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WE

# Bomb Attempt Shows Insanity, --Psychiatrist

MERIDIAN (AP)—A psychiatrist testified today he felt an attempt by Thomas Albert Tarrants III to bomb a Jewish businessman's house would reflect insanity.

The testimony came from Dr. Claude L. Brown of Mobile, Ala., at the attempted bombing trial of Tarrants. Tarrants' lawyers have entered a plea of innocent because of insanity.

GIVEN AN account of the bombing attempt and the question whether Tarrants would have been sane or insane were he the man who did it, Brown replied:

"I think he was insane."

The arrest of a woman trying to enter the courtroom with a pistol in her purse caused a stir when reported by police.

Officers identified her as Elaine Peeples, 36, and said she gave a Crystal Springs address. She was charged with illegal possession of a weapon after the check, part of the tight security here.

Officers said her only comment was, "I shouldn't have brought it here."

DURING HIS testimony, Brown said he had examined Tarrants twice last month and found him obsessed with the thought that Communists were taking over the nation. While fear of Communism itself is not abnormal, Brown said, the degree of Tarrants' was.

He said environment and possibly hereditary factors caused Tarrants to feel overly insecure, inadequate and inferior, and that he was exhibiting inferiority feelings by fighting an opponent as big as Communism.

Tarrants sat calmly and attentively, working a right hand that was wounded in his battle

with police.

The first defense witness was his mother, who testified she had never discussed the events with her son.

"I HAVE NEVER asked my son any question concerning what happened," she told the Lauderdale County Circuit Court jury today. "My son told me nothing . . . I have been more concerned about his health and arm."

UNDER CROSS examination, she said her conversations with Tarrants had been brief and all but two in the presence of officers. She said they had never discussed his being shot or the bombing case.

She also testified they had never discussed his earlier arrest with Sam Bowers, former imperial wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, at Collins in a car containing a machine gun.

During her testimony yesterday, Mrs. Tarrants said her son, a self-described KKK guerrilla fighter, had undergone changes in his teenage years that made her doubt his sanity.

TARRANTS, 21, of Mobile, Ala., is accused of trying to bomb the home of Meyer Davidson, 51, a Jewish businessman who helped raise reward money to be offered in a Meridian synagogue bombing earlier.

Tarrants had pleaded innocent and innocent by virtue of insanity.

Before the state closed its case, two officers identified Tarrants as the man who put 29 sticks of dynamite and a timing device near the Davidson home.

In a gun battle with police which followed the alleged bombing attempt, Tarrants was wounded and his companion, Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 26, of Jackson, was found shot to death in Tarrants' car. Also wounded were Meridian policeman J. M. Hatcher and Robert Burton, a bystander.

Mrs. Tarrants said her son was "normal" during his early years, but a change came over him following the desegregation of Murphy High School in Mobile in 1963.