

Man charged in hijacking of Delta jet

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — The man police say commandeered the Delta Air Lines jumbo jet with a penknife was charged Thursday with air piracy and assaulting and intimidating flight attendants.

Ralph A. Hughes II, 34, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., had little to say at arraignment, telling federal magistrate Alex H. McGlinchey that he was not in a detail state.

Still looking dazed 18 hours after police wrestled him to the floor of the jet Wednesday night at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Hughes requested and was named a court-appointed attorney.

Asked by McGlinchey to detail his chances so the magistrate could determine whether Hughes could pay

If convicted, Hughes faces at least 20 years on the air piracy charge and up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine for assault.

— Assistant U.S. attorney Jimmy Tallant.

for a lawyer, Hughes said he had \$300 in hand and \$200 in a bank.

McGlinchey ordered Hughes to contribute \$500 towards the cost of the lawyer. The magistrate said the lawyer would be named Friday and ordered Hughes jailed until a detention hearing is held Monday.

If convicted, Hughes faces at least 20 years on the air piracy charge and up to 20 years and a \$250,000 fine on the other, assistant U.S. attorney Jimmy Tallant said.

Hughes, who said he attended North Texas State University for two years, told McGlinchey his last job was as a yacht hand in Florida, but that he hadn't worked for a month.

He did not explain why, according to police, he leaped up and grabbed flight attendant Gregory F. Puhek and put a knife to his throat just after Delta Flight 139 landed at D-FW on its way to Los Angeles from Fort Lauderdale.

At a news conference later, the chief police negotiator said Hughes' moods varied from "very excited" to "rational."

Gary Pinkston, detective sergeant of the airport police, "We feel like we know why he did it but I can't say now because of the pending case against him."

He said, however, there was no evidence that drugs or alcohol were involved.

Pinkston, the only negotiator to speak with Hughes during the incident, said the man "expressed concern for his family and their safety."

Tom Shehan, chief of airport police services, said small knives like the one Hughes carried aboard the aircraft are not prohibited by federal law.

Report shows Gramm campaign fund in debt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While Texas Republican Phil Gramm's campaign raised \$170,044 in the red, Democratic Lloyd Bentsen, who faces reelection in 1988, has \$618,935 in his campaign coffers, according to campaign finance reports for 1985 filed with the secretary of the Senate this week.

If history is any indication, Bentsen needs to raise several million more if he has any kind of opposition in the 1988 campaign.

Jack DeVore, his press secretary, said the three-term senator won't be doing any major fundraising before the 1986 elections.

There is no U.S. Senate election in Texas this year, but Democratic Gov. Mark White, other statewide elected officials, and 26 of the state's 27 congressmen are running for re-election.

Senators serve for six years. Bentsen was re-elected in 1982 and Gramm was elected in 1984 when Republican John Tower retired.

Senate campaign costs have been escalating dramatically. Bentsen spent about \$1.5 million in 1976 on both a primary race and general election campaign against Republican Alan Steelman, DeVore said.

In 1982, he spent about \$5 million

to defeat Republican Jim Collins.

Gramm spent almost \$10 million to defeat Democrat Lloyd Doggett in 1984.

Gramm reported spending \$152,239 during the second half of last year, the period covered by the most recent reports (which include figures for the whole year).

Much of that money went to lawyers and accountants in Gramm's dispute with the Federal Election Commission over his campaign finance reporting methods.

Gramm reported contributions of \$60,965 during the six months.

"I haven't done any real fundraising since the (1984) election,"

Gramm told the Dallas Times-Herald. "It's been something I would like to have time to deal with, but I got busy with other things."

Gramm is primary sponsor of the new balanced-budget law, known as Gramm-Rudman.

Gramm, the biggest recipient of contributions from political action committees in 1984, reported \$25,524 in PAC contributions during the last six months of 1985, and a \$42,608 total for the year.

Bentsen reported more than twice as much PAC activity, raising \$112,575 from the special-interest groups in 1985, though only \$5,500 during the reporting period.

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