

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

BELLI CREDITED Ruby Perks Up, Lawyer Reports

Attorney Emmett Colvin Jr. said Saturday he believed spirits of his client, Jack Ruby, were improved by a Friday night visit from Melvin Belli.

"I hadn't seen that man smile in a long time," said Colvin, describing how Ruby broke into a grin at the sight of Belli.

Ruby is condemned to death for his slaying of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. Belli, colorful San Francisco lawyer, headed Ruby's trial defense but was discharged after his outbursts following the jury verdict.

Colvin said Belli did not discuss legal strategy during the meeting with Ruby. He talked instead about a vacation he had taken in Canada.

"Good to see you smiling," said Belli. "How have you been?" Ruby said he had been "all right."

Belli said he had come "as a friend" to see Ruby and tell him that he was "still interested" in his case.

The Californian told the prisoner that he was preparing a brief to aid the defense team.

Sheriff's Deputies E. R. Walthers and Grady McMahan stayed nearby during the visit.

Walthers said the men talked for 19 minutes. "They were friendly and shook hands," he said. "It was a break in routine, and Jack Ruby seemed glad to see him."

Earlier, Belli spent several hours in a legal conference with Ruby attorneys Phil Burleson, Clayton Epwiler and Colvin.

Colvin said Belli plans to pre-

pare research papers and a brief to aid the defense team in appealing the verdict.

Colvin said the defense attorneys welcomed any assistance from Belli although Belli is not officially connected with the case any longer.

Only about 2,000 pages of court record on the trial has been completed, said Colvin. The rest of the record will not be available for defense attorneys until late September, he said. He expects the entire record to be about 6,000 pages.

"When you haven't got the record, it is wise to confer with attorneys who tried the case," said Colvin. He pointed out a possibility that Belli might file a brief with the Court of Criminal Appeals as a friend of the court. He said that any attorney can act in such capacity.

Colvin believes it will be next January or February before the appeal is argued before appellate court.

Belli quietly registered under an assumed name at the Western Hills Hotel in Fort Worth Friday. He used the name "H. Cobden."

In the Western Hills Key Club, a waiter hovered about the table saying "Yes, Mr. Cobden" and "You bet, Mr. Cobden" at every request from the diner.

When "Mr. Cobden" arose to leave the room, however, the waiter slipped and said: "Good-by, Mr. Belli."

H. Cobden checked out Saturday. Colvin said he understood Belli to say that he was returning to San Francisco.

-KENT BIFFLE

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