

Jury Rules Bremer Is Sane, Guilty

UPPER MARLBORO (Md.) — (UPI) — His plea of insanity rejected, Arthur Bremer was found guilty today of shooting George Wallace and three bystanders at a Laurel, Md., political rally May 15.

He was sentenced to 63 years in prison.

The 21-year-old former busboy, who flashed his famous smile on hearing the verdict and later the sentence, noted that the prosecutor "said that society needs protection from someone like me. Looking back on my life, I would have liked it if society had protected me from myself. That is all I have to say."

'A Nut'

The jury of six women and six men deliberated only 1 hour and 35 minutes on the fifth day of the trial before rejecting Bremer's plea of innocent by reason of insanity less than two hours after his defense attorney had described him as a deranged "creep . . . a nut."

After prosecutor Arthur Marshall asked for the maximum sentence of 125 years and defense attorney Benjamin Lipsitz asked the court to show that in Maryland "justice is tempered with mercy," circuit Judge Ralph Powers imposed the 63-year sentence.

After imposing the sentence, which is expected to be appealed, Powers asked

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Quick Decision

Bremer Guilty On 9 Counts

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Bremer if he had anything further to say.

"I suppose I have a world of words to say," Bremer responded. "I think what I would have to say would run longer than the transcript of this trial so I won't say anything at this time."

Bremer was charged with four counts of assault to murder, four counts of assault with a firearm and one count of carrying an illegal gun.

Powers gave him the maximum 15 years for assaulting Wallace with intent to kill, another 15 years for using a gun in the process and three years for carrying the unregistered handgun, a .38 caliber revolver.

For his attack on the other three persons, he was sentenced to 10 years for assault with intent to kill and 10

years for using a gun. Whereas the sentences for Wallace ran consecutively, the sentences for injuring the other three ran concurrently — making the total sentence 63 years.

After the verdict was announced by the jury foreman, Lipsitz asked that the jurors be individually polled. So, with the other 11 jurors responding to each of the nine counts, Bremer heard himself pronounced guilty 99 more times.

Powers instructed the jury to determine if Bremer shot the Alabama governor and three bystanders and, if so, was he legally sane when he did it.

Citing defense testimony by psychiatrists that Bremer was not able to understand the "criminality" of his action and that he was an insane schizophrenic,



ARTHUR BREMER
Found guilty

Lipsitz told the jury in his final summation: "I spent a lot of time with him. That boy is a nut. The psychiatrists are going to love this guy. They will have a party with him for 100 years."

As he addressed the jury, Lipsitz turned around and stared at Bremer sitting at the defense table and called the jurors' attention to "that creep over there."

Prior to the closing summations, Judge Powers dropped four more charges against Bremer — counts of assault and battery on Wallace, Secret Service agent Nicholas Zarvos, Alabama state trooper Eldredge Dorthar and Dora Thompson, a Wallace campaign worker.