

SFChronicle
Bremer's 'Failure' With Nixon

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Arthur H. Bremer complained in his diary, read to a jury yesterday, that he missed six chances to shoot President Nixon in Ottawa, Canada, last April. It was,

He wrote, "just another god-damn failure."

The 21-year-old former Milwaukee busboy also wrote that after he gave up on Mr. Nixon, he considered assassinating Senator George S. McGovern before he decided to zero in on Gov-

ernor George Wallace, whom he is charged with shooting at a Laurel, Md., shopping center May 15.

According to the diary read at his trial by defense attorney Benjamin Lipsitz, Bremer was unhappy about

See Back Page

From Page 1

having to settle for a lesser-known victim.

"He won't get more than three minutes on TV," Bremer said of Wallace in a May 7 diary entry.

"Yesterday I even considered McGovern as a victim."

PLANS

After offering testimony from psychiatrists to support Bremer's plea of innocent, by reason of insanity, Lipsitz read to the jury Bremer's personal account of elaborate preparations, he said he made to shoot Mr. Nixon when the President made a state visit to Ottawa last April 13-15.

Both the defense and prosecution completed their cases yesterday afternoon and the court recessed until 9:30 a.m. (EDT) today when closing remarks are to be made to the jury.

Circuit Judge Ralph W. Powers dismissed four of the charges against Bremer — assault with intent to maim Wallace and the three

other persons wounded in the shooting.

This reduced from 123 to 83 years the maximum sentence that could be imposed if Bremer is found guilty on all counts.

Still remaining were four counts of assault with intent to murder, four of assault and battery, four of using a weapon to commit a felony and one count of carrying a dangerous weapon.

CAR

Describing his last chance at the chief executive, as his car was leaving Parliament House to take him to the airport for his return flight to Washington, Bremer wrote:

"I had a good view as he went past me — past me for the sixth time — and still alive."

He was uncertain whether bullets from his .38-caliber revolver would penetrate the window glass of Mr. Nixon's limousine, Bremer wrote, and "I didn't want to get killed or imprisoned in an unsuccessful attempt. Couldn't afford that."

His original plan, Bremer wrote, was "to get him at the airport." But he complained that Mr. Nixon's motorcade sped by him.

SPEED

"He went by before I knew it," Bremer wrote. "I had missed him that day. The best day to make the attempt was over."

Bremer noted that he then wandered about Ottawa for awhile and wrote, "I am not sure if I will ever get the chance to get Nixon in Canada after missing him on the prime target date."

Frustrated by his failure, Bremer wrote he considered shooting a half-dozen Secret Service agents "because I

was pissed at them, myself and Nixon."

As read by Lipsitz, the diary did not document the six occasions that Bremer said he muffed his chances of shooting Mr. Nixon.

OCCASION

But Bremer described one occasion during which he watched formally dressed dignitaries attending an official government function in Mr. Nixon's honor in Ottawa.

"To wear white tie and tails and shoot Nixon. Wow!" Bremer wrote.

It would not be good to shoot the President in 'an undershirt because some of the glamor would definitely be worn off,' Bremer observed.

Uncertain of his next move two days after Mr. Nixon left Ottawa, Bremer wrote that he was considering going to Washington to make another attempt on Mr. Nixon's life.

"You can't kill Nixie boy if you ain't close to him," the diary entry read.

WALLACE

After deciding on Wallace, according to the diary, Bremer stalked the candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination at Michigan rallies in early May before Wallace was finally wounded, along with three bystanders, in Laurel.

At Dearborn, Bremer wrote that he could not get into the hall when Wallace was speaking, but was able to peer at Wallace through a window.

"I was all set," he wrote, "Jacket open. Like a still cat before he springs."

GIRLS

After Wallace left the podium and approached the

window, Bremer wrote, he was ready to shoot Wallace at a range of about 15 feet. But two teen-aged girls suddenly blocked his field of fire.

"They were sure to be blinded and disfigured," he wrote. "So, I let Wallace go to save those stupid, delighted, innocent kids."

Bremer described his irritation at Canadian customs officials who paid little attention to him when he entered the country, even though he had gone to considerable trouble to hide two pistols and ammunition.

He wrote that the inspection was so cursory, he could have led a revolution in Canada, filling his car with "two artillery pieces, a million rounds of ammunition and 12 pygmies to carry it all on their heads."

But once cleared at the border, Bremer wrote, he risked arrest by speeding his Rambler along the Canadian highways.

"Danger gives me an erection," he wrote.