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Around the Nation

Charges That Sturgis Threatened Witness Dropped for No Proof

NEW YORK — Charges that Frank Sturgis, a convicted Watergate burglar, threatened a woman to prevent her from testifying before the House Assassinations Committee were dismissed yesterday for "lack of proof."

Assistant District Attorney Alan Broomer told a hearing in Manhattan Criminal Court that an examination of the charges made by Marita Lorenz, a former Central Intelligence Agency agent, failed to substantiate her claim of threats.

"They contain no threats," Broomer told Judge Edwin Torres about the seven tapes Lorenz recorded of her telephone conversations with the 53-year-old Sturgis, who lives in Miami. "The tapes contain merely amicable conversations," he said in moving for dismissal. Torres threw out the attempted coercion and harassment charges. Police Commissioner Michael Codd has begun an inquiry to see if Sturgis' civil rights were violated when he was arrested Monday.