

NIGHT LEAD BELLI (280)

DALLAS, TEX., AUG. 15 (AP)-ATTORNEY EMMETT COLVIN JR. SAID TODAY HE BELIEVED THE SPIRITS OF HIS CLIENT, JACK RUBY, WERE IMPROVED BY A VISIT FROM MELVIN BELLI LAST NIGHT.

"I HADN'T SEEN THAT MAN SMILE IN A LONG TIME," SAID COLVIN, DESCRIBING HOW RUBY BROKE INTO A GRIN AT THE SIGHT OF BELLI.

RUBY IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR HIS SLAYING OF ACCUSED PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN LEE HARVEY OSWALD. BELLI, COLORFUL SAN FRANCISCO LAWYER, HEADED RUBY'S TRIAL DEFENSE BUT WAS DISCHARGED AFTER AN OUTBURST FOLLOWING THE JURY VERDICT.

COLVIN SAID BELLI DID NOT DISCUSS LEGAL STRATEGY DURING THE MEETING WITH RUBY. HE TALKED INSTEAD ABOUT A VACATION HE HAD TAKEN IN CANADA.

EARLIER, BELLI SPENT SEVERAL HOURS IN A LEGAL CONFERENCE WITH RUBY ATTORNEYS PHIL BURLESON, CLAYTON FOWLER AND COLVIN.

COLVIN SAID BELLI PLANS TO PREPARE RESEARCH PAPERS AND A BRIEF TO AID THE DEFENSE TEAM IN APPEALING THE JURY VERDICT HERE.

"WE COULDN'T DISCUSS STRATEGY IN THE JAIL BECAUSE THERE WERE TWO SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WHO SAT THERE THROUGHOUT THE MEETING," SAID COLVIN.

THE DALLAS ATTORNEY SAID THAT WHEN BELLI SAW RUBY HE SAID, "GOOD TO SEE YOU SMILING. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?"

RUBY SAID HE HAD BEEN "ALL RIGHT."

BELLI SAID HE HAD COME "AS A FRIEND" TO SEE RUBY AND TELL HIM THAT HE WAS STILL INTERESTED IN HIS CASE.

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES E. R. WALTHERS AND GRADY MCMAHAN STAYED NEARBY DURING THE VISIT.

WALTHERS SAID THE MEN TALKED FOR 19 MINUTES.

"THEY WERE FRIENDLY AND SHOOK HANDS," HE SAID. "IT WAS A BREAK IN ROUTINE AND JACK RUBY SEEMED GLAD TO SEE HIM."

BELLI QUIETLY REGISTERED UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME AT THE WESTERN HILLS HOTEL IN FORT WORTH EARLIER LAST NIGHT. HE USED THE NAME "H. COBDEN."

BELLI CHECKED OUT OF THE HOTEL TODAY, AND COLVIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT BELLI WAS RETURNING TO SAN FRANCISCO.

MM930PCS