

Post  
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## Prisoner Hijacked Plane to Cuba While Under Guard of U.S. Marshal

MIAMI, Aug. 1 (UPD)—The transcontinental airliner had just taken off from a stop at St. Louis when the burly prisoner said he had to go to the bathroom.

Deputy U.S. Marshal William Lavin had little recourse. He gave his permission to accused bank robber Lester Perry, 32, to be excused.

It resulted Thursday in the year's 23d hijacking of a U.S. commercial plane. Perry commandeered the Trans World Airlines jet, en route from Philadelphia to Los Angeles with 131 persons aboard, and forced it to Cuba.

The prisoner, being transferred from Scranton, Pa., to Los Angeles, fished a used razor blade from a receptacle in the washroom and ap-

proached stewardess Deborah Sullivan, 19, in the galley.

"He came up to me suddenly as I was standing in the galley and put a razor at my throat and told me to take him to the captain," she said.

The man grabbed an empty wine bottle from the galley and clutched it in his other hand. He forced the girl into the cockpit, where he told Capt. J. L. Wilmot, "We're going to Havana and don't try any funny business."

The pilot turned the Boeing 727 toward Cuba. The plane was near Tulsa, Okla., at the time.

The hijacker kept the arm with the wine bottle draped across Miss Sullivan for the first hour of the flight to Cuba.

"I was shaking with fear, but then I finally quieted down and just sat there," she said. The hijacker said little, except to keep asking the captain "where we were and what altitude."

The plane returned to the United States late Thursday night. The hijacker remained in Cuba. Wilmot, 38, of Moorestown, N.J., said he was unaware he was hauling a prisoner and a marshal until the plane was in Havana. He said it was "very unusual" for the crew not to be informed it was transporting a prisoner.

Miss Sullivan said Lavin, who also had Joseph Hart, a guard, as an escort for Perry, told her he "felt very bad" about the escape.