

EB7ODN (LA FW)

NIGHT LEAD BELLI (240)

FORT WORTH, TEX., NOV. 30 (AP)-SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY MELVIN BELLI SAID TODAY IF JACK RUBY WINS A NEW TRIAL, AND IF BELLI WERE HIS LAWYER, HE WOULD TRY THE CASE IN THE SAME WAY.

"IT WAS A SOPHISTICATED DEFENSE BEFORE AN UNSOPHISTICATED JUDGE," BELLI SAID OF HIS DEFENSE OF RUBY FOR THE SLAYING OF PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSIN LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

A DALLAS JURY SENTENCED RUBY TO DEATH. THE DECISION IS BEING APPEALED.

BELLI, IN FORT WORTH TO INVESTIGATE A POSSIBLE CONTEST OF A WILL, SPOKE TO NEWSMEN IN HIS HOTEL SUITE.

HE IS OCCUPYING THE SUITE IN WHICH PRESIDENT KENNEDY SPENT THE NIGHT OF NOV. 21-22, 1963.

BELLI SAID A DALLAS POLL PRIOR TO THE RUBY TRIAL REVEALED 80 PER CENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED FAVORED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE DALLAS NIGHTCLUB OPERATOR.

AFTER THE VERDICT, HE SAID, THE PERCENTAGE DROPPED TO 55.

BELLI DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE POLL, BUT SAID IT WAS CONDUCTED BY A RELATIVE OF ONE OF RUBY'S DEFENSE TEAM.

BELLI SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO SEE OR CALL RUBY, EXPLAINING THAT IT WOULD CAUSE TOO MUCH OF A COMMOTION. HE PREDICTED THE DEATH SENTENCE WOULD BE REVERSED, AND THAT RUBY NEVER WILL DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.

HE SAID RUBY HAS CALLED HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN HIS SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

"I KNOW IT'S JACK," HE SAID, "BECAUSE IT COMES COLLECT."

HE ADDED:

"SO MANY PEOPLE ARE TAPPING THE TELEPHONE (WHEN RUBY CALLS) THAT THERE IS HARDLY ENOUGH JUICE TO RELAY THE CALL OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS."

BELLI ALSO SAID HIS BOOK, "DALLAS JUSTICE," WHICH CONCERNS THE HISTORIC TRIAL, IS NOT SELLING AS WELL AS HE EXPECTED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THOUSANDS OF COPIES HAVE BEEN SOLD.

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