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Bremer Trial Bjt 2nd ML 300

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UPPER MAREBORO, Md. AP - Testimony concluded Thursday in the trial of Arthur Herman Bremer after the jury heard an anguished, often jumbled diary in which the defendant detailed the stalking of President Nixon and Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

The four-day hearing in Prince Georges County Circuit Court went into an afternoon recess. Considering a defense motion, Judge Ralph W. Powers dropped for insufficient evidence four of the 17 charges against the defendant.

The charges dropped accused Bremer of assault with intent to main Wallace and three other persons wounded by .38-caliber pistol, fired May 15 at a political rally at a Laurel, Md. shopping center.

Remaining were four counts each of assault with intent to murder, assault and battery, and using a handgun in violation of Maryland law and one charge of illegally carrying a handgun.

Arthur A. Marshall Jr., the state's attorney, said the remaining assault charges are duplicative, meaning the jury could find Bremer guilty of only one set. Marshall also said the four counts dropped were duplicative of the other assault charges.

Final arguments and instructions to the jury by the judge are scheduled to begin Friday morning, after which the six men and six women will begin weighing the evidence, deciding first whether Bremer was legally sane.

Bremer has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. The jury will have to resolve conflicting testimony on this key point from psychiatrists called as witnesses by both sides.

Marshall said conviction on all remaining counts could bring Bremer a maximum of 125 years in jail. If the jury finds him legally insane, he would be committed to a Maryland mental hospital for a minimum of 90 days, at which time he could petition the court for a sanity hearing.

The 114-page diary laced with four-letter words and lamentations of failure, described how Bremer pursued Nixon with a pistol during an April visit to Ottawa, Canada, retreated in despair to Milwaukee, Wis., and then settled on Wallace while watching the film, "A Clockwork Orange."

The 21-year old former bus boy and school janitor did not take the witness stand. He frequently laid his head on the defense table as the jury heard his private thoughts read by his lawyer, Benjamin Lipsitz.

"From the very beginning, I planned to get him Nixon at the Ottawa military airport addressing a happy Canadian crowd," wrote Bremer, who was denied entrance to the airport and had to take a position along the motorcycle route into the Canadian capital.

He next recounted the first of a series of would be assassination attempts.

"He went by before I knew it, like the snap of a picture. A dark silhouette rushed by in a black car. I had missed him that day. The best chance to get him was over."

Bremer said he later saw a car he believed was Nixon's outside the U.S. Embassy and ran back to his hotel to pick up his gun.

But, he said, he dallied to brush his teeth and waste time so as to not have to be conspicuous by waiting too long for the President to appear.

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Bremer also said he worried about his own personal appearance and whether he would be calm after the assassination.

After missing the president he wrote: "I will give very little thought to those things in the future. Does anybody remember if Sirhan's tie was on straight?"

That reference to Sirhan B. Sirhan, convicted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., was only one of a number in the diary, the first part of which Bremer claims to have buried and the third part of which he is said to be writing now.

Bremer was disappointed later when Nixon failed to enter a crowd to shake hands. That night Bremer stalked him outside a concert, later fantasizing what it would have been like to wear white tie and tails and shoot the President.

"At this time, I also began thinking of following Nixon in Washington," he wrote, subsequently indicating in a jumbled flashback passage that he traveled at least as far as Maryland in his quest to get near the President.

Still in Ottawa, Bremer told of Nixon leaving the Canadian Parliament.

"I had a good view as he came by me again--the sixth time and still alive... waiting for him to come out, I thought about killing as many Secret Service men as I could ... something to show for my efforts."

Still later, writing about going to Washington, he said: "Can't kill Nixie boy if you ain't close to him."

After failing in Canada, Bremer returned to Milwaukee in an apparent deep depression and complaints of physical pains, troubled sleeping, a desire for sex and a growing shrinking of a bankroll he said once totaled more than \$1,000.

"I had to get rid of my thoughts," he wrote. "I went to the zoo down by the river, but that didn't help."

"I saw 'Clockwork Orange' and thought about getting Wallace all through the picture. I've decided Wallace will have the honor of - what what you call it?"

That was the first apparent mention of Wallace in the narrative. Later, there are passing references to shooting Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., and to the publicity value of killing FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.  
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"I hope my death makes more sense than my life," Bremer wrote before detailing his unsuccessful pursuit of Wallace in Michigan in the week preceding that state's May 16 presidential primary.

The narrative at times becomes confused, recording Bremer's thoughts on suicide, making money with his diary, gaining notoriety, and failing to get close to Wallace at rallies in Dearborn and Cadillac.

On May 8, he wrote: "Still, I don't know whether it's trial or prison for me or bye-bye brains. I'll have to decide that in the last few seconds."

The last diary passage written May 13 has Bremer "swearing, swearing, swearing" after the failure in Michigan and talking about heading to Maryland. "They have a primary, too," he noted.

Wallace was shot on the eve of the Maryland primary which he won.

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