

Reopening of Paisley case urged

FPost 7/9/79

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Two prosecutors assigned to the case of CIA official John A. Paisley said that the probe suffered from CIA stonewalling and an unwillingness by Maryland State Police to pursue the issue, according to a copyright story in the Sunday Wilmington News-Journal.

Paisley disappeared last fall while sailing on the Chesapeake Bay and a badly decomposed body later was identified as his. The death was ruled by state police to be a probable suicide.

Former state's attorneys Naji P. Maloof and Lawrence Lampson are urging a reopening of the investigation into Paisley's disappearance.

"Some people just don't want the truth about this case out," said Maloof, who was the Calvert County state's attorney when Paisley disappeared last Sept. 24.

There were "a number of key areas that we had been looking at in the case and we could have cracked this thing if we didn't get so much flack," Maloof said.

Lampson, Maloof's successor and now a district court judge, said that state police were "unwilling to go to the wall" to force the Central Intelligence Agency to give them information on the case.

"It's time to do this thing and do it right," he said.

Lampson said he repeatedly requested files on the case from state police. "They kept refusing to bring them up here and I finally got 5,000 pages of transcripts which showed a lot of leads no one followed up," Lampson said.

The case "still cries out for an investigation and I cannot understand why the state is not pursuing it," he said.

The case came under the jurisdiction of Calvert County, on Maryland's western shore, because that is where Paisley kept his sloop and where the body was brought after it was recovered.

Lampson said he believed the CIA had lied to the state police about Paisley's background. Although the agency originally said that Paisley had retired, it later was revealed that he actually continued to work on several top-secret projects.

But Lampson said that in his present position as judge, he could not compel the police to pursue the case actively.