

Psychiatrists Call Bremer Sane At Time of Shooting of Wallace

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UPPER MARLBORO, Md., Aug. 1—Arthur H. Bremer, accused of shooting George C. Wallace, was legally sane on May 15 when the Alabama Governor was wounded at a political rally in Laurel, three psychiatrists testified today.

The prosecution witnesses conceded at the state trial that Mr. Bremer was a schizoid personality, a loner whose almost constant "silly grin" betrayed a moderately disturbed mind. But they found that he had not been disturbed enough to be incapable of realizing the criminality of his alleged attempt to assassinate the Governor at a Wallace-for-President rally.

The psychiatrists, who had been appointed by a Federal court, were called by the Prince Georges County Prosecutor when the state case against Mr. Bremer opened yesterday. The Federal case has been indefinitely postponed.

Considered Suicide

Bizarre details in the life of Mr. Bremer, a 21-year-old odd-jobs worker from Milwaukee, were brought out in his testimony today.

Dr. Jonas Rappaport, chief medical officer of the Baltimore courts, said Mr. Bremer had disclosed that he entertained a grandiose plan for suicide last January when he was jilted by a girlfriend.

Mr. Bremer, who purchased a .38-caliber revolver in January, told Dr. Rappaport that he thought of getting 200 or 300 cartridges, going to the heart of downtown Milwaukee and firing all but two bullets into the sidewalk crowds before using the final ones on himself, the psychiatrist said.

After the projected mass murder, Dr. Rappaport said he had been told, Mr. Bremer was going to assure his own demise by first tying himself by a rope to the Wisconsin Avenue bridge, shooting himself, then plunging into the Milwaukee River. If the bullets did not kill him, he would die either by hanging or drowning, the psychiatrist said.

Mr. Bremer hated his mother, Dr. Rappaport said, and proposed that any couple should be required to obtain a license to have children. That would have prevented his parents from bringing him into the world, Mr. Bremer told the psychiatrist.

The defendant smirked and stuck out his tongue at spectators in the courtroom during the day. He had shaved off his beard and mustache overnight. When asked through a defense counsel why he had done this, Mr. Bremer said loudly, "Nixon doesn't have to give press conferences; neither do I."

His attorney, Benjamin Lipsitz of Baltimore, got prosecution witnesses from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to concede that no Bremer fingerprints had been found on the alleged weapon, that there was no ballistics proof that the bullets that struck Mr. Wallace and three other victims had come from the Bremer gun, and that there was no trace of gun powder residue on the paraffin molds of Mr. Bremer's hands that were taken several hours after the shooting.

It developed that, about an hour after the shooting, Mr. Bremer was taken to a doctor's office in Seat Pleasant, Md., to have his scalp sutured. He had suffered three cuts when Wallace supporters and policemen jumped on him after the shooting, which left Mr. Wallace paralyzed from the waist down.

Outlook Is Gloomy

Dr. Terrence A. McGuire said that he had found three cuts at the back of Mr. Bremer's head and that he had also washed some dried blood from Mr. Bremer's teeth and hands. The surgical soap would have removed all gunpowder residue if any existed.

Another witness, Dr. Joseph Schanno, the surgeon who removed a bullet from Governor Wallace's abdomen, gave a gloomy prognosis. He said that he last saw Mr. Wallace at the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach and that the chances were "90 per cent against" the Governor's ever walking again without the aid of braces.

But the main emphasis of the testimony today was on the issue of sanity.

Mr. Lipsitz, the defense counsel, tried to get Dr. Rappaport to say that Mr. Bremer was insane at the time of the May 15 shooting. The most he could get was a concession that Mr. Bremer needed psychiatric therapy.

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