

# The Model, the Drug Ring, And the Big Evidence Hunt

This article was written by Lee Dembart, based on reporting by Martin Tolchin, Diane Henry and Mr. Dembart.

A swarm of local, state, Federal and international police agencies, along with a United States Senator and an Albany committee, have been climbing over each other for more than two months in pursuit of a spurned husband's bizarre tale of an international drug ring.

Spurred by post-Watergate fears of a cover-up and tantalized by an unlikely cast of characters that includes European millionaires, Caribbean jet-setters, the Nixon White House and a gorgeous model, the investigators are about to hold unusual public hearings into the affair, though nobody has yet been able to find a shred of evidence to support the story.

They concede that all they have so far are coincidences, suspicions and the persistence of the model's former husband, William Spector, a onetime car dealer who has zealously gone from police agency to police agency over the last four years, charging that his wife was linked to the drug scheme.

Mr. Spector is a man obsessed with his mission.

### How Much Belief?

The current investigators say that the hearings, which are scheduled for the end of June or early July, will seek to determine whether all the agencies thoroughly investigated Mr. Spector's story. But they are also hoping to find some evidence that will confirm it.

Some of the agencies now say that they believed Mr. Spector, but their failure to investigate at the time raises questions about how much they believed him.

The New York Times heard the story last April and conducted a month-long investigation.

The Times obtained scores of documents from Mr. Spector, supposedly proving his allegations, but none did. The reporters went to upstate New York, Canada, Miami and the Caribbean islands of St. Marteen, Curaçao, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico and interviewed dozens of people, but found no evidence.

### And Others

Nor, so far, have any of the investigating agencies, which include the Police Departments of New York City, Syracuse and Ogdensburg, N. Y., the New York State police, the State Senate's Select Committee on Crime, a Federal grand jury in Manhattan, the Special Watergate prosecutor, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, the Customs Bureau, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the French Surêté, the Dutch police and Interpol.

Not to be outdone, Time



Patricia Richardson Martinson

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and Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New Republic and NBC News have also looked into the alleged drug ring. Robin Moore, author of "The French Connection," has written the first draft of a book about it and is waiting for someone to prove the story so he can publish it.

Undiscouraged by the lack of evidence, the New York State Senate Select Committee on Crime, whose chairman is senator Ralph J. Marino, Republican of Syosset, L. I., issued subpoenas last month to persons named by Mr. Spector and others who the committee hopes will know something more about the ring.



The New York Times

William Spector, Mrs. Martinson's ex-husband.

The investigators even asked The Times for suggestions on whom to call.

"Given the seriousness of the allegations, we want to see whether there was adequate follow-up by law-enforcement officials," said Senator James L. Buckley, who is co-sponsoring the hearings. "I want to make sure that any leads were appropriately investigated," he said.

Trouble is, the model who is at the center of the story, Patricia Richardson Martinson, will not be at the hearings because she is in the final months of pregnancy. She is now married to a New York businessman, John R. Martinson, and told The Times:

"Bill Spector is trying to ruin my life. He absolutely hates me. I don't know anything about heroin. I've never taken drugs of any kind. I don't even take aspirin."

### Another View

But Leonard Saffir, Senator Buckley's press aide, has a different view. "This is a gal who knows about international drug traffic, the most important in the world, and no agency really investigated her," he said.

However, unless the hearings produce a surprise witness or unless someone radically changes his account under oath, the renewed investigations should find that the existence of a drug ring cannot be proved.

Mrs. Martinson, who was born in St. Marten and is now 28 years old, has been living in comfort, often at the pleasure of elderly men, since

she was 14 years old.

Her most enduring relationship has been with an 82-year-old French financier, who is also a commander of the Legion of Honor.

"I love him, respect him and need him," Mrs. Martinson wrote of the Frenchman in her voluminous notebooks, which have been obtained by The Times. "Maybe at last we can be together again, and this time I'll be able to love him enough for a lifetime."

#### Marrried in 1969

Mr. Spector, who married Patricia Richardson in 1969 and divorced her two years later, says the Frenchman is involved in the drug conspiracy, which, Mr. Spector charges, smuggled heroin from France through St. Maarten and Canada to the United States.

Investigators' interest was whetted by the fact that the French financier knew Richard M. Nixon well enough to dine with him at the Côte Basque in New York in the nineteen-sixties. Mr. Spector says that the financier made a sizable campaign contribution to Mr. Nixon in 1968.

Here, perhaps, was the reason that the Drug Enforcement Administration did not thoroughly look into Mr. Spector's charges, investigators thought, but the campaign contribution has never been confirmed.

However, the agency's initial investigation was monitored by the White House. Lee W. Gladden, then an assistant to Egil Krogh, said that he met weekly with Stephen H. McClintick, who was handling the case. Mr. McClintick now says he believes Mr. Spector.

#### Frenchman Silent

Mr. Gladden acknowledged that he received weekly progress reports on the investigation, which Mr. McClintick confirmed.

In any event, the French financier has so far declined to comment on the case and told The Times he would be available for an interview in late summer. Mr. Nixon's San Clemente estate failed to

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respond to three requests for information.

Mrs. Martinson was also romantically involved with a 70-year-old British magnate who Mr. Spector charges also was involved in the drug ring.

The magnate lavished thousands of dollars in cash gifts on the woman and gave her an unlimited line of credit at a Canadian bank. He first denied to The Times that he knew Mrs. Martinson, but later acknowledged both the affair and the cash gifts, although denying the line of credit, which was independently confirmed.

#### Lebanese Connection

Mrs. Martinson also had a liaison with the late Yousef Beidas, a Lebanese financier and founder of Intra-Bank, which law-enforcement officers say was a center of narcotics traffic. Mr. Beidas

half-French, half-Dutch island 160 miles east of Puerto Rico, the Dutch police say smuggling of all kinds goes on because there are no customs inspections.

Mrs. Martinson's best friends there, too, have the ??????????. The Dutch police say they suspect them of trafficking in narcotics, and the French police even staked out their home at one point, but nothing was ever found, no one was ever arrested, no charges were ever made.

Nevertheless, the current investigators keep coming back to a handful of intriguing points that sustain their interest in the story.

Mrs. Martinson's notebooks contain the name of Marcel Boucan, who was seized in 1972 on a shrimp boat off Marseilles, France, with 935 pounds of heroin and is now serving a 20-year term. The boat had been off St. Maarten two weeks before it was captured.

She explains that she had

met her when she was 14 and introduced her to the French financier.

During the two years they married, William and Patricia Spector lived in Ogdensburg, a bleak border town connected to Canada by a bridge over the St. Lawrence River. Mr. Spector, who had a Cadillac dealership, says his wife and her friends smuggled heroin in car parts coming in from Canada and in used cars that they delivered for him.

Mrs. Martinson's friends in Ogdensburg have met the French financier, and the police there say they suspect them of dealing in drugs, but suspicions are all they have.

Customs investigators say they stopped cars that Mr. Spector pointed out, but found nothing. Then Mr. Spector told them they were supposed to have searched the third car after the one he pointed out, but that, too, proved fruitless.

On St. Maarten, a tiny,

known Mr. Boucan on the island but had no knowledge of his criminal activities.

A young Syracuse woman, Mary Jo Ottman, went with Mrs. Martinson to St. Maarten in 1972 as nursemaid for her two small children. When she returned, she was met by a man who has since been dismissed by Pan American for smuggling, and she believes a necklace filled with heroin had been planted in her luggage.

Mrs. Martinson dismisses the story as absurd. Miss Ottman, who is now married, will not testify at the hearings because, according to her lawyer, she is having a nervous breakdown.

Two persons who knew Mrs. Martinson well have made declarations concerning her involvement with drugs.

Her half-brother, Claude Fleming, who lives on St. Maarten, signed a deposition at Mr. Spector's urging, discussing "the effect of drugs regarding my sister, Patricia Spector." When interviewed by The Times, however, he denied any knowledge of drug use or trafficking by her.

John Stevenhagen, who lived briefly with Patricia Richardson on St. Maarten and is now a Manhattan bartender, told his attorney on the island, Richard F. Gibson, that he "had knowledge" of a narcotics scheme involving her and the Frenchman.

Mr. Stevenhagen told The Times he had made the statement solely to accommodate Mr. Spector, who had been badgering him.

Yet the investigators continue to investigate, and they are hopeful of uncovering new facts. If there is any truth to the story, it may surface in the hearing—or perhaps afterward.