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BELLI

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WASHINGTON, JUNE 3 (AP)-ATTORNEY MELVIN BELLI, WHOSE DEFENSE OF JACK RUBY FEATURED THE CONTENTION THAT RUBY SUFFERED FROM A RARE FORM OF EPILEPSY, SAYS THAT "THERE'S LESS MURDER AND CRIME . . . (COMMITTED BY EPILEPTICS) . . . THAN BY THE OTHER PARTS OF THE POPULATION."

AND, SAID THE MAN WHO DEFENDED RUBY FOR THE MURDER OF LEE OSWALD--CHARGED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY--EPILEPSY AND INSAN-ITY "DON'T GO TOGETHER ANY MORE THAN DO INSANITY AND BLUE EYES, OR AXE MURDERS AND BLONDE HAIR."

BELLI SAID SO IN A TALK LAST NIGHT IN WHICH HE ASKED:
"DID I WRECK HAVOC ON EPILEPTICS (BY HIS DEFENSE CONTENTION)? I
DON'T THINK SO."

THE LAWYER MADE THE STATEMENTS IN A SPEECH AT A MEETING TOUCHING OFF A MONTH-LONG NATIONWIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT VOLUNTARY HEALTH ORGANIZATION, "TO COUNTER WIDESPREAD MISINFORMATION ABOUT EPILEPSY."

BELLI REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT RUBY HAD THE "RAREST" FORM OF EPILEPSY, BUT HE ADDED:

"JACK RUBY WAS ON TRIAL IN DALLAS -- NOT EPILEPSY."

SAYING THAT "SEMANTICS PROBLEMS" REGARDING SCIENTIFIC TERMS
AROSE IN THE TRIAL OF HIS CLIENT, BELLI DECLARED RUBY WAS A VICTIM
OF "THE RAREST OF THE RAREST" FORM OF EPILEPSY--ONE THAT OCCURS IN
ONLY ONE OUT OF EVERY 50,000 EPILEPTICS. AND HE ADDED:

"I WOULD REMIND YOU . . . THAT, IN TALKING ABOUT JACK RUBY, I WAS TALKING ABOUT ONE MAN, SUFFERING FROM THE RAREST OF ALL FORMS OF EPILEPSY . . .

"IN DEED, TO HAVE IT SUGGESTED THAT ALL OR MOST PERSONS WITH EPI-LEPSY ARE EVEN REMOTELY CAPABLE OF COMMITTING MURDER WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE BEEN PATENTLY FALSE: IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTRUCTIVE TO THE INTER-ESTS OF MY CLIENT."

HE SAID THAT RUBY SUFFERED FROM "'FUGUE' STATES . . . BLACKOUT STATES" AND THAT HE WAS "NOT RESPONSIBLE" MENTALLY FOR HIS ACT IN SLAYING OSWALD.

HE SAID THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE NATION'S 2 MILLION EPILEPTICS CAN HAVE THEIR AFFLICTION CONTROLLED BY MEDICAL TREATMENT, BUT THAT UNWARRANTED PUBLIC "SUPERSTITION AND HOSTILITY" TOWARDS EPILEPTICS HAS CAUSED MANY SUCH SUFFERERS TO HIDE THEIR CONDITION.

"WOULD TO GOD," HE SAID, "THAT HE (JACK RUBY) HAD THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND UNDERSTANDING:

"IF HE HAD HAD TREATMENT, THE MAN COULD HAVE LED A NORMAL LIFE."