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By Clem Albers

JERRY DUCOTE AND COURT AIDE  
He attended a preliminary hearing on burglary charges

## Incredible Pile of Stolen Documents

By Rick Carroll

A mountain of stolen documents, files, letters and mailing lists, pilfered nearly a decade ago by confessed political burglar Jerry Ducote, surfaced for the first time in a San Jose courtroom yesterday.

And one by one, the rightful owners got a look at the long-lost documents.

"These are my personal files," said Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers Union, AFL-CIO, as he thumbed through two bulging manila envelopes containing items he described as "irreplaceable."

Chavez was the first of 32 witnesses to testify at a preliminary hearing in what has come to be known as the "Ducote Case."

The purpose of the hearing, which resumes today before Municipal Court Judge John Schatz, is to determine if there is sufficient evidence to hold the hulking, silver-haired ex-Santa Clara county sheriff's deputy for trial on 22 counts of political espionage.

Ducote, 46, originally charged with 14 counts of grand theft and seven counts of concealing the stolen documents, was slapped with yet another grand theft count yesterday before the hearing began.

He remains in custody in lieu of \$100,000 bail following his arrest December 22 in San Jose.

Wearing an olive-drab jail jump suit, Ducote sat forlornly hunched over the defense table as Chavez and five other burglary victims, including former Ramparts magazine publisher Edward

Keating, identified their personal papers.

The ex-lawman, in an extraordinary document filed the day of his arrest, admitted committing 17 political burglaries at the behest of three California growers in an unsuccessful attempt to smear Chavez as a communist.

"The guy had incredible chutzpah," said Jerry Cohen, general counsel for the United Farm Workers, who also testified that Ducote in March of 1974 under the eye of FBI agent Conrad Shaw at the Ramada Inn in Bakersfield "tried to sell me back the stolen documents for \$25,000!"

"Agent Shaw took a long distance picture of the subject in the parking lot," said Cohen, who along with Chavez yesterday charged the FBI, CIA, state and local law enforcement agencies with dereliction of duty and demanded a blue ribbon probe by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.