

Belli Accused In Book on Ruby Trial

San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli comes in for some harsh comments in a new book about the Jack Ruby trial in Dallas, it has been disclosed.

In the book, *The Trial of Jack Ruby*, written by two law professors and due to be released October 25, Belli is accused of trying the case in the newspapers.

And after Ruby was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of Harvey Lee Oswald, President Kennedy's presumed assassin, Belli "smuggled" a camera into the jail, took Ruby's photo and attempted to sell it to Life magazine according to the authors.

REACTION

Reached by The Chronicle in Las Vegas, where he is trying a personal injury case, Belli retorted angrily that he will sue the authors of the book for defamation.

"The book is designedly vicious, as have been the comments of a lot of other quarterback sharpshooters," said Belli. "It's a stinking, lousy book."

Object of Belli's wrath were Professors John Kaplan of Stanford University Law School and Jon R. Waltz of the Northwestern University Law School.

JUDGE

The professors also claimed that the trial judge, Joe B. Brown, accepted a fee from a New York publishing company for writing a book on the Ruby case before the case had left his court.

Dallas district attorney Henry Wade, who handled the prosecution of Ruby, took unfair advantage of Belli's unfamiliarity with Texas criminal procedures, the authors charge, and "competed with the defense attorneys" in trying to bring improper evidence before the court.

They further contend that once Belli was fired from the case, Ruby's other defense attorneys appeared to be devoting more time to wquabbling among themselves than to working for their client.

The entire trial, the authors suggest, does the Nation's legal profession little credit.

On the camera smuggling charge, Belli said, "That picture was taken with everybody's consent. It was to be sold to Life for \$25,000, which was to go into Ruby's appeals fund."