

Bremer's Target-- Nixon or Wallace

Upper Marlboro, Md.

Arthur Bremer decided last March to assassinate either President Nixon or Alabama Governor George C. Wallace, a psychiatrist testified yesterday.

Dr. Eugene B. Brody of Baltimore described Bremer as a dispassionate schizophrenic, both methodical and careless, and rejected by a teen-age girl.

"He fantasized that when he fired his gun at President Nixon or Governor Wallace, he would cry out, 'A penny for your thoughts,'" Brody testified during the third day of Bremer's trial in Prince Georges County Circuit Court.

Brody, a defense witness, said he considered the 21-year-old defendant legally insane when, as prosecution eyewitnesses said, he wounded Wallace and three other persons with a pistol May 15 at a Laurel, Md., shopping center.

His opinion was in direct conflict with prosecution psychiatrists, who said Tuesday that while Bremer had a mental disorder and was mixed up, he could, as Maryland insanity law requires, appreciate the criminality of his conduct and could have conformed to the law.

SCHIZOPHRENIC

While Brody maintained that the former busboy and school janitor was a schizophrenic, the prosecution doctors said Bremer had the less-severe disorder known as schizoid personality.

Bremer has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to a 17-count indictment arising from the shootings.

Brody, head psychiatrist

at the University of Maryland Medical School, said he based his conclusion on a two-hour interview with Bremer, talks with Bremer's parents, reports from prosecution psychiatrists and a diary Bremer began keeping earlier this year.

The 114-page diary, the jury was told, detailed Bremer's moods, a "cross-country pursuit of President Nixon" and an attempt to shoot Wallace in Darborn, Mich., that was aborted when two teen-aged girls stepped in front of Bremer's gun.

While Brody testified that the diary revealed a "growing crisis and lack of control" on Bremer's part, Arthur A. Marshall Jr., the state's attorney for Prince Georges County, argued that it was a money-making attempt.

The prosecutor noted that the diary was intended to be a 35,000-word book and had been "copyright" by Bremer, who allegedly told psychiatrists he planned to appear on television talk shows if he was acquitted.

Marshall said the diary contained sexual passages designed to make it a best seller and epics — such as the decision not to take a chance of hurting the two girls near Wallace — showing he understood the law.

"I let Wallace go home to spare those two stupid, simple, delighted kids," Marshall quoted from the diary.

Brody insisted under cross-examination that Bremer, described as above average in intelligence, could appreciate the law on an intellectual but not an emotional level.

"One of the chief characteristics of Arthur Bremer is

that the words he speaks are not accompanied by the emotion which would be appropriate," Brody testified. "His judgement of his own behavior in relation to others is seriously impaired."

A second defense psychiatrist, Dr. Sheila Hafter Gray, said she considered Bremer to be a legally insane, latent schizophrenic affected by a "very serious blurring of the bounds between fantasy and reality."

Brody said he had isolated four distinct emotional crises in Bremer's life the first at age 9, when against his wishes, his family moved on short notice.

The second came about nine years later when Bremer, heretofore submissive at home, began challenging his parents, complaining about food and conditions and finally moving away, according to the doctor.

The third event, he said, the "main crisis" in Bremer's life: His rejection last winter by 16-year-old Joan Pembroke of Milwaukee, described in earlier testimony as the first and only person to whom Bremer had tried to relate closely.

Brody quoted Bremer as saying his two weeks of dating were "the happiest of my life," but once spurned he shaved his head and confronted her in an effort to make her "stop in her tracks."

The fourth emotional stage, the psychiatrist continued, came between early March and May 15 as Bremer's writing complains of apparently imagined physical ailments, discusses suicide and displays "a growing crisis and a lack of control."

Associated Press