belli "and to get his thinking on it." Reportedly they went over the portion of the case record which has been transcribed — about one-third — and studied newspapers.

The group came to Dallas about 10 p.m. and went to Colvin's office on Main Street.

Shortly before 11 p.m., they walked the two blocks from the law office to the jail, where numerous deputies were on hand to escort them to Ruby's cell.

Asked if he was coming back into the case, Belli said:

"No, I just have a personal interest and I don't want to discuss

it any more right now."

Earlier in Fort Worth, Belli said he hadn't been invited to re-enter the case "and I would refuse if I were."

When questioned about any correspondence he might have had with Ruby since the verdict, he said, "I don't think it would be fair for me to elaborate on anything concerning the case now."

Colvin, Belli and Burleson left the county jail building at 11:26 p.m. and walked to a parked car. Belli said he was leaving town.

A reporter asked Belli if he still held the animosity toward Dallas he showed the day of the verdict. He did not reply.

"Don't tell me you like Dallas, Mel," another reporter chided.

"Yes, I certainly do," Belli replied, walking at a fast clip. "Anybody who believes otherwise should read my statements carefully."

Mrs. Eva Grant, sister of Ruby, said Belli telephoned her and her brother Sam Ruby "about 6 p.m."

"He just wanted to get together with the others," Mrs. Grant said. "He was concerned about Jack. He told me the verdict had been bothering him and he hoped to visit Jack."

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

1
"The Dallas Morning News"
Dallas, Texas

Date: 8-15-64
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title: Jack B. Krueger

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Dallas
 Being Investigated

1
NOT RECORDED
191 SEP 4 1964

70 SEP 8 1964