

Detective Says Soledad Prosecution Witness Lied

By Keith Power

A San Francisco private investigator testified yesterday that an important prosecution witness in the so-called Soledad Brothers trial perjured himself out of mortal fear of a prison officer.

Investigator David Fehheimer took the stand for the defense ... in the trial of Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette .....

Fehheimer said William T. Worzella, an inmate of Soledad at the time of the murder [of Mills], made the admission to him during a kitchen conversation in Worzella's ... apartment last year.

[Fehheimer] said that Worzella, free on parole at the time, knew Fehheimer was retained by the defense and told Fehheimer he would deny the conversation if it was repeated.

The investigator said that the former Soledad inmate changed his original statement after the murder to one implicating the defendants under pressure from Prison Captain Charles Moody, an official who the defense has described as the chief designer of a frame-up of the defendants.

During the two-hour conversation — refreshed by drinks of beer, Worzella, according to the investigator:

"... kept saying if he didn't testify the way Captain Moody wanted or he didn't testify his parole would be violated ... he would be afraid to go out of his home for fear his parole would be violated.

**KILLED**

"Mr. Worzella said he believed that Captain Moody was capable of anything if he didn't testify. He believed Captain Moody even capable of having him killed."

Under cross examination by William Curtis, district attorney of Monterey county where the murder took place, the investigator said

Worzella declined to discuss the substance of his testimony at the forthcoming trial, but made it clear his account was false.

"Did he indicate his testimony was false?" the prosecutor asked.

"Yes. He said if there weren't all this pressure theje wouldn't be any testimony."

**OBVIOUS**

The investigator said he asked Worzella why he had changed his original statement to one implicating the defendants, and the former inmate "smiled and said it's obvious."

Fehheimer, a modishly-groomed young man who works for Lipset Services here, was asked sharply by the district attorney whether he had been dispatched to Santa Barbara to "destroy testimony."

"Of course, I was sent to destroy Mr. Worzella's testimony. I certainly wasn't sent by the defense to build the prosecution's case."

He said, however, his was an accurate report of the conversation, adding: "The only thing we have to offer is our integrity."