

Bremer's Prison Term Reduced to 53 Years

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"In the heart of a political year, I was an easy target of repression," Arthur Herman Bremer told a three-judge panel yesterday.

The convicted assailant of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace — described by friends and foes as withdrawn, quiet, "a creep" — turned polemicist as he pleaded for a reduction in his sentence.

The sentence, he said, was "an act of a repressive government, the very type of government our fighting men combat in North Vietnam."

AFTER BREMER'S attorney also argued that the 22-year-old Milwaukee man had received an unusually severe sentence in the shooting because the victim was prominent, the Prince Georges Circuit Court sentence-review panel chopped 10 years of the 33 years Bremer had been given in the counts involving Gov. Wallace.

The judges' action reduced Bremer's total sentence on nine charges from 63 to 53 years in the wounding of four people at the campaign rally in Laurel May 15.

Although Judge James H. Taylor, chairman of the panel, made no comment, the judges' decision was in line with Bremer's attorney's argument his client should not have been sentenced more severely on the Wallace charges than on those relating to the three other persons shot during the rally.

Judges William B. McCullough and Roscoe B. Parker also sat on the panel.

A JURY OF six men and six women found Bremer guilty Aug. 4 of assault with intent to murder Wallace, Secret Service Agent Nicholas Zarvos, Alabama State Trooper Capt. E. C. Dothard and Dora Thompson, a local Wallace campaign worker.

He was also found guilty of four lesser charges of using a handgun, and one count of illegal possession of a handgun.

Chief Judge Ralph W. Powers immediately sentenced Bremer to 15 years on each Wallace count, 3 years on

handgun possession, and 10 years each on the charges stemming from the other three victims, for a total term of 93 years, 30 of them to run concurrently.

Benjamin Lipsitz, Bremer's lawyer, told the judges yesterday "I don't see why Mr. Bremer should receive a more severe punishment for something done to the governor of Alabama than to any person in this courtroom."

A harsh sentence, Lipsitz said, would not serve as a deterrent to other would-be assassins. "Oswald got himself wiped out on nationwide television. Did that deter Sirhan? Sirhan was ordered executed, but saved by the California Supreme Court. Did that deter this boy? Will 63 years stop the next one?"