

Bremer Story Sold, Md. May Ask Share

By Charles A. Krause

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Maryland may want to share the money that Arthur H. Bremer receives from the sale of his 114-page diary describing his travels around the country that climaxed with his attempt to assassinate George C. Wallace.

Bremer, who was convicted last August of shooting the Alabama governor and three other persons at a shopping center in Laurel where Wallace was campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination last May 15, is selling the diary to Harper's Magazine and Harper's Magazine Press for an undisclosed price.

Martin Moylan, executive director of the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board notified Bremer on Monday that if the board grants a claim filed by Dora Thompson, 34, of Hyattsville—shot in the leg by Bremer while campaigning with Wallace—then the state will go to court to recover the money from Bremer.

Mrs. Thompson has submitted more than \$3,500 in claims so far, according to Albert Jennings, the board's chief investigator. But Jennings stressed that the board's final award to Mrs. Thompson, if there is an award, may be for far less than what she has claimed.

Bremer was declared indigent before his trial and, as far as is known, has received no money from any source other than Harper's. Neither Bremer's attorney, Benjamin Lipsitz, of Baltimore, nor Larry S. Freundlich, editor of Harper's Press, would disclose the amount of money Bremer

may receive from publication of the diary.

The diary covers the period from April 4 to May 13 and details Bremer's travels in pursuit of President Nixon, whom he originally had planned to shoot before he changed his target to Wallace. The document was read into the record of Bremer's trial in an attempt by his lawyers to prove him insane.

It will be excerpted in the January issue of Harper's Magazine and the complete diary will be published and released in March, according to Freundlich.

Yesterday, Freundlich described his negotiations with Bremer for the publication rights to the diary. He said he met with Bremer once at the Maryland State Penitentiary, where Bremer is serving a 53-year sentence, but was separated from him by a glass partition.

The negotiations were conducted by scribbling percentages and other details on pieces of paper, Freundlich said.

"He made a very bad business deal," Freundlich said. "I didn't pay him a lot of money. But he wants to tell his story."

Nevertheless, Freundlich said, Bremer was "a very shrewd negotiator. He negotiated beautifully on his own behalf."

Freundlich said Bremer was "much more tough on reasonably negotiable points than are my regular authors" but Bremer could not have gotten more money from Harper's than he got because Freundlich had set a price in his own mind beyond which he said he would not go.

12.15.72 It remains a mystery to me why Harper's paid anything for the rights to the Bremer diary, which can't be sold, being public domain. (Not 115 pages, as I recall, but numbered to 114, with the earliest missing, and another whole and earlier diary buried and not recovered.) Harper's has a sycophancy record not deterred by financial disaster, as with Priscilla Johnson's magnum opus on Marina, Manchester's treacle, which may account for it. The low price paid indicates the diary itself is not what Harper's seeks/sought. That cost less than the time and calls or letter-writing required to get it. Why the lawyers would do it knowing that those hurt have and can file prior claims is also baffling. If one looks for a logical answer. As in the immortal words of Liebel, "We'll add that to the top of the stack". HW

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