

Prosecutor Charges Dowdy Witness Lied

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By John Hanrahan

Washington Post Staff Writer

BALTIMORE, Dec. 6 — \$25,000 in the airport on that date.

Government prosecutors today produced documents that they said showed that a key defense witness lied when he said he was at the Atlanta Airport with Rep. John Dowdy the day Dowdy allegedly received a \$25,000 bribe.

The witness, Leonard R. Wilson, denied the accusation that he had lied. However, he acknowledged that he "left out some of the facts" when he submitted a report to his boss on his whereabouts on the day in question, Sept. 22, 1965.

Wilson, in testimony as a surprise defense witness last Thursday, had contradicted testimony by prosecution witnesses that Dowdy had been passed a briefcase containing

Wilson had testified that he had been with Dowdy the entire time the Texas Democrat was in the airport and that he did not see anyone hand Dowdy anything.

Wilson, then executive secretary of the Citizens Council of Alabama, a white supremacist organization, had said he met Dowdy at the airport to pass on a \$500 campaign contribution from another Citizen's Council official, the late Wallace Malone.

However, prosecutor Stephen H. Sachs today produced a report that Wilson had submitted to the headquarters of the Citizens Council of Amer-

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ica in Jackson, Miss., that showed Wilson had reported that he had worked in his office in Montgomery, Ala., on Sept. 22, 1965, from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m.

The report, subpoenaed with other documents by the government over the weekend, said nothing about Wilson making a trip that day to Atlanta, which is about 150 miles from Montgomery.

Wilson had testified that he had met Dowdy at the airport at about 5:20 p.m. and had spent about one hour with him.

Wilson, prodded by Sachs in cross-examination today, said he did not report the meeting with Dowdy because his boss at the Citizens Council headquarters, Executive Secretary Louis Hollis, had expressed displeasure over Wilson's "personal political activities."

Dowdy, a 19-year congressional veteran, is on trial here in U.S. District Court on charges of bribery, perjury, and conspiracy.

The \$25,000 was allegedly paid Dowdy by Nathan H. Cohen, former president of the now-defunct Monarch Construction Co., a Silver Spring home improvement firm, for Dowdy's help in thwarting federal investigations of the company.

Measuring 'Personal'

Wilson testified today that he considered the meeting with Dowdy to be personal and, therefore, he did not enter it on his work report. He said it was his practice not to put "personal business" in the reports.

Sachs then produced other documents that showed Wilson, on some daily reports, had marked down such personal business as a seven-hour visit in Selma, Ala., with his mother and some friends.

The prosecutor also re-

minded Wilson that he had told the jury last week that the Citizens Council was interested in getting "good people" elected to public office. Why then, asked Sachs, was Wilson "ashamed" to report his meeting with Dowdy, a man Sachs said was the type of candidate whose thinking was in line with the organization's?

Wilson acknowledged that Dowdy is popular with the Citizen's Council, but he said that his reference to "getting good people" elected referred to the Alabama Citizens Council. The national organization, he said, never endorses candidates.

"You would like me to say I lied to Mr. Hollis," Wilson said to Sachs. "I didn't lie to him, I just left out some of the facts."

Sachs charged that Wilson had lied when he said he was in the airport with Dowdy on Sept. 22, 1965, and had lied when he said Malone had given him five \$100 bills for Dowdy. Wilson denied the allegations. Wilson also denied that he had made entries in his 1965 appointments book in 1970 or 1971, as Sachs suggested.

In his testimony last week, Wilson had said he was certain he was with Dowdy on Sept. 22, 1965, because the meeting was recorded in his appointments book.

Book Stolen

Unfortunately, Wilson said, he had given the appointments book for 1965 to Dowdy and the congressman's administrative assistant, Donald Johnson, and the book had been stolen from Dowdy's apartment. Before it was stolen, Wilson said, he "had the forethought" to make copies of six pages covering the period Sept. 13 to Sept. 24, 1965.

(Police records in Washington, show that Dowdy's residence was reported to have been robbed last March 19, but that it was "unknown" what was taken. No supplemental report was ever filed, according to police records.)

It was on Sept. 13, Wilson had said, that he met with Malone to discuss the purported \$500 campaign contribution to Dowdy.

Sachs produced Wilson's Sept. 13 report to Citizens Council headquarters and noted that it made no mention of Wilson receiving any contribution from Malone. Wilson said he had not marked it down on the report because he did not consider it Citizens Council business.

The prosecutor questioned why on at least 10 other occasions that same year, Wilson had listed meetings with Malone in his reports to headquarters. Wilson responded that those meetings did pertain to Citizens Council business.

Wilson then said it was "possible" that he actually received the \$500 from Malone on Sept. 14. Sachs produced Wilson's report for that date and Wilson acknowledged that it also made no mention of any contribution from Malone.

Sachs also noted that entries in Wilson's appointments book relating to Dowdy for Sept. 16, 19 and 22 were printed, whereas all other entries were written in longhand. Wilson said this was not unusual, that he often varied his style from printing to longhand.

'Copy of Copy'

Wilson acknowledged that the document he had in court, containing the six pages copied from the original appointments book for 1965, was actually "a copy of a copy." The first copy, he said, was in the hands of defense lawyers.

Defense attorney John W. Key, Jr. then produced the first copy. Sachs suggested that Wilson had not used the first copy because it showed that the entries pertaining to Dowdy were darker than the other entries, indicating they possibly were added at a later date. Wilson denied this.

In response to Sachs' question, Wilson said he had not discussed with Dowdy or Johnson "the fact that ink freshness tests are impossible to make" on copies. Such tests can be made on the original document only, Sachs said.

Last week, Wilson appeared calm and poised during direct questioning by defense attorney Key. Today, he fidgeted nervously in his chair during Sachs' rapid-fire cross-examination.

At the noon recess, Sachs sparked a brief furor when he asked Judge Roszel C. Thomsen to send a neutral party to lunch with Wilson to insure that Dowdy or defense lawyers did not speak to him. Thomsen asked his law clerk to accompany Wilson. Defense Attorney Kirkpatrick W. Dilling objected that Sachs was attempting to put Wilson in custody.

"I didn't say anything about taking him into custody—yet," Sachs said.