

JERRY DUCOTE AND COURT AIDE
He attended a preliminary hearing on burglary charges

Incredible Pile of Stolen Documents

By Rick Carroll

A mountain of stolen documents, files, letters and mailing lists, pilfered nearly a decade ago by confessed political burglar Jerry Ducote, surfaced for the first time in a San Jose courtroom yesterday.

"And one by one, the rightful owners got a look at the long-lost documents.

"These are my personal files," said Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers Union, AFL-CIO, as he thumbed through two bulging manila envelopes containing items he described as "irreplaceable."

Chavez was the first of 32 witnesses to testify at a preliminary hearing in what has come to be known as the "Ducote Case."

The purpose of the hearing, which resumes today before Municipal Court Judge John Schatz, is to determine if there is sufficient evidence to hold the hulking, silver-haired ex-Santa Clara county sheriff's deputy for trial on 22 counts of political espionage.

Ducote, 46, originally charged with 14 counts of grand theft and seven counts of concealing the stolen documents, was slapped with yet another grand theft count yesterday before the hearing began.

He remains in custody in lieu of \$100,000 bail following his arrest December 22 in San Jose.

Wearing an olive-drab jail jump suit, Ducote sat forlornly hunched over the defense table as Chavez and five other burglary victims, including former Ramparts magazine publisher Edward

Keating, identified their personal papers.

The ex-lawman, in an extraordinary document filed the day of his arrest, admitted committing 17 political burglaries at the behest of three California growers in an unsuccessful attempt to smear Chavez as a communist.

"The guy had incrediblechutzpah," said Jerry Cohen, general counsel for the United Farm Workers, who also testified that Ducote in March of 1974 under the eye of FBI agent Conrad Shaw at the Ramada Inn in Bakersfield "tried to sell me back the stolen documents for \$25,000!"

"Agent Shaw took a long distance picture of the subject in the parking lot," said Cohen, who along with Chavez yesterday charged the FBI, CIA, state and local law enforcement agencies with dereliction of duty and demanded a blue ribbon probe by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Psychiatric Tests For Political Burglar

Jerry Ducote, confessed political burglar, was ordered by a San Jose Superior Court judge yesterday to undergo a 90-day psychiatric evaluation at Vacaville Medical Facility.

The 47-year-old ex-Santa Clara county sheriff's deputy, who admitted stealing documents from 17 left-wing organizations during the 1960s, will be sentenced by Judge James Duvaras Jr. after the tests are completed.

Ducote earlier pleaded guilty to seven felony counts arising from his espionage activities, which he claimed were instigated by the FBI, prominent growers and various right-wing politicians in a futile attempt to smear farm labor leader Cesar Chavez as a Communist.

The guilty pleas were to charges of concealing the stolen documents that were later found in the garage of his San Jose home.

Ducote, still insisting that he's the fall guy, faces a maximum sentence of ten years on each of seven counts.

No Bail Cut For Political Burglar

By Rick Carroll

A San Jose Municipal Court judge refused yesterday to reduce bail in the case of admitted political burglar Jerome Ducote, who claims two California growers hired him to steal documents to discredit farm labor leader Cesar Chavez.

The burly, 46-year-old former Santa Clara county sheriff's deputy and Young Republican activist was ordered held in lieu of \$100,000 bail after he pleaded not guilty to 21 felony counts involving grand theft and concealing stolen documents.

He is not charged with burglary, and cannot be, because the three-year statute of limitations expired before he admitted 17 politically inspired burglaries, including the Delano headquarters of the United Farm Workers Union.

During heated arguments over the bail-reduction issue, William P. Hoffman, assistant district attorney of Santa Clara county, told the court:

"He considered his burglary victims as non-persons because they did not agree with his political views."

Ducote's defense counsel, Thomas Saliccia, claimed that the bail was "exorbitant and inordinately high," especially

But Presiding Municipal Court Judge Wayne M. Kanemoto, noting "this appears to be a very serious matter," continued Ducote's bail at \$100,000 and refused to conduct another bail hearing until January 8, the date set for a preliminary examination.

Then, at an impromptu press conference on the court house steps, defense counsel Saliccia said he thinks "others are involved and should be arrested," but refused to elaborate on who they might be.