

TESTIMONY ENDS IN RICORD'S TRIAL

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Reputed Heroin Smuggler

Called Lover of Animals

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By PAUL L. MONTGOMERY

The last of the testimony in the narcotics conspiracy trial of Auguste Joseph Ricord was presented yesterday to a Federal jury, which heard the reputed heroin smuggler described as "a man who loves animals and children."

The defense attorney, Herbert I. Handman, and Assistant United States Attorney Walter M. Phillips Jr. presented their summations of the eight-day trial in Federal District Court in Manhattan. Judge John M. Cannella is expected to turn the case over to the jury of seven men and five women this morning for decision.

Ricord, a 61-year-old Argentine citizen who was born in Marseilles, France, is charged with conspiracy to smuggle narcotics in connection with three shipments of heroin totaling 132 kilograms — about 290 pounds — that entered the United States in the summer and fall of 1970. The charge carries a prison sentence of five to 20 years.

Described as Mastermind

United States officials have described Ricord as the mastermind of a Latin-American ring allegedly responsible for half the heroin smuggled into the United States in the last five years. He was extradited from Paraguay in September after 17 months of court wrangles and American diplomatic pressure.

In his summation, Mr. Handman charged that the Government case was based on the testimony of three "accomplished liars" and "desperate, evil criminals" who had made up a story implicating Ricord as the leader of the ring to win lighter sentences for themselves.

Mr. Handman described his client as an innocent man who kept a toy train and animals at his motel - restaurant in Asuncion, Paraguay, to amuse the children of patrons. "If I gave this case a name, I would call it 'The Man Who Loved Animals and Children,'" Mr.

Handman said.

Mr. Phillips described the defense presentation as "incredible" and "an insult to the intelligence" of the jury. "Mr. Ricord has abused our judicial system with perjured testimony," he said.

He cautioned the jury about having any sympathy for Ricord. "What sympathy did Mr. Ricord show to all those people who injected almost 200 pounds of heroin into their bodies?" he asked.

Before the summations, the jury heard testimony from Salvador Victor Ibarrola, a puzzled well-mannered Paraguayan policeman who helped arrest Ricord in March, 1971. Mr. Ibarrola

said that when he went to the motel-restaurant with a picture of Ricord, a man wearing a wig or beret directed him to the office. He said that when he told the girl at the desk—later identified as Ricord's niece—that he was looking for Ricord, she fainted.

"There was no one left to cooperate with me so I called the chief of police for instructions," he recalled. Mr. Ibarrola said he became suspicious of

the man who had directed him to the office. "I thought perhaps the first man who helped me was the man I was seeking," he asserted.

He said he found the man three hours later in a launch that was preparing to cross the river for Argentina. He said the man no longer had on the wig or beret, and that it was Ricord.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!

Story Behind 'French Connection'

The real story behind "The French Connection"—the slightly fictionalized film account of the smashing of a heroin-smuggling ring—goes back to 1962.

The leader of the ring was a tall, dapper Frenchman named Jean Jehan, who was known to his American connections (who could not pronounce his name) as "the Giant."

Through his underlings, Jehan persuaded a French television performer named Jacques Angelvin to smuggle 97 pounds of heroin into New York, concealed in his 1960 Buick, which arrived here aboard the liner United States on Jan. 10.

The New York Police Department had for some time been watching the intended American recipients of the cache, Anthony Fuca and his brother Pasquale. A tapped telephone call from Jehan to the Fucas reportedly put Detective Edward Egan and his colleagues on the trail of "Frog One," as the Jehan came to be known.

The film dramatizes the flamboyant side of the story, which in real life ended with two rather routine seizures, on Jan. 18 and Feb. 24, in Brooklyn and the Bronx. The first seizure was about 24 pounds; the second—from which the missing 57 pounds came—was 73 pounds.

The Fuca brothers were sentenced to 7 to 15 years and 5 to 11 years in prison, Angelvin to 3 to 6 years, a Corsican conspirator named Francois Paul Scaglia to 11 to 22 years, and a longshoreman named Nicholas Trovato to 2½ to 5 years after their convictions in the case.

But Jehan fled to Montreal and then to Paris, reportedly with \$500,000 from the Fucas. According to Robin Moore, who wrote the book upon which the film was based, the French in 1967 apprehended Jehan, who was then in his mid-70's, but declined to extradite him because of his age.

According to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Jehan has since died.