

# Execution

Continued from Page 1

Five minutes later, the court received a request for a stay of execution and an application to hear appeal of Jones' sentence, court spokesman Ed Turner said.

The votes were 9-0 each time.

The vote was 6-3 on the court's rejection of James' appeal on Wednesday.

That decision marked the first time in a death penalty case by the court's newest member, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was among the three dissenting votes.

Attorneys took their 11th-hour appeals again to the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday after the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals turned them down.

James' attorneys also asked the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute the sentence to life, saying he had been abused as a child by an alcoholic father and also suffered from alcoholism.

"He was extremely intoxicated at the time of the crime," attorney Andy Welch said.

"When he was arrested, John cooperated fully with police, giving a full statement and lead-

ing them to the murder weapon. He also expressed great remorse and sorrow for his victims.

"I do not believe that his execution will serve justice or any other legitimate goal of our criminal justice system."

James was the second condemned killer to be put to death this week in Texas, the seventh in the last six weeks and the 14th this year.

He was convicted of the death of Barbara Mayfield, 47, one of two women abducted and shot Oct. 22, 1985.

Testimony showed James abducted Mayfield from a bar she operated in High Island, then shot her in the foot.

He put her in the trunk of her car and drove to a convenience store in Winnie, about 15 miles away, robbed it of \$200 and abducted the female clerk.

On an isolated road outside Winnie, he forced the two women to commit sexual acts with each other before he sodomized and raped at least one of them.

Then he shot them both with a .38-caliber pistol and left them in a roadside ditch, court records show. Relatives of one of the missing women found them.

# Ex-banker pleads guilty in illegal Iraq loans case

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A former banker pleaded guilty Thursday to three charges in a politically charged bank fraud case involving \$5.5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq.

The surprise plea came 11 months after Christopher Drogoul, 44, withdrew another guilty plea in the case and six days before he was to go on trial in U.S. District Court. He pleaded guilty to three counts in a 70-count indictment and agreed to accept a sentence of between 63 and 78 months in prison, said Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern.

Drogoul's lawyer, however, said he will ask that the banker be sentenced to the 17 months he has already served. Sentencing by U.S. District Judge G. Ernest Tidwell is scheduled for Nov. 29.

Drogoul was accused of engineering a network of loans and credit agreements to Iraq while managing the Atlanta branch of Italy's state-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro.

Though he maintained he was following orders from BNL headquarters in Rome, federal prosecutors insisted he acted alone and defrauded the bank and U.S. regulators.

Some of the loans to Iraq, funneled through a U.S. government program designed to encourage agricultural exports, allegedly were used to fortify Saddam Hussein's military before the Persian Gulf War.

Drogoul withdrew last year's plea midway through a sentencing hearing that included allegations of a massive coverup involving the Bush administration and BNL officials in Rome.

But he entered the new guilty plea to end the protracted case, "as a result of the urging of his family to terminate the nightmare," said his lawyer, Robert M. Simels.

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