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DALLAS, MARCH 19 (AP)--CONTROVERSIAL SAN FRANCISCO LAWYER MELVIN BELLI HAS BEEN FIRED AS CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR JACK RUBY, WHO WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH SATURDAY FOR THE SLAYING OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

MRS. EVA GRANT, SISTER OF THE CONVICTED KILLER, TOLD THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS SHE SENT A LETTER AIRMAIL LAST NIGHT TO BELLI'S CALIFORNIA OFFICE STATING THAT HIS SERVICES WERE NO LONGER WANTED.

THE RUBY FAMILY AND THE DEFENDANT HIMSELF WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE DEFENSE PRESENTED BY BELLI AND EXPRESSED SHOCK AT THE TIRADE HE DELIVERED AFTER SATURDAY'S VERDICT, MRS. GRANT SAID.

BELLI'S TELEVISED BITTER COMMENTS HAVE BROUGHT WIDE CRITICISM FROM TEXAS OFFICIALS AND FROM OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

RUBY'S BROTHER, HYMAN RUBY OF CHICAGO, SAID "THE OPINIONS THIS MAN EXPRESSED ABOUT DALLAS, THE JURY, JUDGE JOE B. BROWN AND DIST. ATTY. HENRY WADE ARE NOT SHARED BY JACK OR ANY MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY."

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AS EARLY AS JAN. 22, THE LETTER MAINTAINED, RUBY "TRIED TO DIS-ENGAGE" BELLI AFTER A DISAGREEMENT OVER TACTICS USED BY THE LAWYER. BELLI "BITTERLY OPPOSED AND FORCED HIMSELF" ON RUBY AND "WOULD NOT CONSENT AT THAT TIME TO ANY LOCAL ADEQUATE, COMPETENT COUNSEL," THE LETTER SAID.

RUBY PLEADED INNOCENT OF SHOOTING OSWALD BY VIRTUE OF INSANITY. IN THE MONTH-LONG TRIAL, BELLI TRIED TO PROVE THAT THE BALDING NIGHT CLUB OPERATOR WAS A VICTIM OF A FORM OF EPILEPSY AND NOT IN CONTROL OF HIMSELF NOV. 24 WHEN HE LUNGED FORWARD AND SHOT THE MANACLED OSWALD IN THE DALLAS POLICE JAIL BASEMENT.

RUBY HIMSELF SIGNED THE TWO-PAGE LETTER. COPIES WERE SENT TO THE TWO OTHER DEFENSE LAWYERS, JOE TONAHILL OF JASPER, TEX., AND PHIL BURLESON OF DALLAS, BUT IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN HOW THEIR STATUS WAS AFFECTED.

"MY BROTHER HAS BEEN DISTURBED AND UPSET BY REPORTS OF MR. BELLI'S ACTION BOTH IN AND OUT OF COURT," SAID RUBY'S BROTHER, HYMAN RUBY OF CHICAGO.

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HYMAN SAID BELLI "NEVER CONSULTED US ABOUT ANYTHING REGARDING THE CASE SO HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T CONSULT US BEFORE HE BLASTED ALL THOSE PEOPLE SATURDAY AFTERNOON . . . I HAD THE FEELING HE WAS EVADING THE WHOLE FAMILY."

THE LETTER OUTLINED THE FAMILY'S DISAGREEMENT WITH BELLI'S "CONSTANT BITTER CRITICISM OF DALLAS AND THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS" THAT IT CONTENDED WERE AIMED AT "PROMOTING ONLY BELLI'S PERSONAL FAME AND FORTUNE."

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THE LETTER SAID "WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE WILL DO FOR FURTHER COUNSEL. WE HAVE NO CHOICE AT THIS TIME. BUT GOD WILLING, WE WILL GET HELP SOMEHOW. WE WILL PRAY FOR HELP, AND HOPE THAT MR. BELLI WILL DO LIKewise."

THE FAMILY SAID IT HAS A NOTE BELLI WROTE RUBY, SAYING THE LAWYER'S DEFENSE WOULD NOT COST ANYTHING.

HYMAN RUBY, HOWEVER, SAID "HE HAS PUT ALL OF US DEEPLY IN DEBT. . . THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BELLI AND THE RUBY FAMILY EXCEPT WHEN HE WANTED TO DISCUSS FINANCES AND HIS EXPENSES--WHICH WERE CONSIDERABLE."

THE FAMILY ALSO SAID JACK RUBY TOLD BELLI HE WANTED "NO PART" OF A MOVIE OR A BOOK OR ANYTHING FOR PROFIT.

EA19DN

THEY QUOTED BELLI AS TELLING THE DEFENDANT, "I CAN SIGN MY OWN CONTRACT--I DON'T NEED YOU."

THE CONVICTED SLAYER GAVE PERMISSION TO A CALIFORNIA AUTHOR TO WRITE A NEWSPAPER SERIAL BASED ON HIS LIFE UP TO THE TIME OF THE TRIAL. THE \$24,000 IT PRODUCED FOR RUBY HELPED FINANCE THE TRIAL, A RELATIVE SAID.

MRS. GRANT SAID LAST NIGHT NO PLANS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR NAMING A REPLACEMENT FOR BELLI.

"ALL I CAN SAY RIGHT NOW IS THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY AND WE SHOULD HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT PRETTY SOON," SHE SAID.

ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY SAID THEY PREDICTED THE TRIAL OUTCOME IN A SEALED NOTE 10 DAYS AGO.

BELLI AND HIS WIFE WERE REPORTED IN MEXICO CITY TODAY.

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