

Grand jury in El Paso resumes racket probe

United Press International
EL PASO — A 23-member federal grand jury reconvenes today to take up allegations of racketeering, international drug smuggling, interstate gambling and interstate transportation of prostitutes and stolen property in several western states.

Federal panels also are meeting on connected matters in San Antonio and Seattle, Wash.

The probe involves ongoing investigations by U.S. attorneys, a U.S. Justice Department "strike force," the Internal Revenue Service and the FBI along with state and local law enforcement agencies.

The federal grand jury in El Paso was seated only two days last week but returned an indictment against the local president of the Bandido motorcycle club, Rudolph James "Shakey" Maio, 31.

Maio is charged with assault on a federal officer with a dangerous weapon. The alleged assault came while FBI agents searched his

apartment Feb. 10.

The FBI was looking for a shotgun believed used in the murder attempt on assistant U.S. Attorney James Kerr of San Antonio on Nov. 21. Several weapons were recovered from Maio's apartment.

Government investigators officially said last week the Bandidos were the prime suspects in the murder attempt on Kerr.

The day before Maio's arrest, a pair of Bandidos were arrested in Corpus Christi for carrying fire arms in the vicinity of the county courthouse. They were officially charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and were later released on lowered bonds.

The Nueces County sheriff and another officer supposedly were the subjects of a \$100,000 murder for hire contract. Maio is awaiting release on a bond lowered last Friday.

Last week, the El Paso panel heard testimony from El Paso homicide detectives investigating the still unsolved murder on Dec.

23 of lawyer Lee Chagra, a frequent Las Vegas gambler.

The grand jury is ostensibly trying to find out what happened to a large amount of money missing from Chagra's office the day of the murder.

Former friends and associates of Chagra's were also questioned about the money.

The grand jury completed hearing testimony by talking with Joel Robert Yoseph, who discovered Chagra's body the day of the murder.

Yoseph, now living in Seattle, complained later about the manner of questions asked him by U.S. attorneys.

"I felt from the tone of their questions and the message they were trying to convey to the grand jury, it was just a personal attack on myself and Lee (Chagra)," Yoseph said.

"I am mildly amused by this allegation," said U.S. attorney Jamie Boyd. He added that "sometimes you have to be emphatic to a witness who is recalcitrant at best."

what's up

Tuesday

AG ECO CLUB: There will be an election of the Cotton Pageant Duchess and a discussion of field trips at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108, Harrington.

TENNIS: The tennis team will play against Trinity at 1:30 p.m. in San Antonio.

PLANT SCIENCES SEMINAR: John Ambler will speak on "The Roles of Nitrogen in Determining Yield of Winter Wheat" at 4 p.m. in Room 112, Plance Science Building.

MSC TRAVEL COMMITTEE: Interviews for overseas loans will be 6:30-9 p.m. today and tomorrow in Room 216L, S.P.O.

PRE-VET SOCIETY: Dr. Hightower will speak on "Nuclear Vet Medicine" at 7:30 p.m. in Room 206, MSC. The spring barbeque will be discussed.

CAMAC: William Velasquez will speak on the current suit against Bryan concerning the redistricting of voting districts at 7:30 p.m. in Room 301, Rudder Tower. There will be a reception in Room 205, MSC, following the speech.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS: Will dance from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Partners are not necessary.

BASKETBALL: The men's team will play Rice University at 7:30 p.m. in C. Rollie White Coliseum.

PLACEMENT OFFICE: Graduating seniors who wish to interview for the following companies may begin signing up today for interviews on March 6: The Analyst Inc., Chubb & Son Corp., Anderson Clayton Foods, Dickinson I.S.D., Dresser Industries (Petroleum Services), General Tire & Rubber Co., Hughes Aircraft Co., Martin — Marietta Corp., I.A. Naman & Associates, Oscar Mayer Co., Robertshaw Control Co., Sanger Harris, Sears Roebuck & Co., Standard Oil of Indiana, Tenneco Oil, Texas Highway (Traffic Engineering), Texas Instruments, Tippet & Gee Inc., Trane Co., Western Company of North America.

Wednesday

PHI THETA KAPPA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: There will be a meeting at 7 p.m. in Room 140A, MSC, to discuss the state and national conventions.

SAN ANTONIO HOMETOWN CLUB: There will be a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 701, Rudder Tower.

TAMU SURF CLUB: There will be a presentation of "Goin' Surfin'" followed by a general meeting at 8 p.m. in Room 601, Rudder Tower.

MSC ARTS COMMITTEE: All members must attend a meeting at 7 p.m. in Rooms 604A & B, Rudder Tower.

TAMU SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB: There will be a meeting at 8 p.m. in Room 301, Rudder Tower.

SMITH COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: There will be a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Willowick I Apartment Party Room. For more information, call 845-6452.

TAMU STAMP CLUB: Will host the Van den Booms, noted collectors and dealers in stamps of the world, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 501, Rudder Tower.

Thursday

TAMU HUMAN FACTORS CLUB: Dick Reamer will speak on "Human Factors Aspects in Aircraft Accident Investigation" at 7 p.m. in Room 342, Zachry.

TAMU WATER SKI CLUB: There will be an all day exhibition at the MSC Fountain.

CLASS OF '80 COUNCIL: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 350A, MSC.

BRAZOS VALLEY ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF: There will be a meeting for educators, students, deaf persons and parents of the deaf at 7 p.m. at 2806, Normand Drive.

MSC TRAVEL COMMITTEE: There will be an informational meeting for those who want to study, work or live overseas at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205, MSC.

TAMU FENCING CLUB: Will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 261, C. Rollie White Coliseum.

SWIM TEAM: The women's team will compete in the TIAAW Championships in Lubbock all day.

CEPHEID VARIABLE: "The Point," an animated film that tells the story of a kingdom in which everything and everybody has a point — except a boy named Oblio, will be shown at 8 & 10 p.m. in Room 601, Rudder Tower. Admission is 50 cents.

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Alaska oil boosts U.S. economy

United Press International
ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The \$8 billion Alyeska Pipeline is pumping \$15 million a day into the American economy.

Every day, seven days a week and

on holidays, the 800-mile pipeline dumps 1.2 million barrels of North Slope crude into the storage tanks at Valdez for tanker shipment to the "lower 48."

The North Slope field with its proven reserves of 9.6 billion barrels of oil and 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas is but a fraction of the fossil fuels still hidden in Alaska or off its shores.

However, there's little optimism around the petroleum club in Anchorage that any of these untapped, but believed recoverable deposits will soon end up in America's cars or kitchens.

OIL MEN LIST three negative factors which they say will discourage major petroleum investments in Alaska: high production costs, newly-imposed environmental restrictions, and exorbitant financing costs.

The estimated reserves — like Alaska — are huge.

Shell's executive vice-president, C.L. Blackburn, said that more than half of the oil discovery potential in the U.S. is in Alaska.

"Shell's geologists expect 58 percent of America's future oil discoveries and 30 percent of its future natural gas finds will be made in Alaska," Blackburn said. He predicted that most of these discoveries and subsequent oil production in Alaska will come from offshore explorations.

STATISTICALLY, SHELL'S GEOLOGISTS estimate Alaska's recoverable petroleum resources at 35 billion barrels of crude and 27 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Oil researcher and author James Roscow, who admits that trying to reckon oil reserves accurately is like trying to count snowflakes in a bliz-

zard, said even the more moderate estimates of the undiscovered petroleum resources in Alaska range up to 80 billion barrels, and the total undiscovered natural gas reserves have been calculated as high as 450 to 1,000 trillion cubic feet.

BUT PROMISING AREAS along the North Slope have already been placed off limits to drilling crews. Geologists say federal closure of millions of more acres under the federal D-W lands program will eliminate other prospects.

Jay Mitchell, the public lands coordinator for Atlantic Richfield, blamed President Carter for putting potentially productive oil fields out of reach when he signed the Wilderness Preservation Act recently.

Mitchell said America "may be paying too high a price for Alaskan tundra in terms of lost energy."

The Wilderness Preservation Act signed by the president actually shuts out energy exploration for millions of unprotected acres as well as the 56 million it brings under federal protection," Mitchell said.

OTHER PETROLEUM SPOKESMEN point out that construction of the Alyeska, trans-Alaska pipeline was delayed six years and its costs increased from \$900 million in 1969 to \$8 billion before the first surge of oil entered the 48-inch pipeline.

Legal roadblocks by various environmental groups were blamed by the oil men for the nine-and-a-half years that elapsed between the completion of Atlantic Richfield's Prudhoe Bay number one well, and delivery of the first North Slope oil to a refinery.

The original timetable called for completion of the pipeline well before the 1974 oil crisis. Today the 1.2

million barrels now moving through the pipeline each day just about equals the Saudi Arabian production of two years ago. No oil author would speculate on just how much affect this production would have had upon the Mideast embargo a little years ago, but all agreed the Alaskan production could have improved conditions.

STANDARD OF OHIO'S president Richard Donaldson said that newly-imposed Alaskan taxes have raised "considerable doubt" about future oil investments in Alaska.

SOHIO's chairman Whitehouse Jr., said Standard Ohio will continue to develop its Prudhoe Bay field and meet its obligations in operating the pipeline, "but a reassessment of SOHIO's position on additional investments in Alaska must be made in the light of repeated legislative actions which penalize success."

The petroleum industry's pessimism comes from a recently passed income tax which applies only to oil companies. A spokesman said the overall tax burden on Prudhoe Bay oil and the Alyeska pipeline had increased by 900 percent in the past years.

DESPITE THE INDUSTRY grumblings about high production costs, unfair taxes and environmental restrictions, Whitehouse admitted that the North Slope oil was the biggest factor in the company's earnings this year.

"It will continue to be the biggest factor for years to come," he said. "It damn well better be big."

SOHIO borrowed for the Alaskan investment.

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