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19 Aug. 1964

SF News Call Bulletin
Aug. 19. 1964

Mel Belli Says He Didn't Block Ruby Testimony

Mel Belli, who defended Jack Ruby as chief counsel, today said the assertion Lee Oswald's killer was barred by him from taking the witness stand in the sensational trial is "utterly false."

"I saw Jack Ruby only three nights ago and he told me again in the presence of his now attorneys that I was the one and only person in whom he has the utmost confidence," he said.

"I couldn't have worked harder on the case. I practically slept with Jack and was with him morning, noon and night all week and on Saturdays and Sundays.

"I was with him during the times the doctors and psychiatrists examined him and spent more time than I've ever spent on a case."

Belli said he liked Ruby "then and I like him now."

He said he is convinced Ruby is insane, but knew he would be convicted.

"I'm confident he will get a reversal," he said.

Belli said his book, on the case, coming out after the first of the year, will tell "everything that happened."