

Foreman Replaces Belli as

Ruby's Counsel

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HOUSTON, March 19 (AP) Percy Foreman, a criminal attorney who says he can afford to choose his clients carefully, said today he has agreed to replace Melvin Belli as chief counsel for Jack Ruby.

Foreman is president of the National Association of Defense Lawyers. He has handled more than 700 criminal offense cases and has lost only one defendant to the electric chair.



Foreman

Foreman's announcement in his Houston office followed the dismissal of Belli by Ruby and his family. Belli, a California attorney, had been Ruby's chief counsel.

Foreman said he signed a contract today with Eileen Kaminsky, a sister of Ruby, and with three of Ruby's brothers, Hyman Rubenstein, Chicago; Earl Ruby, Southfield, Mich.; and Sam Ruby, Dallas.

"We wanted Foreman in the first place," said Mrs. Kaminsky. "We preferred him to Belli. But Foreman was contacted by another man and there was some misunderstanding about what part Foreman would take in the case, so we went with Belli."

Appeal to Be Filed

Foreman said he understood that Joe Tonahill, Jasper attorney and Ruby's assistant counsel at the Dallas trial, is to file an appeal of the conviction Saturday.

"If Tonahill fails to do so, I'll file one Monday," Foreman said.

The sister and brothers re-

fused to detail how or why Belli was dismissed but said the action was taken in a letter from Jack Ruby and another sister, Eva Grant, mailed to Belli last night at his San Francisco office.

"I'd rather not discuss contents of the letter, but what would you do if you got a verdict like that?" asked Mrs. Kaminsky.

Belli "put on a great big circus," said Rubinstein.

"We didn't like the things he said about Dallas and Texas," said Earl Ruby.

Belli bitterly criticized Dallas, the jury, the judge and the district attorney's office after the death verdict.

Walter C. Craig of Phoenix, Ariz., president of the American Bar Association, said Belli's comments would be investigated by the Committee on Professional Grievances. He called Belli's words "intemperate and abusive" and "a discredit to him and to his profession."

Belli, leaving Mexico City for his San Francisco home, commented to Mexican lawyer Victor Velasquez today that "public opinion and especially my fellow attorneys should not judge me until my handling of the trial in all its technical details are generally known."

Asked if Tonahill and Phil Bursleson of Dallas would be retained for the remainder of the case, Foreman replied:

"I haven't been hired to work with anybody. I was hired to take charge of the appeal. If I think I can work with these other lawyers, I will keep them."

Expects Reversal

Foreman said he would not have taken the case "if I didn't think I could reverse it (the conviction)."

Foreman said his appeal would allege two major errors in the trial court.

1. The trial court permitted 11 persons who witnessed the Oswald slaying on television to sit on the jury.

2. The court permitted hearsay evidence from a Dallas police officer who told the jury Ruby had said after his arrest that he killed Oswald to prove that "Jews have guts."

He said the foreman of the Ruby jury had been quoted after the trial as saying this

statement by the policeman was a compelling reason for the jury voting the death penalty.

Foreman declined, however, to criticize Belli's handling of the case.

"It would be unethical for me to do that and I don't approve of the American Bar Association criticizing Belli in such a public manner," Foreman said.

German 'Fringes' Feed on Ruby Trial

Chicago Daily News Service

BONN, March 19—Extremists of both the right and left in Germany are still trying to make capital of the murder trial and conviction of Jack Ruby.

Both are using much the same material—the fringe rumors—to create as much confusion as possible and, ultimately, to attribute President Kennedy's assassination to the other side.

The chief Communist voice in East Berlin, which has regularly tried to discredit the Dallas proceedings. Dallas, according to the Communists, is a center of reaction.

Extreme right-wing comment comes from weekly newspapers published in West Germany by small groups that skate very close to open Nazism.

These neo-Nazi publications add a strong dash of anti-Semitism. Ruby is referred to as "Rubenstein," the name he abandoned years ago.

Former Gen. Edwin A. Walker provides a commentary in the National Zeitung, a violently rightest weekly with no open party connections.

Dallas citizens may be as-

tonished to learn that, according to Walker, they are nursing in their city a "strong pro-Communist cell in which Castro followers have much influence."

The Reichsruf, newspaper of the small and extreme German Reichs Party, says the Ruby trial has pushed the question of the President's assassination into the background.

Reichsruf's front-page headline asks: "Rubenstein—Plotter or Front?"