

BELLI (320)

DALLAS, TEX., FEB. 5 (AP)-THE CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR JACK RUBY COULD HAVE FOUND HIS PROFESSIONAL ETHICS A MATTER OF DISCUSSION IN DALLAS TODAY.

THE HEAD OF THE DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION, HUBERT D. JOHNSON, ^{in an interview that} SAID/HE FELT THAT IF MELVIN BELLI WERE A TEXAS LAWYER HE WOULD BE COURTING A VISIT BY THE STATE BAR'S GRIEVIENCE COMMITTEE.

JOHNSON REFERRED TO REMARKS MADE TUESDAY IN NEW YORK BY BELLI TO THE EFFECT THAT DALLAS HAD CHOSEN RUBY AS A SCAPEGOAT.

THE SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY PGOMPTED MR. JOHNSON'S CRITICISM WITH A PUBLIC REMARK THAT HE WAS SEEKING A CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE RUBY TRIAL BECAUSE "THE PEOPLE OF DALLAS, PERHAPS UNCONSCIOUSLY, HAVE TO HAVE A SACRIFICE IN ORDER TO CLEANSE THEMSELVES, TO PROVE THAT DALLAS IS A LAW ABIDING COMMUNITY.

"THEY FEEL IF RUBY IS EXECUTED, IT WOULD RE-ESTABLISH SOME SENSE OF LAW AND ORDER," BELLI SAID.

JOHNSON SAID CANON 17 OF THE TEXAS BAR ASSOCIATION SAYS THAT A MEMBER OF THE BAR SHOULD NOT PUBLICIZE PENDING LITIGATION.

THE DALLAS BAR PRESIDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WHEN BELLI CAME TO DALLAS HE INDICATED HE WANTED TO COMPLY WITH TEXAS BAR CANONS.

"DON'T YOU SEE IT (MR. BELLI'S NEW YORK REMARKS) AS A FORM OF IGNORING THESE CANONS?" ASKED JOHNSON. "IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT HE IS DOING JUST WHAT OUR CANONS FORBID."

JOHNSON SAID "IF A TEXAS LAWYER DID THE SAME THING HE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A CALL BY THE STATE BAR FUNCTIONARIES (THE GRIEVIENCE COMMITTEE.)"

THE BAR'S COMMITTEE, HE SAID, HAS THE POWER TO SUSPEND A LAWYER OR--IN AGGRAVATED CASES--RECOMMEND HIS DISBARMENT.

"IN A FEW DAYS THIS CASE WILL ALL COME OUT IN A COURTROOM AND IT IS A LITTLE UNFAIR TO GO OUTSIDE THE COURT TO SAY THINGS A JUDGE WOULD NOT ALLOW DURING A TRIAL," JOHNSON SAID. "THE COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO BELLI SEEM TO BE AN ARGUMENT BEFORE A COURT AND NOT TO ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE IN NEW YORK OR CALIFORNIA OR ANY OTHER PLACE."

DALLAS DIST. ATTY. HENRY WADE, COMMENTING ON MR. BELLI'S ACTIONS, SAID HE TRIED "TO ABIDE BY THE CANONS OF THE STATE BAR BUT ITS MOST DIFFICULT WHEN YOU HAVE AN OPPOSING ATTORNEY WHO VIOLATES THE CANONS DAILY."

JJ/MW/RW706PCS