

Undercover Operations Of IRS Told

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By Stan Crook

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A former Internal Revenue Service undercover agent involved in "Operation Sunshine" told a congressional subcommittee yesterday of several previously undisclosed intelligence operations, including one in Baltimore.

In three hours of testimony before a House Government Operations subcommittee, Harry C. Woodington said he had been involved in intelligence operations in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Florida before "Operation Sunshine" began.

In "Operation Sunshine," disclosed in hearings July 8, Woodington visited bars in the Miami and Fort Lauderdale areas to collect information about hundreds of persons. None of the information led to prosecutions.

Woodington, currently an enforcement agent for the Customs Service, said his basic duty was to develop friendships at bars and to take notes on anyone who walked in. He was not given the name of a specific person suspected of tax violations to gather information about in the Florida operations, he testified.

The Florida operations were known as "Operation Harry-the-Hat" and "Operation Banana Boat," he said.

The operation in Baltimore had several targets, Woodington said. One was an IRS agent suspected of being corrupt, and another was the brother-in-law of a former IRS commissioner, he said.

The Philadelphia project required him to go on the payroll of a racketeer involved in gambling, Woodington testified. He took the job while he was a state undercover agent, which caused him to be "a bit concerned," he said.

The federal government did not pay him for his work, and he returned the proceeds from the racketeer's bribes to the IRS, he said. The proceeds amounted to about \$100 a week, he said.

Woodington said he did not know why he was sent to Florida when he arrived there in 1971. He suspects there may have been a vendetta between Washington officials and the Miami IRS office, he said. Information he obtained sometimes concerned local IRS agents, he said.