

Bremer Psychiatrist Testifies

Girl's Smile Averted Killings

By Philip A. McCombs
Washington Post Staff Writer

A psychiatrist testified yesterday in court that Arthur Herman Bremer, the man accused of shooting Gov. George C. Wallace, once planned to massacre passersby on a street corner in Milwaukee and then kill himself.

Bremer changed his mind, the psychiatrist said, because when Bremer "went to a restaurant for his last meal, the waitress was very nice . . . She smiled at him . . ."

In other testimony in the second day of Bremer's state trial in Prince George's County, FBI specialists testified that the five bullets Bremer is charged with having fired at Wallace cannot be traced to Bremer's pistol, and that Bremer's fingerprints were not found on the weapon recovered at the shooting.

The prosecution rested its case after several hours of testimony yesterday, and the trial turned to the question of Bremer's sanity. It was during

this period that the massacre plan was disclosed.

But the plan was never carried out, testified Dr. Jonas Rappeport, because when Bremer "went to a restaurant for his last meal, the waitress was very nice." As Bremer left the restaurant, "she smiled at him."

"He didn't want her to witness the carnage," interjected Bremer's attorney, Benjamin Lipsitz. "He was dissuaded from this because a waitress

See BREMER, A9, Col. 3

BREMER, From A1

treated him like a human being."

Rappeport said the incident happened shortly after Bremer was rejected early this year by a girlfriend, Joan Pemrich, some months before the May 15 shooting of Wallace at a political rally in Laurel, Md.

Lipsitz used the prosecution's own witness, Rappeport, to press his theme that Bremer is mentally ill and therefore not responsible for his alleged crimes.

Rappeport, who interviewed Bremer for nine hours in the Baltimore County Jail, said Bremer had the capacity to "appreciate" any criminality in his behavior even though he had a "schizoid personality with some paranoid and psychopathic features" on May 15, when Bremer is accused of having shot Wallace in a Laurel shopping center.

Rappeport's assistant, Dr. James E. Olsson, and another independent psychiatrist, Dr. William N. Fitzpatrick, said that in their examinations of Bremer they reached similar conclusions — in essence, that the suspect is and was at the time of the shooting an intelligent person with many problems in his life, but not insane.

Lipsitz elicited from the psychiatrists descriptions of odd quirks in Bremer's behavior and problems of background that Lipsitz insisted pointed to insanity.

For example, Rappeport

said Bremer referred to his mother as a "bitch" and that his family life was "very disruptive, disorganized . . . (with) a lot of fighting, shouting, hollering, yelling . . ."

Fitzpatrick called Bremer a "loner" who had once told the psychiatrist, "My lawyer is my only friend and he works alone."

Olsson referred to Bremer's "odd and inappropriate responses" to reality, to his "egocentricity and grandiosity . . ." The psychiatrist said Bremer had recently said to him, "It's not easy to be a star," and, "It's lonely at the top."

On the other hand, said the psychiatrist, who administered 17 hours of tests to Bremer, "He expressed feelings of being a failure."

Lipsitz, Bremer's attorney, asked, "Did he describe to you any success he ever had, any at all?"

"He graduated from high school," answered Olsson.

Both Olsson and Rappeport acknowledged that Bremer's continuing smile, which he wore for much of yesterday's hearing, was informally called a "schizy grin" by psychiatrists.

"I call it a shit-eating grin," testified Rappeport.

In other trial developments yesterday, Prince George's County State's Attorney Arthur A. Marshall Jr., the prosecutor, brought on 17 witnesses to prove his case that Bremer was at the Laurel shopping center May 15 and shot Gov. Wallace.

Lipsitz challenged the long

series of police and federal agents, getting the two FBI experts on firearms and fingerprints to admit under cross-examination that Bremer could not be linked by finger prints to the weapon recovered at the shooting or that the recovered bullets could be linked to the pistol.

"I could not identify any of them," said FBI firearms expert Robert Frazier, of the five bullets allegedly fired from Bremer's gun. One bullet was recovered from the shopping center parking lot; two were removed from Wallace; one from U.S. Secret Service agent Nicholas Zarvos, and one from local Wallace campaign worker Dora Thompson. Another man, Alabama State Trooper Edred C. Dothard, was grazed by a bullet.

"I can only say they (the bullets) could have been fired from this weapon," said Frazier, holding the five-shot .38 caliber revolver identified as Bremer's.

He said the bullets were of hard lead and were so damaged during firing that they did not have sufficient identifying marks to allow them to be positively traced to Bremer's pistol.

In many circumstances, said the agent, a bullet can be traced by advanced laboratory techniques to one single gun, but not so in this case.

He said there are "several thousands" of .38-caliber weapons that the bullets could have come from.

"Thank you, Mr. Frazier," said Bremer's attorney, Lipsitz said on the first day of the trial Monday that he would break down the positive linkages that the prosecutor must establish between Bremer and the gun and bullets in order to convince the 12-member jury that Bremer did in fact shoot Wallace and the three others.

Then FBI firearms expert Thurman R. Williams told Lipsitz under cross-examination that he could not find any of Bremer's fingerprints on the .38-caliber pistol picked up at the scene of the shooting. Bremer's ownership of the pistol was established at Monday's session.

Another point at issue with the two federal agents was whether paraffin tests taken of Bremer's hands the night of the shooting revealed gunpowder traces that would indicate the suspect had just fired a weapon.

Frazier said that the tests came out negative—but that this could indicate either that Bremer did not fire a gun or that if he had, he had wiped the powder residue off his hands. He said it would be relatively easy to wipe the powder off.

Another prosecution witness, Dr. Terrence McGuire of Seat Pleasant, testified that he had treated Bremer for injuries the afternoon of the shooting and that in doing so had washed blood off the defendant's hands—an act that would surely explain why the tests for gun powder traces came out negative.

Lipsitz brought out on cross-examination that the hand-washing incident was not included in the doctor's records. Nonetheless, the doctor said, he remembered doing it.

Marshall's case in proving that Bremer was at the scene and did the shootings is considered ironclad by most legal observers because a CBS television movie film made at the scene shows the shootings in all their grim detail.

The film, showed to the jury in the first day of the trial in Prince George's County Cir-

cuit Court Monday, shows a man in a crowd who appears to be Bremer, then shows an arm coming out of the crowd from the general vicinity of Bremer — an arm with a pistol that started shooting at the Alabama governor.

However, Marshall must also persuade the jury that Bremer was sane at the time of the shooting in order to obtain a conviction. The state charges against Bremer include four counts of assault with intent to murder, four counts of assault with intent to maim, four counts of assault and battery, four counts of using a handgun in commission of a felony, and one count of possession of a handgun without a permit.

If convicted on all 17 counts, Bremer faces a total possible sentence of 123 years.

Lipsitz mounted a strong attack on the prosecution's contention that Bremer is sane, using the prosecution's own witnesses and one psychiatric witness of his own, Dr. Sheila H. Gray, a private psychiatrist in Chevy Chase.

She testified that on May 15 Bremer was suffering from "latent schizophrenia (that) made it impossible for him to appreciate substantially his conduct and made it impossible for him to conform his conduct" to the rule of law.

Dr. Gray's testimony was made with the jury out of the room but it was enough to convince Chief Judge Ralph W. Powers that a "substantial" doubt exists about Bremer's sanity at the time of the shooting—enough of a doubt to take the whole question to the jury.

Lipsitz repeatedly argued that no psychiatrist can tell what is "sanity" or "insanity" since the terms are not medical but legal—and, he added, it is entirely up to the jury to decide if Bremer was sane or not.

Dr. Joseph Schanno, who performed surgery on the wounded candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination from the moment he arrived at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring shortly after the shooting, said there is "over a 90 per cent chance he (Wallace) will not walk again without the aid of mechanical braces."

Holding aloft the bullet that he said he personally extracted from the governor's abdomen the afternoon of the shooting, Dr. said, "The last time I saw Gov. Wallace

personally was the last day of the Democratic Convention in Miami. He was still paralyzed from the waist down. . . . There was still some drainage from (stomach) wounds."

Bremer, who smiled and joked with his guards some of the time in court yesterday, sat and listened to this testimony carefully.

The joking with guards in the packed courtroom came mostly during pauses in the

proceedings. The guards laughed and joked back. Three exceptionally large guards from the sheriff's department positioned themselves between Bremer and the spectators for most of the breaks.

Another Wallace physician, Dr. Stacy L. Rollins, testified that he removed a second bullet from Wallace's spinal cord in a delicate operation June 18. It was this bullet that paralyzed the governor from the waist down, stalling his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, compelling him to give up active politics this year in order to concentrate on therapy and rehabilitation.

Rollins was, like the detectives and other policemen who testified after him, not a star witness for the prosecution—but all were necessary to the state's case as State's Attorney Marshall worked to establish a tight chain of events from the moment of the shooting that would show the jury that all the evidence picked up at the scene—the gun, the bullet, Bremer's clip-on sunglasses had been—properly processed.

Marshall reserved until near the end of his presentation the three persons who were wounded with Wallace. Wallace had been asked to come to the trial but declined, saying he was busy with political matters and also trying to recuperate with physical therapy from his wounds.

"As the governor fell backwards I was hit about the same time and I also fell backward," said trooper Dthard, a large, stocky man with a slight Southern accent.

He said he did not see who had fired the shots. Dthard received a flesh wound across the stomach, and Lipsitz, on cross-examination, pressed

that point.

Then Dora Thompson limped down the aisle on crutches, a large cast on her right leg. Two husky security men helped her to the witness stand.

"I was a Wallace supporter . . ." she began in a barely audible voice. "There was five shots that was fired . . . I didn't really think I had been shot myself until later, until I was actually in the emergency room in Holy Cross . . ."

Then Secret Service agent Zarvos, a lean, suntanned man, strode down the aisle and took the witness stand.

With a bullet that lodged in his jawbone, shattering nerves and bone, he had been the most severely wounded except for Wallace himself.

He began to talk in a harsh, rasping voice that floated over the sudden silence in the courtroom. His right vocal cord had been paralyzed by the bullet and because of this, he could no longer speak in his normal voice.

"I had maintained a post behind him (Wallace) . . . and ah . . . all at once some gunfire came out. On about the third or fourth shot I was hit in the throat . . . and then I saw him (Wallace) fall to the ground. I reeled back . . . I started walking back to the car . . ."

The state's three psychiatric witnesses took up most of the

afternoon with their testimony.

Lipsitz, a short baldish man with a loud voice and an intense manner, cross-examined the psychiatrists so intensely that he even got one of them, Olsson, to say that Bremer in interviews "was not trying to appear any crazier . . ."

Olsson broke off the sentence with an embarrassed look and Lipsitz shot out: "... than he was." There was laughter in the courtroom.

Lipsitz got Rappeport to say, "I believe he's a mixed-up person, yes."

"When do you think Arthur Bremer's mental disorders began?" the defense attorney then asked.

"Perhaps with his birth or with his conception," replied the psychiatrist. He said that the kind of problems that Bremer has may depend on one's inherited genetic makeup.

"His mother is reported by others to be mentally ill or mentally retarded," said the psychiatrist.

Lipsitz said Monday that he would try to get the mother, and father, alleged in some testimony to be an alcoholic, to testify in the trial.



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

Defense Attorney Benjamin Lipsitz, with daughter, Eleanor, seen outside court.