

Rbx

27 APR 1964

957 PCS

A121FX (PX FOLO)

(210)

SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 27 (AP)-ATTORNEY MELIN BELLI TODAY ADVISED WALTER E. CRAIG, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, THAT HE HAD DECIDED AGAINST RESIGNING QUIETLY FROM THE LAWYER ORGANIZATION.

"I'M GOING TO LET YOU TRY AND KICK ME OUT PUBLICLY," SAID BELLI WHO WAS DISMISSED AS DEFENSE COUNSEL AFTER JACK RUBY WAS CONVICTED IN DALLAS OF KILLING LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

IN A 26-PAGE LETTER TO CRAIG, BELLI DEMANDED A PUBLIC HEARING OF CHARGES OF UNETHICAL CONDUCT AGAINST HIM FOLLOWING A COURTROOM OUTBURST AFTER THE DALLAS JURY RETURNED A DEATH VERDICT FOR RUBY.

A1651CX

(110)

INSERT

SAN FRANCISCO--BELLI (A121), TO COVER DEVELOPMENTS THE FOLLOWING MAY BE INSERTED AFTER THE 3RD GRAF, "IN A 26 X X X FOR ROBY."

CRAIG, WHO WAS EN ROUTE BETWEEN SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

IN CHICAGO, HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ABA SAID BELLI WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIM, BUT THAT ANY HEARING ON THE CHARGES WOULD BE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABA RULES.

"COMPLAINTS FILED AGAINST MR. BELLI BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE (AMERICAN BAR) ASSOCIATION ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION NOW BY THE COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE HAS SAID THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL PROCEDURES IN COMPLAINTS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT."

PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT."

~~BELLI SHOUTED X X 4TH GRAF A121.~~

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BELLI SHOUTED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION IN THE COURTROOM THAT RUBY HAD BEEN RAILROADED AND THAT THE JURY HAD RETURNED A VERDICT OF "BIGOTRY AND INJUSTICE."

BELLI PROPOSED THAT THE SAME HEARING CONSIDER CRAIG'S STATEMENTS TO A NEWS CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO THAT BELLI'S "INTEMPERATE AND ABUSIVE" REMARKS CONSTITUTED "UNETHICAL CONDUCT."

ON HIS RETURN FROM A BRIEF MEXICAN VACATION AFTER THE RUBY TRIAL BELLI TOLD A SAN FRANCISCO NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS RESIGNING FROM THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION BECAUSE OF CRAIG'S STATEMENT.

IN HIS LETTER BELLI TOLD CRAIG:

"AT THE TIME YOU PERSONALLY AND SO PUBLICLY CONVICTED WITHOUT DUE OR WNY PROCESS, YOU ACTED IN A MOST UNETHICAL MANNER, SIR, AND I SO CHARGE YOU."

BELLI CONTENDED CRAIG HAD NOT CONSULTED THE ASSOCIATION'S GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE AND HAD NO RIGHT TO SPEAK AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION IN CONDEMNING BELLI'S DALLAS COURTROOM CONDUCT.

BELLI NOTED THAT O.B. MCEWAN OF ORLANDO, FLA., CHAIRMAN OF THE ABA'S COMMITTEE OF PROFESSIONAL GRIEVANCES, HAD ANNOUNCED THAT "BELLI WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ABA BOARD OF GOVERNORS."

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