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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Harry C. Bass Jr. of St. Louis and Selb Manufacturing Co. of Walnut Ridge were convicted of conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with production of parts for the F-111 fighter-bomber.

Bass, who was president of Selb, was convicted on one count of a federal Grand Jury indictment alleging conspiracy to defraud and one count alleging the overt act of falsifying serial numbers on parts for the jet aircraft.

Selb was tried only on the conspiracy count.

The jury of seven women and five men deliberated about three hours before returning the verdict in the third week of the trial.

The penalty on each count is a prison sentence of up to five years or fine of \$10,000 or both. Judge J. Smith Henley postponed

sentencing until after he receives a presentence investigation report.

Bass, 56, was one of seven men indicted by the government. All were employees of either Selb or General Dynamics Corp. of Fort Worth, Tex., prime contractor for the swinging plane.

The government has charged that Bass and the other Selb employees named in the indictment tried to conceal machining flaws in the parts by welding over them without authorization from General Dynamics, and that the Gen-

eral Dynamics personnel charged in the alleged conspiracy took gratuities from Selb in return for concealing the unauthorized welds from their superiors.

In the government's closing argument Tuesday, Robert Fussell said that the Bass case was "about one of the most serious criminal offenses that's ever been committed against the United States."

Fussell said Bass was "well aware that every part his company was making would go on the F-111 to be flown by pilots

willing to risk their lives in defense of this country."

The Air Force contracted with General Dynamics in 1962 for manufacture of the F-111 and several years later General Dynamics contracted with Selb for the production of plates to hold the wings together and longerons to hold the tail together.

Defense Attorney Robert Light said in his closing argument that early in the business relationship with Selb, General Dynamics suggested a departure from blueprint specifications in an effort to speed delivery of the parts for

the aircraft.

He said gratuities paid to quality assurance inspectors were given before welding was done on Selb parts, and that the payments were not designed to keep the inspector from overlooking defects.

Light said that in August 1968 U.S. Senate investigators and agents of the FBI began to look into the F-111 project and that General Dynamics, "confronted with a need for a scapegoat," selected a company from Arkansas, the home of Sen. John L. McClellan, D-Ark., who headed the Senate investigating committee.

Israel ignores U.N. request to stop destruction of homes

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—Israel ignored Tuesday a U.N. request to cease destruction of refugee homes in the Gaza Strip and defended the action as necessary to end terrorism against the Arab inhabitants of Gaza.

"The Israeli measures have already met with considerable success and have, in fact, saved the lives of refugees and other Arab inhabitants who otherwise would have fallen victim to the terror campaign," wrote Ambassador Yosef Tekoah in a letter to Secretary-General U. Thant.

Tekoah said the destruction had been necessary because the overcrowding and congested layout of the refugee quarters invited terror operations. He said no demolition took place unless alternative housing was provided.

Last month Thant asked Israel to stop the destruction, halt the removal of occupants and to provide adequate housing within the Strip for those already displaced.

Thant's request followed a report of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

which found that about 15,000 persons had been displaced.

Tekoah, in his letter to Thant, cited these figures:

"During the month of June of 1971 agents of Arab terror organizations murdered in the Gaza area 29 Arab inhabitants and wounded 153," Tekoah wrote. "In July, they murdered 13 Arab inhabitants, and the figure for August was five dead and 36 wounded. Most of the victims were refugees. During the first three weeks of September two persons were killed and three wounded."

Seniors may apply for Danford Fellowships

Seniors interested in applying for Danforth Fellowships should contact Dr. Haskell Monroe, professor of history, in Nagle Hall Room 315.

YMCA study shows Aggies' religious likes

A religious preference survey by the YMCA Office shows almost half of the fall semester students are members of Baptist, Catholic or Methodist denominations.

YMCA Secretary Logan E. Weston said the data was assembled at the Data Processing Center and distributed at no charge to local ministers for their use.

He was "very concerned" that over 25 per cent of the students surveyed indicated no religious preference.

The Baptists led with 2,681 students, followed by 2,312 Catholics and 2,234 Methodists.

Other preferences are Lutheran, 805; Presbyterian, 752; Episcopal, 587; Church of Christ, 494; Christian (Disciples of Christ), 197; Oriental religions (Buddhism, Moslem, etc.), 160; Jewish, 63; Assembly of God, 41; Latter Day Saints, 38; Nazarene, 29; Brethren, 28; Unitarian, 27; Christian Science, 20, and Seventh Day Adventist, 11.

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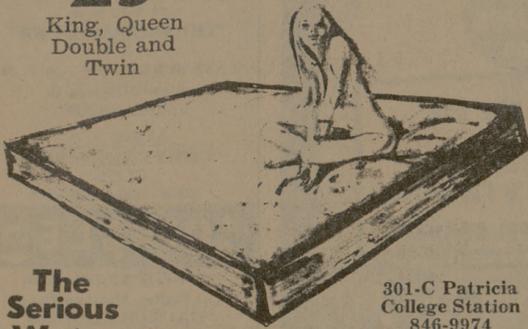
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