

Pa. Reporter Convicted of Wiretapping

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Greg Walter, an investigative reporter for the Evening Bulletin, was convicted of wiretapping today under a little-known state law and fined \$300 and \$50 compensation to the Municipal Court non-jury trial.

The district attorney's office accused Walter of an array of offenses including installing wiretapping devices on telephone lines without their consent while he was investigating alleged police corruption.

At the time Walter was in touch with two agents of the State Crime Commission under Attorney General J. Shane Creamer, a Democrat who has been in a running feud with Philadelphia District Attorney Allen Specter, a Republican who led the Nixon campaign here and is expected to run for governor in 1974. Specter assigned the misdemeanor case to his top prosecutor, Richard Sprague, who earlier this year won convictions in slaying of defeated United Mine Workers candidate Joseph Yablonski and his family.

In closing argument today, defense attorney Robert J. Harvey said it was his firm's line that his particular client has been prosecuted in the Commonwealth for any crime there also is a law we can determine.

In Sprague asserting that Walter was not immune from prosecution, asked Judge Michael Conroy to impose a jail term of between 30 days and one year.

After the verdict, the Bulletin said it was sending Walter's request to have his name removed from the newspaper's name. He formerly worked for the magazines Life and Philadelphia.

The court upheld Sprague's objections when the defense tried to call witnesses to show that the complaint calls for the police and the department have the right to be notified without consent despite the state law. Walter presented only character witnesses in his defense.