

Witness discusses hitman's plot

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Accused assassin Charles Harrelson went to Las Vegas to bilk gambler Jimmy Chagra the month before federal Judge John H. Wood was slain, a witness has testified.

Prosecutors contend the Las Vegas gambler ended up hiring Harrelson to kill Wood so Chagra could avoid a drug trial in the state's court.

Wood was shot to death outside his apartment the morning of May 29, 1979, and the first witness scheduled to testify Wednesday was Brad Spencer,

who sold an expensive Weatherby Mark V rifle to Harrelson's wife, Jo Ann, before Wood was killed.

Prosecutors allege Harrelson, on trial for murder, shot Wood with the rifle.

Mrs. Harrelson, 41, already has been convicted of using a fake name — Fay King — to buy the rifle at a Dallas gunshop. She is now on trial for obstruction of justice in Wood's death.

Harrelson cohort George Edward "Pete" Kay testified Tuesday Chagra called him a few weeks before the Wood slaying to inquire about Harrelson's

character.

Kay, who grew up in Huntsville with Harrelson, testified he had sent Harrelson, 44, to the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas to cheat Chagra in a rigged card game. He said he received a call from Chagra, out of the blue, in early May 1979, while Harrelson was still in Las Vegas.

Kay said Chagra asked him to return the call from a pay telephone. Then he said, "Say, what is it with this guy Harrelson?"

Kay said he assured Chagra that Harrelson was "OK" and was never told by Chagra why he

was asking about Harrelson.

Also on trial is Chagra's wife Elizabeth, who faces charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy. Chagra — now in prison on the drug smuggling conviction — will be tried for murder later.

In his testimony Tuesday, Kay first denied he had suggested Harrelson "take off" Chagra by proposing a drug deal. However, on cross-examination, he said any way Harrelson found to get the money would have been "all right with him."

Harrelson's lawyer, Tom

Sharpe of Brownsville, contends Harrelson was involved in a phony drug deal with Chagra but denies Harrelson was hired to kill Wood.

Kay said Harrelson telephoned him not long after the judge's death and said, "They think you and I were part of the assassination of Judge Wood."

Kay testified he decided to take advantage of the situation and called Chagra in Las Vegas "trying to pull something out of him."

Lubbock police volunteer to help pregnant officer

United Press International
LUBBOCK — The city personnel department has turned down a pregnant policewoman's request for light duty, despite claims by other officers that there's always something to do at the desk.

Since Andrea Dunn Crump's pregnancy is considered a disability unrelated to her job, the city, in two administrative hearings, ruled she take vacation and sick leave, then leave without pay.

Meanwhile, up to 40 of Crump's fellow police officers are working without pay on

their days off to take her place on patrol, allowing her to receive a paycheck and protect her unborn child.

"You might ask why a bunch of male chauvinist cops would work their days off without pay for a woman officer," a patrolman who asked not to be identified said Tuesday.

"She belongs to the brotherhood," he said.

Crump's husband, Darrell Crump, a former city policeman and currently a sheriff's department investigator, said the couple's tight money situation would be worse if the lawmen

had not offered to work for his wife.

Crump said his wife was advised by a physician not to wear a gunbelt or ride in a patrol car in her physical condition. She was placed on desk duty for about one week before the city ruled she must take vacation and sick time.

When she used up the time she had accrued and faced a long leave without pay, a fellow police officer began gathering a list of volunteers.

"Oh, we though it was just great, just super," Crump said of his wife's fellow officers. "When

I saw some of those names on the list, well, I just couldn't believe it."

Although the city personnel department claims that light duty transfers depend on vacancies, other officers disagreed, claiming the city's policy is not accommodating to women who want families.

"If she'd hurt herself on the job, she'd be working the desk right now," one officer said. "And there's always something to do on the desk."

Crump said his wife planned to write an appeal of the city's decision to City Manager Larry Cunningham this week.

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