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HOFFA LEAD B23 440

CHICAGO (AP)-A WITNESS AT A FEDERAL HEARING TESTIFIED TODAY THAT HE WAS HIRED IN 1961 TO PLANT AN ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING DEVICE IN A MIAMI HOTEL ROOM REGISTERED TO JAMES HOFFA, IMPRISONED TEAMSTER UNION PRESIDENT.

THE WITNESS, HAROLD JENKINS OF MIAMI, WAS CALLED BY HOFFA'S LAWYERS AT A HEARING ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT TO DETERMINE WHETHER ADMITTED GOVERNMENT WIRETAPPING OBTAINED EVIDENCE THAT HELPED CONVICT HOFFA AND SIX OTHERS OF FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY IN 1964.

HOFFA WAS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND FINED \$10,000. HE IS SERVING AN EIGHT-YEAR FEDERAL SENTENCE FOR JURY TAMPERING IN CHATTANOOGA, TENN., A CASE UNRELATED TO THIS HEARING.

JENKINS, WHO SAID HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS CONTACTED IN JANUARY 1961 BY JACK WIGGINS, A MANUFACTURER OF BUGGING EQUIPMENT WHO SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN JENKINS AND A RECENT CUSTOMER.

JENKINS SAID THE BUYER OF THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SAID HIS NAME WAS FETTERMAN AND IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AN INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AGENT.

JENKINS SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY FETTERMAN TO PLANT THE DEVICE IN ROOM 1102 OF EDEN ROCK HOTEL AND TO MONITOR IT FOR 10 DAYS FROM FEB. 1 TO 10. JENKINS SAID HE AGREED TO \$75 DAILY SALARY, BUT HE WAS PAID ONLY \$45.

HE SAID HE RECORDED APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS OF CONVERSATION EACH DAY AND TURNED THE TAPES OVER TO FETTERMAN EACH EVENING.

UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION BY SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DONALD PAGE MOORE, JENKINS REFUSED TO REVEAL WHOM HE HEARD ON THE TELEPHONE OR THE SUBJECT OF THE CONVERSATIONS.

MAURICE WALSH, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR HOFFA, OBJECTED TO MOORE'S ATTEMPTS TO SHOW THAT THE WITNESS HAD ILLEGALLY INTERCEPTED A TELEPHONE CALL AND JENKINS THEN INVOKED THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO EACH OF MOORE'S QUERIES REGARDING THE EAVESDROPPING.

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JENKINS SAID HE BECAME INVOLVED AS A WITNESS AFTER HE MENTIONED THE BUGGING JOB TO ANOTHER INVESTIGATOR. HE WAS SUMMONED BY A MIAMI BUSINESS ASSOCIATE OF HOFFA AND LATER FLEW TO WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH HOFFA AND HIS LAWYERS.

HE SAID HE RECEIVED NO PAYMENT FROM THE TEAMSTER UNION.

MOORE ASKED: "DID YOU KNOW THAT A REWARD OF \$225,000 WAS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON WIRETAPPING OF HOFFA."

"WHERE DID YOU GET THAT FIGURE?" JENKINS SAID.

MOORE REPLIED THAT HE HAD SEEN IT IN A NEWSPAPER. JENKINS REACHED INTO HIS POCKET AND PRODUCED A NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT: "THERE IT IS, \$200,000," HE SAID.

MONDAY, JUDGE MALCOLM O'HARA OF NEW ORLEANS ADMITTED HE ACCEPTED EXPENSE-PAID TRIPS FROM ZACHARY "RED" STRATE, A NEW ORLEANS BUILDER WHO IS A CODEFENDANT OF HOFFA'S IN THE HEARING.

O'HARA TOOK THE WITNESS STAND AFTER STRATE TESTIFIED THAT THE JUDGE ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN AN "AFFIDAVIT OF CONFESSED WIRETAPPING" FROM EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, KEY WITNESS IN THE JURY TAMPERING TRIAL AND HEAD OF THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL IN BATON ROUGE, LA.

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CHICAGO (AP)-AN ORLEANS PARISH, LA., CRIMINAL JUDGE TESTIFIED MONDAY HE WAS THE EXPENSE-PAID TRAVELING COMPANION OF A NEW ORLEANS BUILDER WHO WAS CONVICTED, ALONG WITH TEAMSTERS UNION PRESIDENT JAMES R. HOFFA, OF FRAUD AND CONSPIRACY.

JUDGE MALCOLM O'HARA, A FORMER LOUISIANA STATE SENATOR AND ASSISTANT ORLEANS PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY, TOOK THE STAND DURING A U.S. DISTRICT COURT HEARING TO DETERMINE IF ILLEGALLY OBTAINED WIRETAP EVIDENCE HAD BEEN USED TO CONVICT HOFFA. THE HEARING WAS ORDERED BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT.

THE JUDGE'S TESTIMONY FOLLOWED TESTIMONY BY THE BUILDER HIMSELF, ZACHARY A. "RED" STRATE, 47, THAT JUDGE O'HARA ATTEMPTED TO GET AN "AFFIDAVIT OF CONFESSED WIRETAPPING" FROM THE KEY WITNESS IN HOFFA'S EARLIER CHATTANOOGA, TENN., JURY-TAMPERING TRIAL. STRATE SAID THE WITNESS, TEAMSTERS OFFICIAL EDWARD GRADY PARTIN, REFUSED TO SIGN THE AFFIDAVIT.

STRATE WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON AND FINED \$5,000 FOR HIS PART IN THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD A TEAMSTERS UNION PENSION FUND OF SOME \$20 MILLION. HE IS STILL FREE ON APPEAL BOND. HOFFA ALSO IS APPEALING HIS CONVICTION AT THE 1964 CHICAGO TRIAL, FOR WHICH HE WAS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND A \$10,000 FINE. HIS BASE OF OPERATION IS A FEDERAL PRISON CELL IN LEWISBURG, PA., WHERE HE IS SERVING A SENTENCE UPON CONVICTION OF JURY-TAMPERING.

JUDGE O'HARA TESTIFIED THAT STRATE HAD PAID THE JUDGE'S FARE ON SEVERAL TRIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING A VISIT IN MAY TO TEAMSTERS HEADQUARTERS, BUT HE SAID HE KNEW NO ONE THERE.

"MY ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO GO WITH STRATE," JUDGE O'HARA SAID. "HE HATED TO GO ALONE AND I WENT WITH HIM AS A TRAVELING COMPANION. I JUST SAT AROUND." HE SAID HE AND STRATE WERE FRIENDS OF LONG STANDING AND THAT THEY HAD SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER SINCE O'HARA'S SEPARATION FROM HIS WIFE.

ATTORNEYS ASKED O'HARA IF HE OWED \$30,000 TO STRATE AND IF HE WAS EVER PAID BY THE TEAMSTERS, BUT JUDGE RICHARD B. AUSTIN SUSTAINED OBJECTIONS TO BOTH QUESTIONS.

O'HARA ADMITTED GOING TO BATON ROUGE, LA., WITH STRATE IN FEBRUARY, WHERE STRATE ASKED HIM TO SEE PARTIN AND PRESENT HIM WITH THE AFFIDAVIT.

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"I WAS JUST A MESSENGER," O'HARA TESTIFIED. BUT HE REFUSED TO SAY WHOSE MESSENGER HE WAS, DESPITE INTENSE CROSS-EXAMINATION BY GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY DONALD PAGE MOORE.

EARLIER, STRATE TESTIFIED THAT HE AND JUDGE O'HARA HAD TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, LAS VEGAS, NEV., AND OTHER SPOTS AND "GENERALLY WHEN WE TRAVEL TOGETHER I PAY THE BILLS."

HE TESTIFIED TO A MEETING IN THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF FRANK FITZSIMMONS, ACTING TEAMSTERS HEAD, INVOLVING HIMSELF, JUDGE O'HARA AND ANOTHER TEAMSTERS OFFICIAL.

STRATE REPLIED NEGATIVELY WHEN MOORE ASKED IF HE KNEW JUDGE O'HARA WAS IN DEBT DUE TO HIS UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST JIM GARRISON FOR THE OFFICE OF ORLEANS PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

ON FRIDAY, STRATE HAD TESTIFIED THAT JUDGE O'HARA SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN STRATE AND WALTER SHERIDAN. SHERIDAN WAS AN AIDE TO FORMER ATTY. GEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, NOW A DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FROM NEW YORK. SHERIDAN IS NOW AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER FOR THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO.

SHERIDAN OFFERED TO GIVE STRATE EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT USED ILLEGALLY OBTAINED WIRETAP EVIDENCE IN CHATTANOOGA, IF STRATE WOULD HELP IN AN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT GARRISON'S PROBE OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, STRATE TESTIFIED.

SHERIDAN WAS WILLING TO HELP STRATE AT THE CHICAGO HEARING IF STRATE WAS WILLING TO HELP SHERIDAN IN NEW ORLEANS, STRATE QUOTED SHERIDAN AS SAYING.

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