

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1972

Bremer Termed Schizophrenic

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP)—A defense psychiatrist described Arthur H. Bremer today as a schizophrenic whose decision to assassinate either President Nixon or Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace temporarily resolved the personal conflicts which had been with him most of his life.

Dr. Eugene B. Brody, a Baltimore psychiatrist whose credentials took 30 minutes to recite in Circuit Court, said he was convinced Bremer was suffering from schizophrenia on May 15, the day Wallace and three other persons were wounded in a volley of gunfire at a Laurel, Md. shopping center parking lot during a campaign rally.

"Mr. Bremer, in my opinion, lacked totally the capacity to appreciate the criminality of his conduct," Brody told a jury of six men and six women as the defense opened its case in Bremer's trial on state charges.

THE 21-YEAR-OLD former janitor and busboy from Milwaukee, Wis., has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to 17 counts stemming from the May 15 shootings.

Before closing its case Tuesday, the prosecution sought to prove Bremer's sanity.

Brody, who interviewed Bremer at a state hospital in July, went through a lengthy analysis of his mental condition based on his meeting with the defendant, his conversations with Bremer's father and mother and his reading of a personal diary taken

from Bremer's car. The psychiatrist said the diary indicated Bremer made up his mind in early March to assassinate either Nixon or Wallace.

"MAKING the decision had the effect of temporarily resolving his conflict," Brody said. Concerning Bremer's actions over the next two months, Brody said that much of what Bremer did appeared to be carefully planned, but that "on closer inspection it was impulsive."

He said at times the defendant paid meticulous attention to detail such as driving his automobile through a car wash before crossing the Canadian border so that guard dogs could not smell gunpowder.

But on the other hand, Brody said, Bremer was often grossly negligent to the point where he appeared to be asking for discovery and arrest.

He said, for example, that Bremer drove up and down rural roads for several hours near a Canadian airport where President Nixon was scheduled to arrive.

BRODY TOLD the jury that Bremer "fantasized that when he fired his gun at President Nixon or Governor Wallace, he would cry out, 'a penny for your thoughts.'"

"He viewed other people as enemies or people to be used, exploited or obliterated without regard to their personal feelings," the doctor said.

The state produced two psychiatrists and a psychologist to attest to Bremer's sanity

Tuesday as State's Atty. Arthur G. Marshall wound up the prosecution case.

A defense psychiatrist, Dr. Shella Hafter Gray of Chevy Chase, Md., also appeared briefly Tuesday with the jury out of the courtroom. She testified only long enough to establish doubt about Bremer's sanity, describing him as a "latent schizophrenic" unable to conform to the law or to understand his criminal actions.

Following a ruling by Judge Ralph W. Powers that a substantial doubt had been raised, the jury was brought back to the courtroom and Marshall presented three witnesses to back up his contention that Bremer is sane.

His main witness was Dr. Jonas Rapoport, chief psychiatrist for the state Circuit Court in Baltimore City, who spent nine hours with Bremer on four occasions during the month of June.

Rapoport said Bremer was "a mixed up person" with "a mental disorder, namely a schizoid personality with some paranoid and psychopathic features."

But he emphasized that it was his opinion that Bremer's disorder "did not substantially impair his capacity to appreciate the criminality of his actions."

The capacity to appreciate the criminality of one's action is a key part of Maryland's test for determining sanity.

Rapoport said he found no lack of reality on the part of Bremer during conversations with him and that, in fact, "his reality seemed quite good."

Another witness, Baltimore psychiatrist Dr. William N. Fitzpatrick, said he believed that on the day Wallace was shot, Bremer had "the capacity to realize the criminality of his behavior and to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law."

Earlier in Tuesday's session, Marshall brought to the stand the three persons wounded with Wallace at the shopping center rally.