

Grand Jury Hears Aide to Jim Jones; Lawyer Says 'Crimes'

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20 — Terri Buford, a former top aide and adviser to the Rev. Jim Jones, testified today before a Federal grand jury here that is looking into the murder of Representative Leo J. Ryan and the financial affairs of the People's Temple, which Mr. Jones founded and led.

Miss Buford, who left the cult last Oct. 27, was the second witness known to have appeared before the grand jury, and the first former Temple insider to agree to testify.

The 26-year-old Miss Buford testified for one hour and 40 minutes in the sealed grand jury chamber. Her lawyer, Mark Lane, meanwhile told reporters that she was "telling the grand jury everything she knows about crimes committed by the People's Temple over the last few years."

Mr. Lane, a conspiracy researcher and assassinations theorist who did legal work for the cult in the months before Mr. Ryan was killed in Guyana on Nov. 18, has been representing Miss Buford for the past three weeks.

Mr. Lane did not specify the "crimes" his client was prepared to discuss, but he said she had been present during a meeting in the United States at which high-ranking officials of the cult discussed in detail a "last stand plan."

The plan, Mr. Lane said, included not only the suicides that took place at the cult's commune in Jonestown, Guyana, after Mr. Ryan's murder, but also the murders of those who had "defected" from the cult and of public officials.

Mr. Lane said that Miss Buford had given the Federal authorities the name of one person previously assigned to help carry out the plan, a woman living in the San Francisco area.

It was her concern over the planned murders of former cultists and public officials, Mr. Lane said, that led Miss Buford to give to Justice Department lawyers on Dec. 6 three pages of documents relating to \$7.5 million in cult funds on deposit in Zurich and Panama.

Freeze on Funds

Miss Buford, he said, asked the Justice Department to freeze the funds so that they could not be used to finance the murders of herself and other defectors. The department said today in Washington that such a freeze had been obtained.

Mr. Lane said today that the sole signatory for the accounts of which Miss Buford had knowledge was Annie McGowan, a 70-year-old woman who died with more than 900 others at Jonestown.

Mr. Lane also denied a report in yesterday's San Francisco Examiner that Miss Buford had tape-recorded telephone conversations between Mr. Jones and political figures in this country in hopes that



Associated Press

Terri Buford after testifying

the politicians might make statements that could be used for blackmail.

Immunity Foregone

Justice Department officials said two weeks ago that Miss Buford had been seeking immunity from prosecution in return for her testimony, but Mr. Lane said today that she had decided to testify with-

out immunity after being assured that she was not a "target" of the inquiry.

While Miss Buford is not believed to have any direct information about any conspiracy to assassinate Mr. Ryan, she is understood to have played a major role in the movements of millions of dollars in cash, gold and gemstones that the cult is said to have secreted in banks and other caches around the world.

Mr. Lane said he also expected Miss Buford to tell the jurors what she knew about the activities of Timothy O. Stoen, a San Francisco lawyer who has said he defected from the cult.

Mr. Stoen has said that he set up two of the Panamanian bank accounts. Mr. Lane said today that Mr. Stoen's role in the cult's activities over the last few years had been an "incredibly important" one and that Miss Buford was prepared to testify to a number of otherwise unspecified "acts committed by Stoen in her presence."

Another Inquiry Reported

Mr. Stoen's activities as a prosecutor in San Francisco and in Mendocino County are under investigation by the California Attorney General's office, and Mr. Lane said today that Mr. Stoen had become a target of the Federal inquiry as well.

Mr. Lane, who was in Jonestown at the time of Mr. Ryan's murder and the subsequent mass deaths at the commune, said today that Mr. Jones had told him shortly beforehand that Mr. Stoen had sent a message warning that if even one dissatisfied cult member were to leave Guyana with Mr. Ryan's party, the future of the organization would be in great jeopardy.

Are Outlined

The message, he said, had been passed by Tim Carter, a Temple member who was one of three apprehended while attempting to escape Jonestown just after the mass deaths with a suitcase containing more than half a million dollars in cash.

Mr. Carter is under protective custody in Georgetown, the Guyanese capital. He is known to have visited the San Francisco area in the weeks preceding Mr. Ryan's murder, and Mr. Lane said today that Mr. Carter had met with Mr. Stoen during that visit.

Cultist Tells of Meeting

Special to The New York Times

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Dec. 20 — Timothy Carter confirmed today that he had met last fall with Timothy Stoen in Berkeley, Calif. Mr. Carter explained that Jim Jones, the leader of the People's Temple, had sent him to the United States to infiltrate the Concerned Relatives group established in part by defectors from Mr. Jones's sect.

Mr. Carter also said he had been sent to the San Francisco area to learn what he could about Terri Buford, who had been

one of Mr. Jones's closest aides before leaving the sect's Guyana commune and returning to the United States. Once back, she told some acquaintances that she had defected, but she reportedly told others that she was there to infiltrate the Concerned Relatives.

According to some survivors of the killings and suicides of cult members on Nov. 18, Mr. Jones believed that she had defected. They said he appeared to have suffered a heart attack after he was informed of her statement of defection. But other survivors here have expressed doubts about the reported defection and have said that Miss Buford was actually on an undercover assignment from Mr. Jones.

Mr. Carter said he was convinced when he talked with Mr. Stoen that Mr. Jones's former legal aide no longer had any connection with the People's Temple.