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Selection of a Jury Goes on at the Trial Of 2 Hunt Brothers

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LUBBOCK, Tex., Sept. 16—

Lamar Hunt, the owner of the Kansas City Chiefs football team and a promoter of professional tennis, ran his sports and oil enterprises from the spectator seats at the Federal courthouse here today.

Mr. Hunt was waiting to testify as a character witness in behalf of his two brothers, W. Herbert and Nelson Bunker Hunt, who are being tried on charges of illegal wiretapping.

In the courtroom, Mr. Hunt leafed through folders and went out to accept telephone calls while attorneys went through the routine of picking a 12-member jury.

The case was transferred to Lubbock from Dallas because of wide publicity in Dallas, the Hunts' home town.

The two brothers are accused of hiring private detectives in 1969 to tap the telephone of employes they said they believed had stolen \$50-million from their father, H. L. Hunt, the late oil billionaire.

Federal District Judge H. O. Woodward said he expected jury selection to be completed Thursday morning, and that the trial would last about two weeks.

In a surprise move today, the Government said that it would not call as witnesses three of the persons whose telephones were bugged by the private detectives. Two of the three, John Currington and John H. Brown, were convicted last July of conspiring to receive illegal payments from Mr. Hunt, and were placed on probation.

The government also said it would not call as a witness Paul M. Rothermel, a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who was chief of security for the Hunt enterprises.