—Swisher denies probe

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When asked by the AFRO if he has knowledge of what his assistants do during any investigations, Swisher replied, "Most of the time. Not all of the time. But we have a good staff of people and we remain within the law in conducting investigations. The federal people are breathing down our necks and we have to be careful."

The question about the investigative activities specifically of Denholm and Assistant State's Attorney Mary Ann Willen came up after the AFRO had received numerous reports from reliable sources about the photos and questions on Judge Allen, Col. Watkins, Atty. Murphy and Rep. Mitchell.

The latest report involved information from those present April 17 just prior to a Part 9 Criminal Court case of a man indicted for perjury before the grand jury.

The man under Indictment No. 1736132, Edward Wells, was charged with lying to the grand jury about his seeing the dead Dope King Elijah Davis make payoffs to Officer Vernon May and another person, Herman Powers, paying Col. James H. Watkins a bribe.

With all information a matter of record in Criminal Court and some of it taped and placed on record, the facts reveal that a pre-trial conference was held in Swisher's offices.

One of the persons present during the pre-trial action in the Court House said, "They really put Wells through something." Wells is now out on a work - release program, lodged at a halfway house and in custody of his employer. He received a suspended $50 fine).

During several conferences with assistant state's attorneys, Wells was reminded he faced a maximum of 60 years in jail for narcotics violations and the grand jury perjury indictment.

The conference in Swisher's offices came after the hallway chats. In all of them, Wells was offered reduction of terms and even freedom if he would change his story.

Swisher denies ever being present along with his assistants in his offices.

He said, "I don't know anybody named Wells. I may have passed through the office when there was a conference but I can not be involved personally so I can take an objective view later. I have a highly visible office. I am a highly visible guy.

My office is used for conferences because the Court House is too cheap to get a conference room. Anybody and everybody comes in here."

He said he had no knowledge of Wells' being told, "If you go to the Grand Jury and tell them what we want you to say, then we'll see about your release."

Until the last moment, Wells persisted he wanted to tell the truth and would rather remain in jail than to lie.

The background of the Wells case which is a matter of record begins when he was first asked to give testimony to the Grand Jury in the Fall of 1977.

Lodged at Baltimore City Jail awaiting trial, Wells was taken to the Court House for a conference and asked what he knew about Detective David Brice and Col. James H. Watkins.

Wells said he was a "collector" for Elijah Davis.

He said he had met Brice and did not know of Watkins' activities.

Brice is quoted as saying he would meet Wells that Monday, Sept. 19, at the jail to talk with him.

Assistant State's Attorney Denholm then said, "Don't forget which side you are on" and inserted he would meet Wells at the jail "after you see Brice and you tell us everything Brice says."

After the Brice meeting and Wells was back in jail, Denholm, Capt. Leon Tomlin, Officer Charles Smoot and two others went there and asked him what happened.

This meeting at Police Headquarters also saw Wells being questioned and shown the photos of Judge Allen, Col. Watkins, Attorney Murphy, TV newsman Holly and Rep. Mitchell.

Wells was advised he faced 60 years but could be taken out of jail "free." However, Wells stated he did not want to leave jail.

Wells was picked up a day or two later and instead of going to court he was taken to the State's Attorney's Offices.

There, he was informed if he told the Grand Jury "the right story" he was in line for freedom.

Wells went before the Grand Jury that day and afterwards was taken to a nearby hotel and later moved to an Eastern Shore jail.

He revealed he set a fire in the place intentionally so he could get out of the prison.

Before he was returned to the Baltimore jail he was taken to another hotel.

Appearing before the Grand Jury several times, he was told "You've got to make them believe you. Say it with feeling."

The "once more with feeling" routine came again and again in conferences at the Court House hallways April 17. Wells refused each time although offers stepped the probable sentence down from 60 to four years, to probation, a fine and then total freedom.

Each time Wells said he wanted to testify and tell the truth "because I am not guilty of perjury."

After Wells "had gone through something" with so many such offers and so many conversations, he and his attorney and others went inside a locked courtroom and giving in, he took a plea of guilty to perjury.

Later, Wells is quoted as saying, "I did something wrong. My lawyer changed on me and I was left by myself. I have 30 days to appeal my case. I was given a suspended fine of $50.

"I shouldn't have accepted the guilty charge. It's something I'll have to live with my whole life."

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—'Eggy' Davis gets 15 years

(Continued from Page 1)

Davis, who told the court he was employed as a janitor, faces federal drug charges.

Barely out of jail two years, Davis was indicted by the Federal Court on narcotics charges in February 1978.

The federal court indictment states that Davis is charged with three counts of distribution of heroin and cocaine worth $1,500 when he allegedly sold heroin to a federal agent.

He was arrested on the federal charges on Jan. 29 by federal agents at his home. The pending indictment charges him with narcotic activities in September and October 1977.

Davis formerly operated a High's Ice Cream Store in the 4000 block York Road and has a lengthy arrest and conviction record that dates back to 1953.

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Mayor not strong on the idea

Lee tells Eastsiders prison will be built at Armistead

The head of the Concerned Citizens of East Baltimore said this week Acting Gov. Blair Lee III has promised the group that the proposed 890 bed prison will be built at the Fort Armistead site, rather than the Continental Can site.

Mrs. Zatella Giles, coordinator of the Concerned citizens, told the AFRO Wednesday that Lee had told the group that as far as he was concerned the prison would be built at the Fort Armistead site.

"He assured us that the prison would be built there," she said. "He said he was not playing dirty tricks and he was going to try to obtain the property before the election and the only trouble would probably come from the Mayor."

Lee met for 10 minutes with the grassroots group that fought against having the prison built on the controversial Continental Can site right after he formed a three - member task force to study the legal and engineering problems of the site.

The task force, which will be made up of state, city and federal government workers, is expected to expedite preliminary work on the shift which was approved by the General Assembly from the Continental Can Co. factory site to the Fort Armistead site.

The state has until Feb. 15, 1979 to obtain a clear title to the property or the prison site will return to the Continental Can site.

It is this clause, according to Mrs. Giles, that worries the members of the Concerned Citizens who felt that Lee would waste time in obtaining clear title to the site.

Mayor William Donald Schaefer, who preferred that the new prison be built near the State Penitentiary downtown, said he is not sure he agrees with Lee that the site location is "finished business."

"Continental Can was finished business," he said adding that Lee had agreed with him at one point that a much smaller tract of land available near the Penitentiary would be a good spot for a reduced prison.

But despite Schaefer's objections over the prison site, he said he would not try to persuade the city park board to block plans to put a prison at the Fort Armistead site.

Crew orders special crews to clean up cafeterias

School Superintendent John L. Crew Sr. said Thursday he has authorized special crews to work overtime to eliminate mice and roach infestations at school cafeterias by next week.

Crew said the state health code violations at nine school cafeterias would be eliminated by rodent control workers and kitchen staff, who will clean up the facilities.

The state bureau of Food and Drug Control inspected randomly chosen schools earlier this week and reported that nine out of 10 failed to meet minimum health standards.

The report said: "Severe mouse and - or roach infestations were noted in all school cafeterias surveyed."

Dishwashers were not functioning properly in nearly all the schools and dishes were not sanitized in the final rinse as required, the report said.

But Ronald Neson, chief of the state food bureau, said the schools' cafeterias remained open because the reviews were not "enforcement" inspections.

Crew said school officials will begin reviewing sanitation conditions at all public schools.

Another report by the state bureau of food and drug control this week - criticized city inspectors for not maintaining health standards at restaurants, bars and food stores.

John Dehoff, the city health commission, said Wednesday he will seek additional budget money to pay for additional sanitary experts.

Dehoff said manpower shortages caused by fiscal restraints of the city budget have reduced the department's ability to regularly inspect food establishments.

Dehoff said, "I am not content with this situation."

Dehoff said the city Food Control Bureau's 13 inspectors are responsible for 6,000 establishments, - or 461 per inspector, compared to the recommended ratio of one inspector per 300 establishments.

Applications ready for postal openings

Applications may be picked up April 24 - 28 for examinations to be held in May to fill job openings with the Post Office.

Exams will be for clerk - carrier, Level 5; mail handler, Level 4; labor custodian, Level 4, and substitute rural carrier.

Applications may be picked up at the Main Post Office and the following branch stations: Druid Hill, Arlington, Brooklyn - Curtis Bay, Carroll, Govans, Highlandtown, Middle River, Pikesville and Raspeburg.

Morgan will keep black food firm

Morgan State University announced this week that it will continue its contract with Gourmet Services Inc., the black - owned company that services the cafeteria on campus.

"Since Gourmet withdrew their escalation request for an increase in price, Morgan has decided not to put the contract out to bid," according to MSU spokesperson Brenda Ferguson, who said she was quoting other university officials.

The company has one year left in its three - year contract with the university and when it recently asked for a five percent cost of living increase, Morgan's president Andrew Billingley said he would send the contract out to bid, the AFRO reported last week.

This meant that other food service companies could possibly underbid Gourmet and get the contract.

Nathaniel Goldston, president of Gourmet, will meet at Morgan April 27 "to go over the continuation of the contract," according to Ms. Diane Hall, Gourmet's executive secretary.

Notre Dame to hold open house

The College of Notre Dame of Maryland's Continuing Education program will hold an open house on April 25, 26 and 27.

Interested adults can sit in on classes, meet with other students, inquire about returning to school after being away several years and obtain career, financial and internship information.

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