

Defense Says Bremer Was Insane at Time of Shooting

By HOMER BIGART
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UPPER MARLBORO, Md., July 31—The state trial of Arthur Herman Bremer, the Milwaukee busboy accused of shooting Gov. George C. Wallace, began today with his counsel telling a jury of six men and six women that Mr. Bremer was insane at the time he is accused of having fired the shots that paralyzed Mr. Wallace. The attorney raised doubts as to whether Mr. Bremer had fired the shots.

Mr. Bremer, 21 years old, listened and shook his head as Benjamin Lipsitz, a Baltimore lawyer, described him as a schizophrenic who may have been mentally sick "from the day he was born." The defendant was suffering a "most severe psychosis" when and if he shot Mr. Wallace on May 15 during a rally at a shopping center in Laurel, Md.

Mr. Bremer faces 17 state charges in connection with the shooting. He also faces a Federal trial, which has been delayed.

The defense attorney said: "I'm not trying to kid you. I don't know whether he shot Wallace or not. I think some doctors will tell you even Arthur Bremer doesn't know if he shot Wallace."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation had not been able to find Mr. Bremer's fingerprints on the .38-caliber revolver he was supposed to have used, Mr. Lipsitz said.

No Residue Found

The F.B.I. could not prove that the .38-caliber bullets that felled Mr. Wallace came from Mr. Bremer's gun, the lawyer said, and he suggested that the bullets might have been fired from the service revolver of one of dozens of policemen at the scene. Finally, he said, there were no signs of gun powder residue on the paraffin "lifts" taken of Mr. Bremer's hands.

State's Attorney Arthur A. Marshall Jr. took five minutes to tell the jury that the state of Maryland would prove that Mr. Bremer bought the gun in Milwaukee last Jan. 13, brought the gun into Maryland illegally and used it with intent to murder the Alabama Governor.

The state would prove its case with eyewitnesses and with a film depicting the shooting, Mr. Marshall said.

Later, the courtroom was

darkened, and the four-minute film, shot by a cameraman to the Columbia Broadcasting System, Laurens Pierce, was shown to the jury. It began with the closing minutes of a Wallace speech, then showed the Governor moving coatless through a crowd of hand-shakers. A sudden flurry of activity, screams and the film shows the Governor lying on the pavement with blood flowing from his chest.

The First Witness

But Mr. Pierce, the first witness, said that, although he saw through the view-finder of his camera "a gun in the air and smoke from the gun, and saw the Governor fall and then the crowd scream, and total confusion," he could not swear that he ever saw Mr. Bremer with the gun.

There was a touch of drama when Mr. Bremer was placed among the audience, a sheriff's deputy on either side, and witnesses to the attempted assassination were asked to find him. Mr. Bremer has changed his appearance somewhat since May. His blond hair was short-cropped then. Now he wears it long, and he has cultivated a wispy Van Gogh beard.

Mr. Pierce had no difficulty finding the defendant among the 100 newsmen and spectators. But other witnesses had trouble. One of them tentatively fingered a young baldish court attendant, and a newsman.

Ralph Spiegle, a crane operator who testified that he grabbed Mr. Bremer and wrestled him to the ground after five shots were fired, was unable to identify him from the witness chair.

Judge Ralph W. Powers, the 65-year-old judge of the Prince Georges County Court, invited Spiegle to step down and approach the spectator's benches where Mr. Bremer was sequestered in the fourth row.

The courtroom was silent as Spiegle, a burly Wallace supporter, went down the aisles peering into the faces of spectators. He gave up after one

tour and returned to the witness stand, where, under cross-examination, he admitted that he had once been convicted of larceny.

His wife, Mable, who followed him on the stand, found Mr. Bremer easily.

Gilbert R. Saunders, a Wallace campaign worker, and his wife, Madelin, both failed.

The Saunderses testified that Mr. Bremer was standing beside them during the rally. Mrs. Saunders said: "He spoke to one of my sons and asked: 'Do you like Governor Wallace?'"

My son said, 'Yes.'"

Mrs. Saunders said she shook Mr. Wallace's hand.

"There was a lot of pushing and shoving," she said. "Then I saw a man thrust a left hand out toward Governor Wallace to be shaken. The man also came up with his right hand. I hollered, 'He's got a gun, he's got a gun!' I pulled at the bottom of his coat as he was firing and said to the crowd, 'Please help us.'"

Mr. Saunders said he fell on Mr. Bremer and was kicked by the milling crowd.