

Rby

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BELLI (250)

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SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 4 (AP)-MELVIN BELLI SAYS THAT PSYCHIATRISTS ADVISED HIM NOT TO PUT JACK RUBY ON THE STAND BECAUSE "HE MAY HAVE HAD A LUCID FIVE OR TEN MINUTES" AND "WE COULDN'T RISK THAT."

BELLI WAS CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR RUBY UNTIL HE WAS FIRED AFTER THE DALLAS NIGHT CLUB OWNER WAS CONDEMNED TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR FOR KILLING LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

DR. HUBERT WINSTON SMITH, THIRD CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR RUBY, SAID ON MARCH 26 THAT HE WOULD PUT RUBY ON THE STAND IN EVENT OF A NEW TRIAL.

BELLI, WHO CONTENDED HIS CLIENT WAS PSYCHOTIC, SAID THAT ON THE OTHER HAND RUBY "COULD HAVE FROTHED AT THE MOUTH AND GONE OVER TO THE JURY RAIL."

"FEAR COULD HAVE MADE HIM HOLD ONTO REALITY," BELLI SAID LAST NIGHT IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AFTER A SPEECH TO FELLOW-MEMBERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PRESS CLUB.

"HE WAS LIABLE TO HAVE SAID ANYTHING ON THE STAND WHILE HOLDING ONTO REALITY.

"IT ALMOST WOULD HAVE AMOUNTED TO A CONFESSION. BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT," SAID BELLI, IN SPECULATING HOW RUBY WOULD HAVE REACTED UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION.

"I KNOW THAT THIS MAN (RUBY) IS GOING TO GET THAT VERDICT REVERSED," SAID BELLI IN HIS ONE-HOUR SPEECH. "MY HEART AND SOULD STILL ARE IN IT REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT WE WERE PROMISED A \$100,000 FEE AND WE GOT ZERO AND HAD TO PAY FOR EXPENSES OUT OF OUR POCKETS."

BELLI ADDED THAT HE WAS PREPARING A BRIEF ON THE CASE TO SEND BACK TO TEXAS.

THE SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY CRITICIZED CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN FOR NOT RELEASING EVIDENCE BELLI SAID SHOWED A LACK OF CONNECTION BETWEEN RUBY AND OSWALD. BELLI EMPHATICALLY ~~DENIED~~ ^{declared} THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO BEFORE OSWALD WAS SHOT IN THE BASEMENT OF THE DALLAS POLICE STATION.

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