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Bovo's Fate Now Up To Berrien Jury

Bondsman Accused Of Police Bribery

Berrien circuit court jurors faced with conflicting testimony by key prosecution and defense witnesses are expected to begin deliberating today on a charge of bribery against a twin cities bondsman.

Closing arguments were heard Tuesday in the evidence in the trial of Bondsman Frank R. Bovo, 36, of Benton township, ended at 7 p.m. Tuesday and jurors are expected to begin deliberations today after final arguments by both sides and judicial instructions.

Also expected to be ruled on today by Judge Chester J. Byrns is a defense motion for a directed verdict of innocent on charges that Bovo and Sheriff Donald Inmoos — was not a deputy at the time of the alleged offense, Dec. 4, 1969.

Bovo, in testimony during the week, has testified he received payoffs totaling $900 from Bovo on four dates including that Dec. 4 in return for granting

LOAN CLAIMED

Bovo, a longtime area resident and bail bondsman virtually the sole bondsman in the twin cities, has testified he made no bribe but loaned Inmoos money on the four dates including Dec. 4 so Inmoos could hire an attorney to arrange the adoption of his wife's daughter by a former husband.

Trial portion of the case ended midafternoon Tuesday — the fourth day of trial. After the close of Bovo's testimony, there was a brief rebuttal by witnesses for the prosecution, and prosecution allegations that a defense exhibit had been tampered with.

Also Tuesday, Defense Atty. Robert Hilton renewed a motion for directed verdict of innocent on grounds that Det. Inmoos was not a public employe on Dec. 4, 1969, as specified in the charge against Bovo. Hilton cited a legal irregularities in the filing of Inmoos' appointment by the county sheriff, oath of office and bond.

Judge Byrns reserved ruling on the motion but indicated he MAY rule today following a review of briefs by both sides on the question.

Det. Sgt. Robert Stanford Friday, continued Tuesday with details of various meetings with Det. Inmoos. Bovo testified he gave the officer money on Nov. 4, Dec. 4, 1969, and Jan. 4, 1970, in response to the officer's request for money to pay St. Joseph Atty. Cooper, a prosecution witness.

Det. Inmoos has denied receiving loans and has testified notes he received on these two dates and a check for $100 were payments for services to Bovo, including settling complaints for a gambling operation involving the bondsman.

Bovo, on the witness stand most recent, Bovo testified, to avoid a possible reprimand to Inmoos from his superiors.

Atty. Cooper, a prosecution witness, has testified that the Inmooses paid him $20 on Nov. 7, 1969, and $100 in March and still owe $110.36. Further he has testified that Bovo paid her a bill of $50.1970 to discharged the detective $200.

The prosecutor, Atty. Eugene Freedman, a bo alleged a fee Bovo has testified establish a listing of some items — was tampered with there Friday.

CROSSED OUT

Bovo testified he called Det. Lee Handley, a state policeman, who testified the name of David Hanner followed by a sum of money in the notebook here to Bovo's testimony but Tuesday was crossed out.

Bovo testified the book was in his possession, t to Friday, Saturday and Sunday and that he had not altered it.

Three other rebuttal witnesses, Deputy James Coburn, former Deputy Gary Mitchell and Benton Twp. Police Sgt. Robert Tuy, Friday, testified that Bovo offered to reward them for information damaging to Inmoos.

Bovo testified he asked them to "take care" of the expenses of informal intelligence gathering and help Coburn find a job elsewhere — not to offer bribes — under oath to offering to "take care" of the men if they provided information against Inmoos.

Deputy Coburn testified Bovo said his money was no problem and that Coburn could flee to Detroit or Chicago, drive a car and wear clothes of his own choosing.

Mitchell, now a state commerce department employe, testified Bovo told him he could make it worth Mitchell's while for information against Inmoos in court.

Prosecutor Lester testified Bovo asked him the status of investigations of alleged violations of the gambling investigation by Inmoos and at one point asked Lester if his home was paid for.

OFFER DENIED

Bovo under oath denied offering to pay for such information and has denied that corroborative if Inmoos received the television set.

Also called Tuesday by the prosecution was Rudolph Klose, who testified he is a brother of Benton Twp. Det. Sgt. Walter Klose of Benton Harbor. His testimony apparently was intended to corroborate Bovo's testimony that he talked about a woman with a Truman son mentioned in a note from Bovo. Bovo has denied writing or passing the note.

ROBERT J. TOUSSAINT

President Vows Big Changes

New president of Twin City Toastmasters club, No. 1410 of Benton Harbor is Robert J. Toussaint, 36, of 1370 South Bonny Bruce drive, Stevensville, in a financial analysis manager at Whirlpool Corp. He succeeds Dale Culver.

Other officers are Bob Crawford, educational vice president; Dale Culver, administrative vice president; Harry Gomez, secretary; Jack Tilton, treasurer and Ashok Dikshit, sergeant-at-arms.

Toussaint has been a resident of the area 2½ years. He joined the Toastmasters Benton club shortly after moving to the Twin Cities area from Canton, Ohio.

He and his wife, the former Barbara Ann Ruth, have two children. Toussaint is a graduate of Tri-State college, Angola, Ind. and is a member of the Ohio Certified Public Accountants association.

Soldier Killed In War Zone

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has announced that Pfc. Donald L. Barker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Barker, Menden, Mich., died in Southeast Asia recently not as a result of hostile action.

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