

FP 6-29-72

Bremer Enters Insanity Plea

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP) — Arthur H. Bremer pleaded innocent by reason of insanity Wednesday to state charges in connection with the shooting of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace and three other persons.

The plea was entered by Benjamin Lipsitz, Baltimore attorney for Bremer. The 21-year-old Milwaukee man was not in the courtroom.

An earlier plea of innocent was entered for Bremer at his arraignment May 30 by the court when Lipsitz said at that time he was not sure if he would be able to represent Bremer in the state case.

Bremer is also under federal indictment in connection with the shooting of Wallace at a May 15 campaign rally at a Laurel, Md. shopping center. He has pleaded innocent to those charges. Insanity may be used as a defense but not a plea in federal proceedings.

The state trial is scheduled to open here July 12 and the federal trial five days later in Bal-

timore. Lipsitz has made a motion to delay the state trial but a ruling has not yet been issued.

Judge Ralph Powers of Prince Georges County Circuit Court denied a defense motion to delay the start of the state trial.

"Nothing has occurred that will jeopardize the defendant's right to a fair trial or deny him due process," Powers said.

Lipsitz had sought the delay on two grounds: that publicity had made a fair trial impossible and that the close scheduling of the federal and state trial would deny him time to adequately prepare his defense.

Powers said state jurors could be carefully instructed about the publicity surrounding the case and that the federal court would be the proper tri-

bunal to approach about a delay since the state trial date occurs first.

Lipsitz declined comment on whether he might try for a delay on other grounds. He indicated he would, for the present, be concentrating on the series of motions filed in federal court, one of them seeking a delay in the July 17 date there.

Arthur Marshall, the state's attorney for Prince Georges County, requested that due to the insanity plea, Bremer be taken to Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital in Jessup, Md. for a mental examination routine in such cases.

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