

# Wounded Man Says Dead Sniper Is Not the Same One Who Shot Him

New Orleans—(AP)—Robert Bemish, wounded in the hotel sniping attack here, says the man who shot him is not the sniper who was killed.

Bemish, asked if he could describe the sniper who shot him from 50 feet away, said in a hospital:

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"Yes, I could, but discretion is the better part of valor because the man they shot on the roof (of the DownTown Howard Johnson Hotel here Sunday) is not the same man who shot me."

**No Guards**

A reporter - photographer

team with tape recorders and a bulky bag of camera equipment asked directions' at a nursing station in the hospital and were cheerfully sent to Bemish's room. There was no police guard. Police would not explain why there was no guard for such a witness.

Bemish, 43, vice president of Starr Broadcasting Corp., who was being transferred here from San Francisco, had told colleagues he was wary of publicity, but he did describe his experience.

Bemish had discovered the hotel was on fire and was moving his luggage from his eighth-floor room to the patio around a swimming pool which adjoined his room.

**He Is Shot**

"I looked up and a fellow jumped out of some bushes about 50 feet away," Bemish said.

"He looked me in the eye for a full second, then he raised the rifle, cocked the bolt on it and took very careful aim.

"And I was saying it couldn't be for real — it was bad enough getting out of the fire, but you aren't prepared to walk into the business end of a rifle."

The shot knocked Bemish into the heated pool.

**Not Much Blood**

"When I hit the water," he said, "I was thinking it must have been a small bore because it didn't hurt as much as I thought it would. But then I thought it might be a .22 and there's a good chance it could go running around inside."

"So I was kind of happy to look around in the water and not see much blood."

Bemish said, "My wife won't like it, but if I hadn't been about 30 pounds overweight, I'd probably be dead. When I went into the pool, my coat caught a lot of air and acted like a life preserver, so I didn't have to tread water."

Bemish floated more than three hours, playing 'possum and trying to watch the snip-

er. When the sniper appeared to be busy elsewhere, firemen broke in to rescue him.

**The Contradictions**

He was reported to be in fair condition. A bullet passed through his abdomen, but missed his intestines.

Bemish said doctors believed it was a 30.06-caliber bullet.

However, police said the only weapon found with the sniper was a .44-caliber Magnum, which fires much larger bullets.

Police had said the dead sniper wore a black shirt and green Army fatigue pants.

"The man who shot me had on a light tan jacket and brown slacks," said Bemish. Furthermore, the coroner's office said the sniper was only 5-foot-4.

"I would say this man was taller than 5-foot-4," said Bemish. "He was about the same height as I am, 5-foot-8."

Bemish also said the man who shot him had an Afro haircut and a goatee. The man killed by police was clean shaven and had a regular haircut.