

Court Holds Up Ehrlich Bid to Quit Thoresen

By TOM HALL
Staff Writer

Federal Judge Albert C. Wollenberg had a new problem today as baffling as why William E. Thoresen and his wife, Louise, collected 70 tons of illegal arms.

Their attorney, J.W. Ehrlich, wants out.

After both the millionaire and his wife orally opposed Ehrlich's motion to withdraw yesterday, the judge declined to rule on it, remarking:

"There's apparently a parting of the ways, but I don't know what I can do. You can bring it up later."

DIFFERENCES

Ehrlich, author of several books including "Never Plead Guilty," stated the grounds for his motion in general terms only:

"It's based on a difference of opinion between the Thoresens and myself and my associate, Edward Dullea, on the policy, strategy and methods of procedure."

The Thoresens glowered at Ehrlich as Nicholas Deriman, former deputy district attorney here, asked and got a closed chamber hearing on the motion.

"The Thoresens feel there are a number of things that should be said," said Deriman, brought in by the Thoresens for the hearing, "but in chambers so no prejudice to a fair trial would result."

CONTRACT

Ehrlich said he had been retained to represent the Thoresens up to time of trial, which was yesterday.

"I've carried out my contract. There's nothing I can do further," he said.

But Wollenberg continued the motion indefinitely and reset trial for Jan. 15.

Two other attorneys of the Thoresens, P. Basil Lambros and Eliot Feldman, both of Beverly Hills, were in court.

They are still working on a Bar Harbor, Me., phase, which, if successful, could eliminate one-half of the 22 counts against the Thoresens.

U.S. Attorney Cecil Poole stood on the sidelines, only urging a new trial date be set within two weeks.