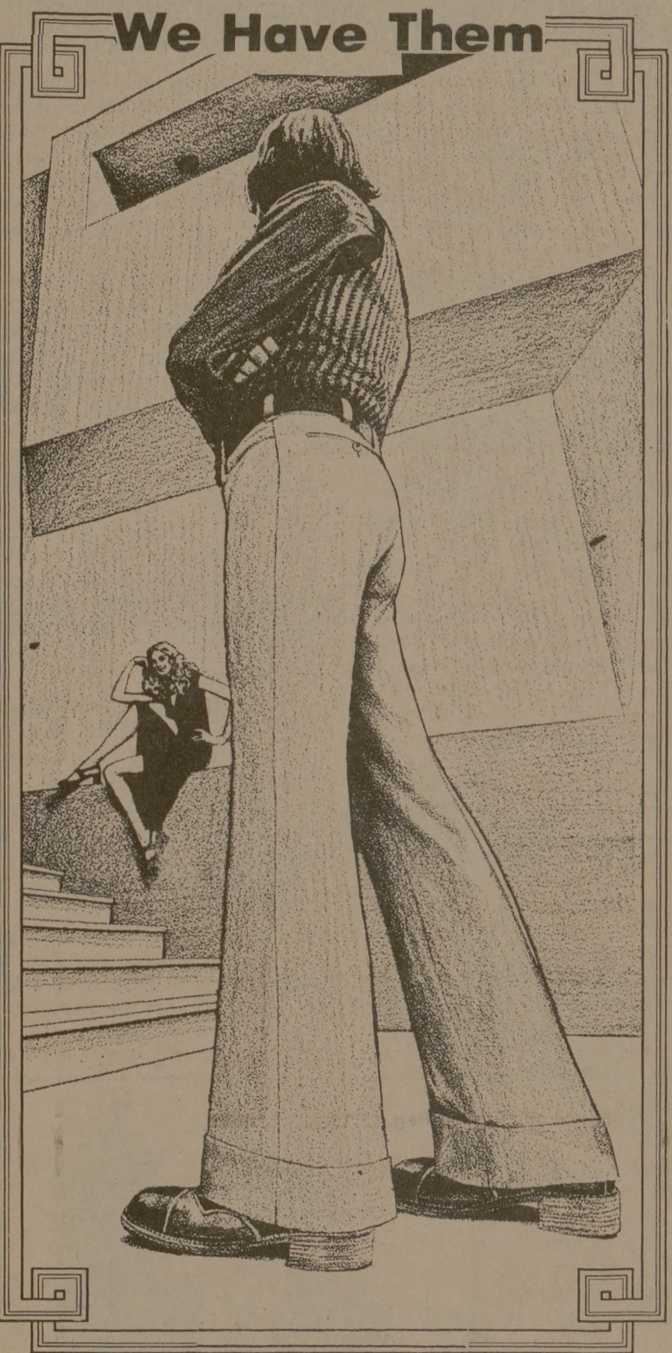


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## Feds Want Carr, Osorio Guilty

DALLAS (AP)—The government asked the eight-woman, four-man federal jury Wednesday to find Waggoner Carr, 54, and John Osorio, 51, guilty "on each and every count" of the indictment against them alleging mail and wire fraud.

Robert Mahoney, crew-cut lawyer for the Justice Department in Washington, spent one hour and 15 minutes arguing the case for the prosecution on the 13th day of the trial.

He said the state's former attorney general and its former state insurance commissioner, had gotten control of banks and insurance companies by holding themselves out as men who could be trusted.

But, Mahoney claimed, they said: "Give us your money, we'll take care of it for you."

"They did," said the government lawyer, "right into their pocket."

"This type of activity by men

of their stature is the grossest violation of public trust," Mahoney added.

Mahoney described Carr, Osorio and Joe P. Novotny, who pleaded guilty and will be sentenced later, as three co-schemers.

Carr lent his reputation as former attorney general and speaker of the Texas House, Mahoney said, while Osorio was "the man who manipulated the money."

Novotny, according to Mahoney, "by his close association with Frank Sharp and by the office he held in National Bankers Life Insurance Co. was the one who sealed the fate of the company," causing it to lose \$582,000 in paying off Carr and Osorio's debt.

The government prosecutor compared the activities of the three to a magic show—"the magician creates an illusion with one hand, so you don't watch the other hand where the action is really taking place."

Claiming that Carr and Osorio

never put a penny of their own money into various transactions revolving around the loan that lies at the base of the fraud charges against them, Mahoney said they worked on the principle: "Never use your own money if you can use someone else's, especially if that money belongs to a corporation you own or control."

Carr listened, grave faced, rocking back and forth in his chair, as Mahoney went into detail about what he called "doing business with other people's money." Osorio closely followed the flat, unemotional presentation of the government attorney.

Novotny was not there. He has not been in the courtroom since he appeared briefly to plead guilty to one count of the 12-count indictment when the trial opened two and a half weeks ago.

Mahoney called the June 23, 1970 agreement between Carr and Osorio on one side and Novotny on the other, "a transparent device" intended to fool the Exchange Bank, which held the loan, and also the jury.

"Don't be fooled," he urged them.

That agreement, the defense contended, provided for Sharp's Sharpstown Realty Co. to take over liability for the Carr-Osorio loan. But Mahoney called it an attempt by Carr and Osorio "to cover their tracks, to see if somehow they could squirm out of an obligation that was theirs."

"They have gone as far down the road as they can go," Mahoney concluded. "The time to settle accounts is now. And the people to settle them with are the people of the state of Texas."

Jerry Birdwell, representing Osorio, told the jury he would "tell it like it is." So far from "raping the company treasury" as Mahoney suggested, Birdwell said Osorio put \$90,000 out of his own pocket into RIC International and had never been repaid.

Birdwell accused the government of "character assassination" on Osorio and Carr and asked why Joe P. Novotny, "the boy wonder of the banking world," had not been called to testify.

"That was the man who took control after June 23—he and Frank Sharp called the shots," Birdwell said. "Why have we not seen Joe Novotny on the witness stand to testify about this farce?"

At this point, U.S. District Court Judge William M. Taylor Jr. directed the jury to disregard Novotny's failure to testify.

Emmett J. Colvin, also for Osorio,

described the Carr-Osorio transactions as "a business venture that turned out to be a failure."

Speaking softly to the jury, Colvin said:

"It would have been nice to see Frank Sharp in this courtroom. He is the man who could explain many things . . . Those people

from Houston raped NBL. The culprit, all right. But it was not John Osorio; it was not Waggoner Carr."

Colvin's final words, as he urged the jury to find Osorio and Carr guilty, were: "I suggest to you, Frank Sharp is the man who should really be in this courtroom."

## Supermarket Prices Advance At Record Pace Last Month

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supermarket prices climbed at a record pace last month, driving over-all consumer prices up in February at a rate not equaled since the Korean war, the government reported Wednesday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said the cost of living jumped eight-tenths of one per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis last month, the biggest rise since February 1951.

On an unadjusted basis, the surge was seven-tenths of one per cent, the highest monthly increase since March 1969.

Prices of food bought in grocery stores increased by 2.4 per cent seasonally adjusted, the steepest rate since the bureau

began computing supermarket prices in 1952. The main categories were meat, fish and poultry, which rose by 5 per cent in a month.

The figures reflected the full month under President Nixon's Phase 3 wage-price controls and White House officials predicted the situation will get worse before it gets better later this year.

The administration is imposing controls at this time on raw farm products or tightening controls on food sold to processors and distributors.

The February surge pushed the annual rate of inflation in the past three months to 6.3 per cent, nearly three times the goal the administration set to achieve by year's end.

## Speech Scrambling Topic Of Technology Conference

An urban technology conference on speech scramblers in radio communications has been announced by A&M's Center for Urban Programs and the Electrical Engineering Department.

The conference, set for June 26-27 on the TAMU campus, will present the current state of the art in scrambling technology, relative security and costs of the systems available. Demonstrations of voice channels characteristics and speech-scrambled transmissions are planned for the course.

The object of the conference, held at the request of the Texas Criminal Justice Council, is to provide law enforcement personnel with the technical, economic and relative security aspects of available systems. This information should be useful to law enforcement agencies in making decisions concerning needs, types, costs and other aspects of speech scrambling systems.

Dr. William L. Beasley, assistant professor of electrical engineering, said the early speech scrambling systems were easily decoded by criminals who listen to police radio broadcasts.

A speech scrambling system is desirable in two-way radio communications systems of law enforcement agencies. Such systems are currently available for use with existing equipment and require minimal modifications. There are, however, various degrees of security available at differing costs.

Dr. R. E. Thomas, director of the Center for Urban Programs, said that in test situations, crime rates had dropped as much as 40

per cent in communities where speech scrambling equipment was used.

"The criminal of today is pretty smart," Dr. Thomas said. "He buys a cheap police frequency monitor and can listen in on dispatch calls. He knows what the police are up to at all times. If he hears a dispatch call to his location, he drops what he is doing and runs."

"When the criminal doesn't know what the police are doing or where they are, he is less likely to go out and break into a building."

Dr. Beasley said the newer systems depend on switched codes, enabling the police to thwart attempts to defeat their system.

"In the past," he said, "all you had to do was steal a scrambler system or buy one, and you defeated the whole purpose of the system. Now, a criminal may have identical equipment, but it will be useless unless he has the proper codes. Some systems offer thousands of different codes possibilities."

There will be no charge for registration at the conference, and attendance is open to all state law enforcement agencies. Registration information can be obtained by writing Dr. R. E. Thomas at Texas A&M's Center for Urban Programs or to Dr. W. B. Jones, head of TAMU's Electrical Engineering Department.

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