

the state

Davis tells his version of FBI-McCrory 'plot'

United Press International
FORT WORTH — A calm and consistent T. Cullen Davis Thursday testified in his own behalf in his murder solicitation trial, describing the plot he thought was being hatched against him by the man who is now his chief accuser — FBI informant David McCrory.

Davis, starting his lengthy testimony in a low voice but getting stronger as the day wore on, testified a phone call he thought was from the FBI told him McCrory was trying to extort \$10,000 from him. Davis testified the caller directed him to play along with McCrory.

On Aug. 20, 1978, Davis was arrested and charged with trying to hire someone to kill his divorcee, District Judge Joe Eidson. McCrory, a friend and employee of Davis, has testified that Davis ordered him to find a professional

killer to do away with Eidson and others. McCrory claims he secretly contacted the FBI about Davis' demands and that from then on he worked with the agents until Davis' arrest. Davis testified, however, that he thought he was working with the FBI and that McCrory was the target.

The testimony was exactly the same as Davis gave in Houston late last year in his first trial on the murder-for-hire charge. That trial ended in a hung jury.

Prosecutors listening to Davis testify Thursday said they were impressed that his testimony so closely paralleled that in Houston.

"He's even remembering the conversations in the same order as in Houston," prosecutor John Bankston said. "There's no question he makes a good witness."

Davis told the jury in late 1977 he received a letter from a supposed

hitman who said he would forget the killing in exchange for \$10,000.

"The thrust of it was the writer said he had a contract to kill me before Christmas," Davis said. The letter said "if I would pay him \$10,000 he would forget about the contract and tell me who hired him."

Davis said he immediately contacted the FBI about the letter and that the FBI instructed him to go along in the plot.

In Houston, Davis testified that he eventually got a call from someone he thought was an FBI agent who instructed him that McCrory was actually the extortionist.

Earlier in the day, Davis testified that McCrory was a friend of his former wife, Priscilla Davis, and that McCrory frequently called Davis wanting a job.

Davis said he finally gave McCrory a job because he thought McCrory could give him information that would be useful in his divorce.

"I told him I was giving him this job for one reason — to help me in my divorce from Priscilla," Davis testified.

The state has produced films and tape recordings of Davis meeting with McCrory — meetings McCrory claims were to set up the murder of the divorcee judge.

Davis said, however, the first time he met with McCrory on June 9, 1978, McCrory said he had information that Mrs. Davis was looking for someone to kill Davis.

A short time after that, the extortion letter arrived in the mail.

In other testimony, Davis explained that \$25,000 in cash that allegedly was payoff money for a hitman actually belonged to McCrory. He said in July McCrory gave him the money, saying he won it in Las Vegas and wanted Davis to put it in his safe so that his wife would not find out about it.

On the day Davis was arrested he gave McCrory \$25,000.

Davis was scheduled to return to the witness stand Friday.

Refugee trial moved from site of violence

United Press International
PORT LAVACA — A state district judge Thursday transferred the murder trial of two Vietnamese brothers away from the coastal area where one man was killed as refugees and native crab fishermen clashed this summer.

Judge Clarence Stevenson moved the trial of Sau Van Nguyen, 21, and Chinh Van Nguyen, 20, to Seguin in Guadalupe County. Both were charged with the shooting death of Billy Joe Aplin, 35, at Seadrift last Aug. 3.

Stevenson said a tentative trial date of Oct. 29.

District Attorney William W. Day said he discussed the case and prospects for a fair trial in Calhoun County and decided not to oppose the transfer.

"A lot of people throughout the county flatly said they didn't feel

they could get a fair trial and others qualified it somehow or another," Day said. "It just wouldn't be justice."

The brothers have not posted bond and remain in jail.

Witnesses said Aplin and Sau Van Nguyen argued on a fishing dock and Nguyen suffered a knife cut across his chest before Aplin was shot.

Aplin's slaying climaxed a "crab war" over local fishing rights and customs and ignited more violence in the community, including the firebombing of one refugee's home and the burning of the Vietnamese boats. Residents said the Vietnamese refused to respect local crabbing and shrimping customs.

Dozens of the estimated 100 Vietnamese that settled in Seadrift beginning in 1976 fled the town during the summer.

resource, but urged private industry to keep a close eye on geothermal research as a potential significant energy resource.

Wallace said initial testing indicates the geopressed geothermal well in Brazoria County can flow at rates of approximately 30,000 barrels of water daily, about 10,000 less than anticipated, has a gas-water ratio of about 20 cubic feet per bar-

rel, about half the level anticipated, and has bottom hole temperatures of about 250 degrees, 50 to 100 degrees lower than experts had predicted.

The commissioner said a geopressed geothermal well prospect in Kenedy County looks particularly good to scientists, however, and said drilling should begin next year in that area.

Judge repeals order, Amtrak dumps trains

United Press International
WICHITA, Kan. — A federal judge, who had forced Amtrak to keep three money-losing trains running for an extra four days, Thursday lifted his order and told the railroad it could go ahead and eliminate the trains.

U.S. District Court judge Frank Theis, who last week granted a temporary restraining order prohibiting Amtrak from dropping three of the five trains it had scheduled for elimination, dissolved that order Thursday.

The three trains affected by the order are the Chicago-to-Houston Lone Star, the Chicago-to-Seattle North Coast Hiawatha and the Chicago-to-Miami Floridian.

An Amtrak spokesman in Chicago said two of the trains which were scheduled to leave late Thursday from Chicago would go ahead as planned but that no decision had been made on which run would be the train's last.

"We've got a problem with the trains scheduled to run Friday," the spokesman said. "The Lone Star is supposed to leave at 4:30 p.m. but we don't know yet whether it will or not. We'll know more by tomorrow."

In Miami, the northbound Floridian left 11 minutes late Thursday after it was decided to go ahead and run the train, which left with only 10-12 passengers.

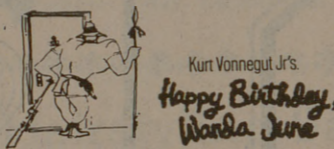
An Amtrak spokesman in Washington said any train en route at the time the judge's order took effect would go through to its destination. Theis had issued a temporary restraining order last week preventing Amtrak from eliminating the three trains, but the judge said Thursday the fact that Congress had passed the 1979 Amtrak Reorganization Bill and President Carter's decision to sign the bill voided his order.

"I'm satisfied in my own mind that the plaintiffs' best, last chance went out the window when Congress passed the bill," Theis said.

Theis had issued the order after a suit was filed by the states of Kansas, Minnesota, the city of Nashville, Tenn., and a Tennessee county which claimed the elimination of the trains would cause irreparable harm to their areas.

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PRESENTS



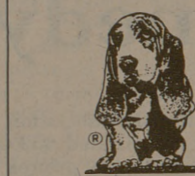
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Official says geothermal well not so efficient

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A geothermal test well drilled near the Texas coast produces less water and natural gas than anticipated, Railroad Commissioner Mack Wallace said Thursday.

Wallace said data from the test well in Brazoria County thus far does not guarantee the economics of geothermal energy as a commercial

resource, but urged private industry to keep a close eye on geothermal research as a potential significant energy resource.

Wallace said initial testing indicates the geopressed geothermal well in Brazoria County can flow at rates of approximately 30,000 barrels of water daily, about 10,000 less than anticipated, has a gas-water ratio of about 20 cubic feet per bar-

rel, about half the level anticipated, and has bottom hole temperatures of about 250 degrees, 50 to 100 degrees lower than experts had predicted.

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