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I was asked by FBI to spy: Robinson

By Betty Washington

Police "hit squad" defendant Stanley Robinson Wednesday testified that an FBI informer tried to recruit him in a plan to discredit a black policemen's organization.

Robinson indicated that the plan originated in the police department in an effort to dampen charges of police brutality brought by the organization, the Afro-American Patrolmen's League.

The bid to infiltrate the league, Robinson said, was made by William O'Neal. Robinson also charged him with infiltrating the Black Panthers.

ROBINSON quoted O'Neal as telling him that the infiltration plan was important "because they (the Chicago Police Department) are getting heat from a congressman about police brutality and they are trying to discredit the league."

Robinson also said O'Neal told him: "You know, I helped destroy the Panthers. Now I'm also helping destroy the Afro Patrolmen's club."

O'Neal has been a key state witness against Robinson, a former police sergeant, and suspended burglary investigator William Tolliver.

ROBINSON testified Wednesday that he knew that O'Neal was an informer long before Robinson and Tolliver

allegedly participated in the execution of two drug dealers. The two men are charged in the killings.

Defense attorneys hope to show that Robinson would not have participated in the executions while knowing that O'Neal was an informer.

O'Neal has testified that he was present during the killing of the two men in May, 1972.

ROBINSON said he knew as early as 1969 that O'Neal was "either working for the police department or some other agency."

He said he first learned of it when he was working for the police department's gang intelligence unit while watching the Black Panther headquarters at 2350 W. Madison.

He said he stopped O'Neal when he came out of the Panther headquarters, but O'Neal complained: "Say man, don't hassle me. I'm on your side. I'll talk to my man about you," Robinson testified.

MEANWHILE, U.S. District Court Judge Philip W. Tone has ordered the sequestering of the jury due to possible publicity of courtroom discussions held outside the jury's presence.

Defense lawyers objected to the order Tuesday to have the jurors locked up, but Tone said it was necessary to prevent them from being exposed to news reports of heated courtroom arguments.