

Bremer Resists Doctors 7/11/72 Judge Delays Trial; Suspect Will Not Talk

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Arthur H. Bremer, accused of shooting Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, has been consistently refusing since July 3, to cooperate with psychiatrists trying to examine him at the Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital in Jessup, Md.

Dr. John M. Hamilton, the hospital's director, wrote in a July 7 letter to Prince George's County Circuit Judge Ralph W. Powers that in view of Bremer's refusal to discuss anything with psychiatrists, "I can see no valid reason for continuing the examination of Mr. Bremer as ordered by the court."

Reliable sources at the hospital said that as late as yesterday afternoon the blond, 21-year-old former Milwaukee busboy still was politely declining to speak with psychiatrists who approached him.

The letter came to light in Bremer's court file in Upper Marlboro yesterday after Judge Powers delayed Bremer's trial on state charges, which was to have begun Wednesday, until July 31. The

charges include assault with intent to murder.

The judge granted the delay after a 45-minute secret meeting with Bremer's lawyer and the prosecutor. In open court later, Powers said he took the action "in view of the time schedule and the circumstances." He did not spell out the circumstances.

The judge gave no indication of what action, if any, he had taken to induce Bremer to talk with the psychiatrists.

It is essential for psychiatrists to examine Bremer if the trial is to go forward smoothly. Bremer has entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity in the case, and psychiatric testimony will be a key part of the trial.

Psychiatrists are reluctant to make reports in criminal cases when they cannot interview the subjects, legal sources said.

In a recent case at the Patuxent Institution for Defective Delinquents, also in Jessup, a convicted rapist, Edward L. McNeil, refused for six years to cooperate with psychiatrists — stalling the commitment process for all that time.

On June 19, the Supreme Court set McNeil free, saying that without psychiatric reports showing him to be a defective delinquent he could no longer be held. Under Maryland law, a defective delinquent is a repeated criminal offender who is not legally insane.

The case received widespread publicity.

"Since being in our hospital, Mr. Bremer has refused to cooperate or participate in medical or psychiatric examinations which would be incident to our evaluation as ordered by the court."

The court order asks for an opinion on Bremer's mental condition at the time of the May 15 shooting and on his mental ability to stand trial.

Hamilton's letter said he learned from a July 7 conversation with Thomas Farrow, the top FBI agent for Mary-

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Bremer Spurns Psychiatrists

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land and Delaware and the man in charge of Bremer's security, that the suspect "was assuming the uncooperative stance ... on the advice of counsel."

Hamilton said he was told by Farrow "that Mr. (Benjamin) Lipsitz, counsel for (Bremer), had communicated to at least two of Mr. Farrow's agents and one deputy marshal on duty at Clifton State Hospital that Mr. Bremer was assuming the uncooperative stance ... on the advice of counsel."

Hamilton's letter said he had not been able to learn what was happening from Lipsitz.

He called these circumstances "unseemly and incomprehensible" to me.

Lipsitz, after appearing before Powers in yesterday's secret hearing, refused public comment on what he had advised Bremer.

Farrow, reached by telephone in Baltimore, said, "Defense counsel advised his client of his rights to remain silent and what have you, and I don't see any big problem there."

Asked if the decision not to cooperate was made by Bremer, Farrow said, "That's correct—which he certainly has a right to make."

Hamilton, reached by telephone yesterday, said it "isn't normal" for lawyers to advise their clients not to cooperate with psychiatrists.

He said that about 50 percent of the 200 patients at the institution are there, as Bremer is, for pretrial examination. Others are committed for various reasons.

Hamilton declined further comment, saying, "I wish I could tell you everything about 't.'"

It was learned from sources at the hospital that Bremer has been quietly passing his days in a private room without bars, avidly reading newspapers—including a Milwaukee newspaper—and novels like Rex Stout thrillers.

"Numerous tries" have been made by psychiatrists to talk with Bremer, according to hospital sources, but the suspect has rebuffed them politely, saying simply that he did not want to answer questions.

Bremer has not been watching television because the sets are located in common living rooms shared by many patients and Bremer "refuses to go out there," the sources said.

Generally, the suspect is behaving normally and eating regularly, according to the sources.

Lipsitz originally had requested a delay in the trial on grounds that it should not occur during the Democratic National Convention. Wallace's appearance there "will occasion a protracted period of adulation" and publicity, said Lipsitz's written motion for a delay. He said this would not be fair to Bremer.

Lipsitz's motion also argued that a delay was needed to give private psychiatrists hired by Bremer to examine him.

A second trial of Bremer in federal court in Baltimore on separate federal charges of violating the civil rights of a presidential candidate, assaulting a federal officer and violating gun laws was delayed indefinitely in a hearing last Friday.