

Itkin's Strange Role In the CIA Revealed

By NORMA ABRAMS and JOSEPH McNAMARA

Infiltrating the underworld as an informer for the FBI was only one facet of the life of the amazingly active Herbert Itkin, it appeared yesterday as the dust settled on the Marcus kickback trial. A more intriguing role was that of agent for the Central Intelligence Agency.

A careful reading of the transcript of the trial, which saw Antonio (Tony Ducks) Corallo, and two others convicted, reveals that Itkin's link to the CIA was spelled out only once.

But his enigmatic relationship to that agency is referred to several times. Actually, several references to a "federal agency" during Itkin's testimony was not to the FBI, as assumed at the time, but to the intelligence agency.

Itkin, 41-year-old labor lawyer, had put the finger on the four defendants in Federal Court, in testimony that along with ex-Water Commissioner James Marcus' bore the weight of Wednesday's conviction.

3 Are Convicted

Corallo, contractor Henry Fried, and labor leader Daniel Motto were found guilty of using interstate phone wires to bribe an official, Marcus, in awarding of the \$335,000 Jerome Park reservoir-cleaning contract to Fried's firm, S.T. Grand, Inc. The kickback was for \$40,000.

Acquitted by the federal jury was Itkin's law partner, Charles Rappaport, 30. It was Rappaport's attorney, Peter Mc Bride, who brought out the intelligence agency reference in the 13-day trial.

Itkin, in a soft voice, acknowledged that he had a falling out with the feds last Feb. 3 over what he considered lack of protection for his two stepchildren.

The two were with their father, Fred Hirsh. Itkin wanted them protected and sought custody for the mother, Itkin's present wife.

"Did you threaten to blow the whole damn thing (undercover job) and go back to the boys (the defendants) that day?" McBride asked Itkin during the cross-exam.



Judge Edward Weinfeld
Presided at the trial

"Yes," Itkin replied.

"Whom did you threaten?" McBride asked.

There was an immediate objection from Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert Morvillo, but before Judge Edward Weinfeld could act on it, Itkin answered: "The CIA."

Morvillo protested to the court: "I thought we had an agreement on that."

Nine pages of the record, detailing a lengthy closed conference between Weinfeld and the attorneys, have been permanently impounded by the court. The confab is believed to deal with matters involving national security.

McBride offered to withdraw

the question, and the testimony went into Itkin's part in infiltrating organized crime.

Tells of Trips to Europe

In earlier testimony, Itkin said he made 20 trips or more to Europe for the government.

"I went to Europe working for the government," Itkin testified. "I lost the children on a technicality because I had taken them out of the jurisdiction."

The thin, black-haired Itkin was explaining why the step children had been handed over to their father.

FBI interest in "20 trips" abroad seem remote in retrospect, and CIA interest looms more now.

On one of the trips, Itkin was accompanied by Corallo, it was testified. Corallo, however, was turned back by the British authorities in London.

McBride, pressing his claim that Rappaport had a share in Itkin's undercover role and was not a bribe conspirator, asked Itkin who knew the purpose of these trips to Europe.

Specifically, he wanted to know if Rappaport knew.

"I used a cover story (for him) that I used for everybody else," Itkin said. Asked what that cover story was, Itkin hesitated, turned to the judge and said:

"I understand I'm not supposed to say these things for national security reasons."

How Many Did He Tell?

Asked how many people he had told he was an undercover agent for the government, he said five or six. He mentioned a Gigella Davis.

Questioned as to whether he was going with actresses while he was a married man, Itkin said on the stand: "Yes."

He was asked if he had told a "Miss Murphy" that he was an undercover man. Itkin replied: "Yes." Asked if it were Rose-



Herbert Itkin
Tells of government link



Charles Rappaport
Acquitted in the case

mary Murphy, Itkin replied: "I said a Miss Murphy."

"Is it Rosemary Murphy?" McBride pressed.

"Yes, it is," Itkin answered.

On other occasions, in Itkin's testimony and that of others, Itkin was pictured as running down to the Dominican Republic many times, and he had tried to interest Fried in real estate there. Much about the Dominican Republic and CIA interest there appeared unanswered.

Tells of More Trials

At one point in his testimony, Itkin said he expected to testify in about 50 trials for the government.

As for the convicted principals in the case, they made bail yesterday. Bail for Corallo, 54, was set at \$25,000; for Motto, 57, president of Bakers Local 350, it was set at \$10,000. It had been the phone calls to Motto's Greenwich, Conn., home that set the stage for the federal indictment last Dec. 18.

Highest bail was slapped on Fried, 68-year-old millionaire of Mount Kisco. That was \$50,000. Michael S. Fawer, assistant U.S. attorney, told the court Fried was a "man of great wealth" who might flee the country.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 26.