

FBI plea-bargains wife's release

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Colorado man, who officials said masterminded a \$15 million extortion attempt of a chemical company plant, helped FBI agents in their investigation on the promise his common-law wife be set free and not charged in the case, a Denver FBI agent testified.

John McBride furnished investigators with details, such as the location of the bombs at the Gulf Oil Chemical Co. plant in Baytown, only if Jill Bird would be released from jail, said FBI agent Brian W. Jovick. He also led investigators to a house where explosive devices were found.

When asked by Bird's lawyer if Jovick got from McBride what

he had bargained for in the agreement, Jovick said "yes."

McBride's cooperation with authorities was discussed Wednesday in a Houston federal courtroom where U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald is conducting pretrial hearings for the extortion case.

A motion filed by Bird's lawyer asked the government to abide by an agreement hammered out in Denver by the FBI, U.S. Attorney's office and McBride, which said Bird would be granted immunity if McBride would furnish information.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Woods said he ignored the deal because the government and Bird because McBride did not supply the information pro-

secutors sought in the case.

Bird was indicted by a Houston grand jury and charged in the case, along with McBride, Michael Worth, former Texas college professor Ted McKinney and Timothy Justice.

Woods said the FBI was forced by threats from McBride to sign the agreement.

Authorities at the time of the deal were worried bombs were ticking inside a Gulf Oil Chemicals Co. chemical plant near Baytown, Texas. Five bombs were found and neutralized before any arrests were made.

Jovick said McBride gave the FBI the information they wanted, but he lied to them in taking responsibility for all of the actions.

"He wanted to lessen the involvement of his co-defendants. I asked him if Timothy Justice was involved, and he said, 'No.' We found out later when Timothy Justice confessed that

he was," Jovick said.

Justice, 30, a former Durango reserve police officer, has pleaded guilty to two charges and has agreed to testify against the others.

Water authorities say Lake Livingston safe

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE — Initial results of water tests conducted on Lake Livingston indicate the 90,000-acre lake was not contaminated with poisons which a caller said he planned to pour into the water.

"The results of the tests completed so far indicate we have nothing to be concerned about," John Jadrosich, a spokesman for the Trinity River Authority, said Wednesday. "But some of these tests take between 16 to 48 hours to complete."

An anonymous caller threatened Tuesday to dump poison in the lake, which is the primary water supply for three East Texas communities. Residents in Huntsville, Livingston and Westwood Shores were forced to drink well water while TRA officials tested the lake water.

Upon taking the threatening call Tuesday, the TRA headquarters in Huntsville immediately shut off three valves supplying water from the lake.

Huntsville, population 25,000; Livingston, with 6,000 people; and the small community of Westwood Shores had more than ample supplies of well water, officials there said.

Water from the man-made lake was being tested by the TRA and Aquachem Labs in Deer Park, about 70 miles from Huntsville, Jadrosich said.

Authorities watched for suspicious activity around the 400-mile perimeter of the lake, especially monitoring the three cities' withdrawal points.

"I think we are dealing with a very disturbed individual," Jadrosich said.

The TRA would only say the caller was male. A secretary took the call.

Grady Manis, an assistant regional manager for the TRA, said, "It's something you can't take a chance on."

Because of the size of the lake, Jadrosich said someone would have to dump a gallon of

poison directly into the water at an intake site to affect drinking water.

"If you dump a gallon of poison into middle of this lake, it would be so diluted it would be undetectable. But dump it on top of a withdrawal point? That would be something else," he said.

Official indicted for theft

United Press International
AUSTIN — A former staff member of the Travis County Democratic Party, David Gray, has been indicted on charges he stole more than \$30,000 in party funds.

The second-degree theft indictment returned Wednesday listed 20 separate thefts ranging from \$36 to \$5,000 that occurred from January 1982 until October 1982.

Gray handled business affairs for the party during the May and June primaries. He left the job in June, but continued to handle payments for the local party to cover primary expenses, party officials said.

The money was discovered missing in late November when the county party chairman found that a \$23,000 bill from an Austin printing company had gone unpaid.

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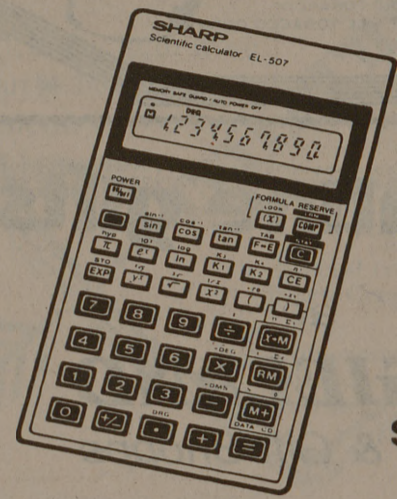
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