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EPILEPSY-RUBY

WASHINGTON, JUNE 2- (AP)-MELVIN BELLI, CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL DURING JACK RUBY'S MURDER TRIAL, REITERATED TONIGHT HIS BELIEF THAT RUBY HAS THE RAREST FORM OF EPILEPSY.

BUT DESPITE SOME DI

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TORTIONS ON THAT POINT, BELLI SAID, "JACK RUBY WAS ON TRIAL IN DALLAS--NOT EPILEPSY."

BELLI MADE THE COMMENT IN CALLING FOR AN END TO WHAT HE TERMED UNWARRANTED PUBLIC SUPERSTITION AND HOSTILITY TOWARDS EPILEPTICS--SENTIMENTS HE SAID "EXISTED LONG BEFORE JACK RUBY WAS BORN."

AND HE SPOKE OF DISTORTIONS ABOUT EPILEPSY BECAUSE OF REFERENCES MADE TO THE AFFLICTION DURING THE TRIAL OF RUBY FOR THE MURDER OF LEE OSWALD, ALLEGED ASSASSIN OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

BELLI'S SPEECH WAS PREPARED FOR A MEETING TOUCHING OFF A MONTH-LONG NATION-WIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION, A NON PROFIT VOLUNTARY HEALTH ORGANIZATION, "TO COUNTER WIDESPREAD MISINFORMATION ABOUT EPILEPSY."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, IN A TELEGRAM TO THE FOUNDATION, EXTENDED "MY BEST WISHES AS YOU COMMENCE YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF EPILEPSY."

"MUCH OF OUR SOCIETY IS STILL UNAWARE OF THE ADVANCES IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT WHICH MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MOST PERSONS WITH EPILEPSY TO LEAD FULLY NORMAL LIVES," JOHNSON SAID.

"MODERN MEDICINE HAS FREED A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH THIS DISORDER FROM THE HANDICAPPING SYMPTOMS OF THEIR ILLNESS. YET THE SHACKLES OF MISCONCEPTION REMAIN. AS A RESULT, UNFAIR BARRIERS OF DISCRIMINATION AND MISUNDERSTANDING STILL TOO OFTEN CREATE LEGAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR MANY INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY THIS NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER..."

IN RUBY'S TRIAL, THE DEFENSE WAS BASED LARGELY ON THE CONTENTION--BACKED BY TESTIMONY OF SOME SCIENTISTS--THAT THE DEFENDANT HAD A FORM OF EPILEPSY KNOWN AS "PSYCHOMOTOR" EPILEPSY. FIVE NEUROLOGISTS FOR THE STATE CONTENDED THERE WAS NO DEFINITE EVIDENCE OF ANY KIND OF EPILEPSY IN RUBY'S CASE.

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