

Informer 'Maris' Sues IRS Over His Tax Case

Gerald Martin Zelmanowitz, 37, the Mafia informer who surfaced here as "Paul Maris" and briefly took over Alvin Duskin's dress-making business, sued the Internal Revenue Service here yesterday over alleged back taxes he owes.

His wife, Lillian, also sued over the back tax claim of \$1,763,085, demanded the re-

turn of seized property and \$139,000 for damages.

Both U.S. District court suits were filed by attorney Neil Jon Bloomfield of Fairfax, who only last week filed a \$12.6 million damage suit against the U.S. government for Zelmanowitz.

Yesterday's suits said the \$1.7 claim by the IRS was based on 1963 to 1968 activities when Zelmanowitz was a "laundryman" for the Mafia, taking money abroad to buy stocks and funnel the money back to organized crime.

Later Zelmanowitz testified against Mafia leaders in New Jersey, where he was based, and helped send them to jail.

Before his testimony the \$1.7 million lien was filed against him by the IRS, based on the money transactions he handled for the Mafia, yesterday's suit said.

But in 1969, the suit said, a Department of Justice spokesman told Zelmanowitz the government would not pursue the tax lien.

Then, he said, the lien was re-filed last year and his Sonoma county home and its furnishings were seized.

He does not owe the back taxes, his suit said yesterday, and he wants the collection of the taxes halted and his property returned.

The suit by his wife, Lillian, also asked for the return of the Sonoma home and its furnishings, claiming there are no tax liens against her and she owns the house and property in joint tenancy.

Her demand for \$139,000 in damages asks for \$104,000 for "emotional distress," \$20,000 for loss of the use of the home and \$15,000 for damage to her personal property.

Both suits also asked the IRS be enjoined from selling

the home or any of the personal property to pay off the taxes.

Zelmanowitz, said attorney Bloomfield, "is now in the process of being relocated" again by the government.

After his Mafia testimony, Zelmanowitz was given a new identity and new start in life by the government. His true identity was revealed here last year after he became engaged in a legal battle over the former Alvin Duskin dressmaking business.

Subsequently he testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee checking into organized crime's money laundering operations and then dropped from sight.