

# Political Spy Guilty

In a surprise move, political burglar Jerry Ducote yesterday changed his plea to guilty of seven felony counts arising from his espionage activities in the late 1960s.

Ducote, 43, a former Santa Clara county deputy sheriff, had been scheduled to go on trial in San Jose next Monday.

But he changed his plea before Santa Clara Superior Court Judge James Duvaras, and additionally pleaded nolo contendere to four counts of grand theft. The guilty pleas were to charges of concealing stolen documents.

Ducote has claimed repeatedly that he thought he was burglarizing the offices of such groups as the United Farm Workers union at the behest of the FBI.

After changing his plea, he told a reporter, "I was the fall guy," and added "I'm going to cooperate fully with the authorities and name names, name those who were involved" in the operation.

The FBI has said it had no connection with Ducote.

Ducote said he had been

hired in the late '60s by some growers who, he said, wanted him to obtain evidence that would link UFW head Cesar Chavez to the Communist party.

Ducote's attorney, Tom Salciccia, said "there were a lot of problems in this case that would make it very difficult to try, specifically the disappearance of witnesses and the lack of cooperation from law enforcement (agencies), especially the FBI."

Ducote will be sentenced June 24. He faces a maximum of ten years on each count.