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His Attorney Says Bremer Is Insane

By Philip A. McCombs
Washington Post Staff Writer

Arthur H. Bremer's defense attorney told a 12-member Prince George's County jury yesterday that the man accused of shooting Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace is "schizophrenic . . . a psychotic . . . the most severe type of mental disease anyone can have."

Bremer, pale from more than two months in jail but sporting a freshly grown blond beard and smiling frequently, listened intently while his attorney, Benjamin Lipsitz, talked of Bremer's

"short, unhappy life." Lipsitz said three psychiatrists will testify this week that "Arthur Bremer was sick the day he was born, maybe before he was born."

County Prosecutor Arthur A. Marshall brought on 13 witnesses, including several who were allegedly standing next to Bremer during the May 15 shooting of Wallace and three others in a Laurel shopping center as Wallace campaigned at a rally one day before the state's Democratic presidential primary.

Six times yesterday the courtroom fell silent as Mar-

shall asked witnesses to walk into the courtroom audience and identify Bremer, who was seated between two detectives amid the 100 spectators.

Three of the witnesses failed to identify Bremer after scrutinizing every face in the courtroom. Three others, including CBS film cameraman Laurens Pierce and a county policeman, walked directly to Bremer and touched him on the shoulder.

Bremer has raised a defense of not guilty by reason of insanity. The jury will be asked to determine first whether Bremer was the person who

did the shooting. Should the jury reach that conclusion, it must then determine if Bremer was sane or insane at the time as defined by Maryland law.

The state law holds a defendant insane if he lacks "the substantial capacity" to either appreciate the criminal nature of an act or to stop himself from committing such an act.

Thus, with his opening statement, Lipsitz took up the question of the sanity of the 21-year-old Milwaukee man, as well as the basic chain of evidence that Prosecutor Mar-

See BREMER, A8, Col. 1

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shall said links Bremer unmistakably with the shootings.

Lipsitz sketched out a defense that will try to poke holes in what is considered to be an ironclad case against Bremer by showing that prosecution eyewitnesses are shaky in identifying Bremer and that police failed to follow proper procedures in processing evidence.

He also said there will be strong psychiatric testimony that Bremer is schizophrenic and therefore not responsible for anything he did at the time of the shooting.

"They (the state) have to prove he was sane," Lipsitz told the jury.

Marshall told the jury, however, that there is a legal presumption that everyone is sane. He said that by using eyewitnesses and films taken at the scene of the shooting he will be able to show that Bremer shot Wallace, U.S. Secret Service Agent Nicholas Zarvos, Alabama State Trooper Edred C. Dothard and Dora

Thompson, a local Wallace campaign worker.

Wallace was the most gravely wounded of the four. He is paralyzed from the waist down from a bullet that injured his spine. He is undergoing therapy; the other three persons shot have recovered from their wounds.

Cameraman Pierce testified for the prosecution that he had noticed Bremer at a Wallace rally earlier that day and at other rallies during the previous six weeks he had followed Wallace for CBS as the governor campaigned across the country in various Democratic presidential primaries.

"He stood out in my memory," said Pierce. "I walked over. I said, 'I have photographed you at other rallies.' He shook his head and looked embarrassed." With that, Pierce said, he walked off and left Bremer alone.

He said he had remembered Bremer because Bremer was "so zealous, so enthusiastic in

any response to whatever Gov. Wallace said."

Marshall then showed the jury the seven-minute sequence photographed by Pierce of the assassination attempt. Pierce was standing directly behind Wallace during the incident.

The prosecutor used Pierce and other eyewitnesses to the shooting as he begun trying to establish Bremer's presence at the shopping center in the minds of the all-white jury of six men and six women.

In his opening address to the jury, Lipsitz said he would show that Bremer's fingerprints did not appear on the .38-caliber revolver he is charged with having used in the shootings.

In addition, Lipsitz said he would show that a paraffin test of Bremer's hands after the shooting failed to reveal traces of powder. He said such traces would appear had Bremer fired the gun.

Bremer, who dressed in a gray plaid sport coat, black shirt gold striped tie and brown trousers, gazed intently from the counsel table where he sat during jury selection at the 36 jurors who appeared before the judge. He smiled broadly at some of them.

It took an hour and seven minutes to whittle the number down to the 12 jurors and two alternates. Both alternates are men, one white, one black.

The blond, 21-year-old former Milwaukee janitor and busboy is charged with four counts each of intent to murder, intent to maim, assault and battery, using a handgun in commission of a felony, and one count of possession of a handgun without a permit.

Bremer grinned broadly and stroked his beard gently with the fingertips of his right hand as his attorney went on to tell the jury that, "If Arthur Bremer did anything, he was insane."

Lipsitz said he will call wit-

nesses, including Bremer's mother and father, to paint for the jury "a consistent picture of a boy who was weird."

The attorney also said that Bremer "doesn't know the difference between reality and fantasy . . . doesn't even know the difference between life and death."

Bremer, who was under heavy guard in the courtroom and who is being kept under continuous guard in a lockup just across the hall from the courtroom in the county courthouse in Upper Marlboro, did not smile at that comment.

Instead, he gazed thoughtfully at Lipsitz and Ralph W. Powers, chief judge of Maryland's Seventh Judicial Circuit.

After Pierce had walked briskly into the courtroom and



JUDGE W. POWERS
... conducting the Bremer murder trial.



By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post
Bremer attorneys Benjamin Lipsitz and daughter Eleanor.

put his hand on Bremer's shoulder, Marshall called Ross S. Speigle as the first of a series of eyewitnesses and police officers testifying as prosecution witness.

Speigle, a short, sunburned man, said he and his wife were standing near Wallace just after the candidate's speech when "an armed hand thrust between me and my wife . . . I seen it before it (the gun) went off . . . The next thing I knew I was on the ground on top of him (Bremer.)"

Speigle said he had wrestled the assailant to the ground.

He said he recalled that the assailant had a "short haircut, blond, he had a large Wallace button . . ."

He added, "I'd know him if I saw him."

Then Marshall asked him to step down from the witness stand and look through the courtroom for Bremer.

Speigle walked through the hushed courtroom, shook his head in puzzlement and returned to the stand.

"Did you recognize him, Mr. Speigle?" asked Marshall.

"No, sir, I can't say that I did," said Speigle.

At one point Speigle had her son, "Do you like Gov. looked directly at Bremer, as Wallace?"

Then, she recalled in detail, after the speech was over and the governor removed his coat to shake hands in the crowd, the man she thought was Bremer thrust forth his left hand to shake hands and "came up with a gun" in his right hand.

Mrs. Saunders said she saw the gun before it began firing. "I started hollerin'; 'He's got a gun, he's got a gun,'" she testified. She said no one could hear her because of the general din.

"I grabbed the man's arm," she went on, "and I pulled and his arm went down and he was firing."

After she walked around the courtroom, Mrs. Saunders said there were two people there who appeared similar to the man she remembered as the gunman — but neither was Bremer.

"He (the gunman) had sunglasses on," she said, explaining her difficulty. Also, she added, she had only seen the gunman's profile, not his full face.

None of the three witnesses who failed to pick Bremer out of the crowded courtroom got physically as close to him in the courtroom as they said they had been to the gunman at the time of the shooting.

They limited their move-

However, after he spent more than a minute looking at the faces in the courtroom, he had to return to the stand and confess he could not pick out Bremer.

His wife, Madeline, also recalled that a man she now thinks is Bremer was behind them at the rally and asked

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CBS cameraman Laurens Pierce testifies before Judge Ralph W. Powers in this sketch made during the trial yesterday. At bottom (from left) are defendant Arthur

H. Bremer, defense lawyers Benjamin Lipsitz and his daughter Eleanor and Prosecutor Arthur A. Marshall. Bremer is accused of shooting Gov. George C. Wallace.

ments mostly to the front of the room, standing still mostly and scanning the intent banks of faces before them.

In cross-examining each witness, Lipsitz asked how many people they thought were present at the rally, how many at the rally wore sunglasses, and how many policemen and other law enforcement officials were at the rally.

Lipsitz made it clear that he would try to show that there

is "nothing that would indicate he (Bremer) fired a gun" and that many police in the area were carrying .38-caliber pistols.

Prince George's County Police Cpl. Michael Landrum testified that he was standing on the left side of the speaker's platform in Laurel when, "I saw a gentleman standing with his arm out . . . then rapidly I heard, 'pow pow . . . pow pow . . .'"