

Bremer Is Guilty--Gets

63 Years

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Upper Marlboro, Md.

Arthur Herman Bremer was found guilty and sentenced to 63 years in prison yesterday for the shooting of Governor George C. Wallace and three others at a political rally in Laurel, Md., on May 15.

The jury of six men and six women took only 90 minutes to find that Bremer was sane when he fired the bullets that paralyzed Wallace and forced the Alabama segregationist to end his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The defense had raised the question of Bremer's sanity and that was the main issue of this remarkably speedy five-day state trial.

Bremer, a 21-year-old busboy and odd-jobs man from Milwaukee who had stalked President Nixon before making Wallace his prime target, heard without emotion the jury's verdict and — 30 minutes later — the stern sentence imposed by Judge Ralph W. Powers.

FATHER

His father, William Bremer, a truck driver who lost an eye at the age of 9 was standing against the wall in the rear of the courtroom. William Bremer had been coldly ignored by his son but he flushed with anger over the verdict.

"The boy was sick," said William Bremer and he added bitterly: "Probably if he was a black or some Communist agitator he'd be free."

When the jury was dismissed, Judge Powers asked Arthur Bremer if he had anything to say.

Standing beside his attor-

ney, Arthur said in a firm clear voice: "Well, Mr. Marshall (State's Attorney Arthur A. Marshall) tells me he'd like society to be protected from someone like me."

There was a long pause and then Arthur continued: "Looking back on my life, I would have liked it if society had protected me from myself. That's all I've got to say."

RECESS

Powers called a brief recess while he considered the sentence. When he returned, he gave Arthur another chance to speak.

Arthur said; "I suppose I

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have a world of words to say." (Another long pause during which his lawyer, Benjamin Lipsitz muttered: "Don't be afraid, speak up.") "I think what I have to say would run longer than the transcript of this trial. So I won't say anything at this time."

"Very well," said Powers. He then gave Arthur the maximum sentence of 33 years on three counts in the shooting of Wallace (15 years for assault with intent to murder; 15 years for use of a hand gun in a crime of violence, and three years for illegally carrying a hand gun); and ten years each for assault with intent to murder the three other victims: Nick Zarvos, a Secret Service man; Dora Thompson, a Wallace campaign worker, and Captain Eldred Cole Dothard, of the Alabama state police, a Wallace body guard. That gave a total of 63 years.

In addition the judge sentenced Bremer to ten years each for the use of a hand gun on Zarvos, Dothard and Mrs. Thompson, but he said these sentences would run concurrently with the ten-year sentence for assault with intent to murder those victims.

PAROLE

State's Attorney Marshall later said at a news conference that Bremer could ap-

ply for parole after serving one fourth of his sentence: 15 years and nine months.

The reading of Bremer's diary by defense counsel Lipsitz may have insured the guilty verdict. Instead of impressing the jury with Bremer's bizarre and irrational conduct in carrying out plans for the assassination of Mr. Nixon and Wallace, the result was that some jurors found the document coherent and not a whit insane.

"The diary was one of the factors that swayed me toward the opinion that Bremer was sane," said jury foreman Vincent M. Telli, a civilian employee at the Washington Navy yards. "If he can write something like that he must be coherent."

Another juror, Jack Goldinher, a maintenance man at the Library of Congress, was similarly impressed. "A lot of guilt ran through that diary," Goldinher said. "He couldn't get Nixon, so he picked Wallace. I don't think it made much difference to him as long as it was somebody famous. As for sanity — he might have been a little withdrawn but he wasn't insane or crazy."

POLL

Foreman Telli said he polled the jurors at lunch (the jury had received the case at 12:42 p.m.) and found instant unanimity.

"I polled them first on criminality and they were unanimous on 'guilty,'" he said.

"Then I polled them on the sanity issue and they were unanimous he was sane. I polled them twice on sanity to make sure. No one hesitated."

Both sides had called psychiatrists to testify to the sanity or insanity of Bremer, but the testimony seemed to carry little weight with jurors.

"They used so many big words," complained Telli. "They couldn't agree. They were so evasive. You had to use horse sense."

Telli concluded that Bremer "didn't seem too bad to

me, he was reserved and restrained."

Arthur Bremer was taken to Maryland state penitentiary in Baltimore.

Lipsitz has 30 days to appeal. The attorney said he could make no comment because of Bremer's pending trial in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore on charges of shooting Wallace and Secret Service bodyguard Zarvos. That federal trial has been postponed indefinitely.

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BREMER IS FOUND GUILTY



UPI Telephoto

Arthur Bremer (center, with policeman's arm across his face) was taken into prison in Baltimore