

State / National

Chagra family bugged in Wood assassination probe

United Press International
DALLAS — Federal investigators trying to solve the assassination of a federal judge used extensive electronic surveillance to record virtually every conversation by members of an El Paso family, a Dallas newspaper reported Sunday.

The newspaper said telephone wiretaps and concealed room mic-

rophones "tagged virtually every telephone call made by ... the El Paso-based Chagra clan."

The Chagra family has been targeted by federal investigators trying to solve the May 29, 1979 assassination of federal Judge John H. Wood Jr.

Federal agents have told El Paso attorney Joe Chagra that he is a prime suspect in the case, along

with his brother, convicted drug trafficker Jimmy Chagra, and another inmate.

A San Antonio newspaper reported the electronic surveillance "probably will be a major part of the government's case against contract killer Charles Voyde Harrelson and several members" of the Chagra family believed by investigators to have "conspired to

kill Wood."

The Dallas newspaper reported Joe Chagra and his Dallas attorney, William Ravkind, apparently learned of the taps Friday during a private meeting in San Antonio with FBI agents.

The newspaper said Joe Chagra was not told about the tapes until far into detailed questioning by agents, leading Ravkind to conclude that "investigators were attempting to trap Joe into a perjury situation."

Ravkind said the FBI was not impressed with the results of a private polygraph test Chagra passed recently in Santa Ana, Calif.

"We intend to administer another test in Dallas with a polygrapher whose reputation is unassailable," Ravkind said.

The Dallas newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying the wiretaps were authorized under Title III of the U.S. Code and the tapes resulting from the wiretaps probably would be used as an attempt to corroborate the testimony of Jerry James, a former prison mate of Jimmy Chagra.

James, who allegedly heard Jimmy Chagra brag of a role in Wood's slaying, was once housed in the same wing as Chagra at Leavenworth federal penitentiary in Kansas. Federal authorities confirmed Saturday they were "protecting" James under the federal witness protection program.

A San Antonio newspaper reported Sunday that a group of men held a secret meeting shortly before Wood's assassination at which

they voted unanimously that Wood must die.

The newspaper also reported the same group voted to have Assistant U.S. Attorney James Kerr killed. An attempt was made on Kerr's life, but he escaped.

The newspaper said federal officials have frequently described those responsible for Wood's assassination as part of a criminal organization involved in drug trafficking.

"They can prove who shot Judge Wood," the newspaper quoted one source as saying. "They can prove how much he was paid, how he was paid, who was involved in the decision ... and how the decision was made," the

source said. "It was a group decision and they can identify everybody who participated in the meeting and how they voted."

Last week it was revealed a map was found at Chagra's home allegedly pinpointing the hide place of the rifle used in Wood's slaying. However, authorities refused to say whether the map led them to the rifle they believe was used to shoot Wood. The grand jury today in San Antonio

A map sketched by Joe Chagra according to Harrelson's directions and a tape recording of a conversation between Harrelson and Chagra were seized during a massive FBI raid on Chagra's home

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One St. Pat's quint has problems

United Press International
ROCHESTER, N.Y. — One of the Beach quintuplets, born on St. Patrick's Day to Irish parents, was

being closely monitored Saturday while a respirator helped the little girl breathe, a hospital official said.

Deborah, the last born of the five-day-old quint, was in guarded condition Saturday. On Friday she was in satisfactory condition like her three sisters and brother, who remain in good health.

"Their conditions are un-

changed," Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital spokesman Milton Lederman said.

He said Deborah was experiencing greater breathing difficulties than the other quint and was more dependent on a respirator.

Lederman said the quintuplets, born eight weeks premature and delivered by Caesarean section, were being fed intrave-

nously.

Lederman said the quintuplets' mother, Corinne, was "fine."

"She has been to the nurses' hold them and so forth," he said.

The quint had been periodically placed on respirators since they experienced difficulty breathing, a common problem among premature infants.

Deborah weighed 3 pounds at birth, less than brothers Timothy John and Patrick, and more than sister Corinne.

Mrs. Beach, 29, of Ontario, N.Y., had taken fertility drugs and gave birth to the quint on St. Patrick's Day. They ranged in weight from 2 pounds, 14 ounces to 3 pounds, 7 ounces at birth.

Hospital officials have said they expected the babies to remain in the hospital for about two months.


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Jogger finds way to make crime pay

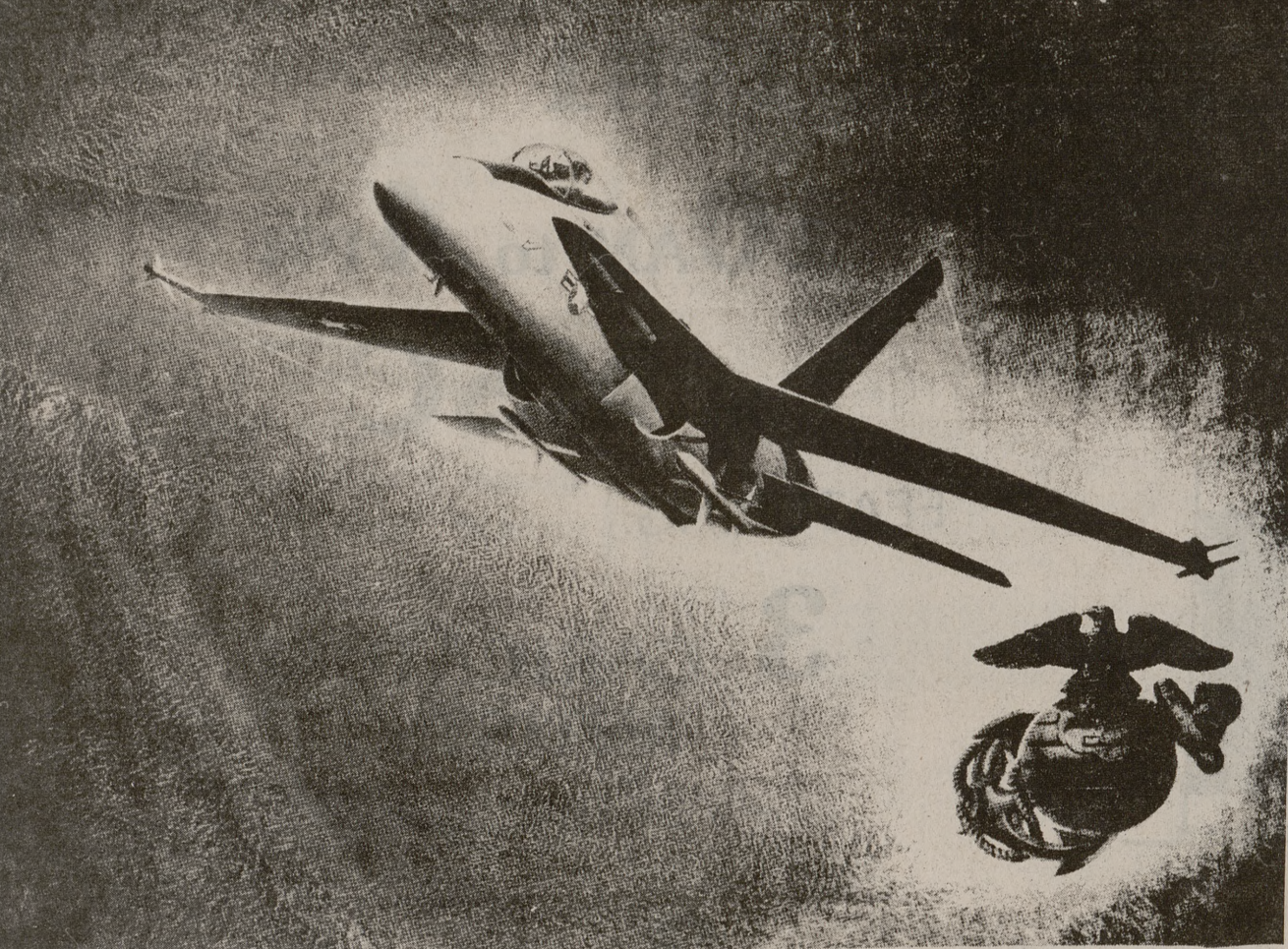
United Press International
SANDWICH, Mass. — A jogger entered a shopping clothing store to use the restroom Saturday, found an unlocked door by the bathroom, helped himself to more than \$100 in cash and fled out the front door.

Police said he entered the store's clothing store in Angel Shopping Mall about noon and asked the sole employee if he could use the bathroom. The jogger did just that and pocketed out \$110 from the sale on his way out.

Officials said they had several leads in the case, including a composite drawing of the jogging habit dit from the store employee.

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