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TRAPNELL FAKING, A SPECIALIST SAYS

Psychiatrist Calls Hijacker

'Malingerer,' Not Insane

NYTimes

By ROBERT LINDSEY

Dr. David Abrahamsen, a Manhattan psychiatrist testifying at the second skyjacking trial of Garrett B. Trapnell, insisted under intense cross examination yesterday that Trapnell was a "malingerer" who had feigned the symptoms of schizophrenia to fool prison psychiatrists for years.

In a taped interview played later before a Federal court jury in Brooklyn, Trapnell boasted to a writer for True magazine, Cyrus Berlowitz, that he had studied psychiatry and psychology to learn the symptoms of mental illness as a means of evading jail. His established record is that of a "paranoid schizophrenic," he told the writer who was researching an article that was never published.

In the interview, in April, 1971, he told Mr. Berlowitz this medical record was in effect a "license to kill."

The trial before Chief Justice Jacob Mishler of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, is expected to go to the jury later this week.

Trapnell's first trial on charges of air piracy and unlawful interference with a light crew ended with a hung jury Jan. 15 before the late Judge George Rosling. Eleven jurors favored conviction, but the 11th, a Brooklyn social worker, held out for acquittal.

Trapnell has admitted hijacking a TransWorld Airlines Boeing 707 on Jan. 29, 1972, but he contends he was insane at the time. Assistant United States Attorney Peter Schlam has argued that the hijacking was a well-planned attempt to extort \$306,800 and that his insanity defense was a fake. Mr. Schlam has contended that Trapnell has fooled more than a dozen psychiatrists into believing he was insane over a 15-year-period of crime.

Dr. Abrahamsen was cross-examined for more than two hours by Richard Rosenkranz, Trapnell's lawyer. Earlier, under direct examination by Mr. Schlam, the psychiatrist, looking directly at the 35-year-old defendant, said:

"He is not in any way psychotic or insane. He is as bright as a light."

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