



JEROME DUCOTE
He's held on \$100,000

No Bail Cut For Political Burglar

By Rick Carroll

A San Jose Municipal Court judge refused yesterday to reduce bail in the case of admitted political burglar Jerome Ducote, who claims two California growers hired him to steal documents to discredit farm labor leader Cesar Chavez.

The burly, 46-year-old former Santa Clara county sheriff's deputy and Young Republican activist was ordered held in lieu of \$100,000 bail after he pleaded not guilty to 21 felony counts involving grand theft and concealing stolen documents.

He is not charged with burglary, and cannot be, because the three-year statute of limitations expired before he admitted 17 politically inspired burglaries, including the Delano headquarters of the United Farm Workers Union.

During heated arguments over the bail-reduction issue, William P. Hoffman, assistant district attorney of Santa Clara county, told the court:

"He considered his burglary victims as non-persons because they did not agree with his political views."

Ducote's defense counsel, Thomas Salciccia, claimed that the bail was "exorbitant and inordinately high," especially

But Presiding Municipal Court Judge Wayne M. Kanemoto, noting "this appears to be a very serious matter," continued Ducote's bail at \$100,000 and refused to conduct another bail hearing until January 8, the date set for a preliminary examination.

Then, at an impromptu press conference on the court house steps, defense counsel Salciccia said he thinks "others are involved and should be arrested," but refused to elaborate on who they might be.