



Auto crash in Farmington

The cause of a serious automobile accident late Friday night in Farmington is still under investigation by the Farmington Public Safety Department. The mishap, which involved two vehicles, closed Eight Mile Road between Farmington and Merriman roads. Two persons, one male and one female, were transported to Botsford Hospital Farmington Hills, according to police.



Photographed by
Gary Friedman
and Craig Newman

Suspected hit man bound over after exam

By ROBERT KIPPER

OAKLAND COUNTY—The case of the suspected Detroit hit man, which attracted growing newspaper and television attention last week, moved noisily to circuit court Friday.

Chester W. Campbell, the alleged hit man, was bound over to stand trial in circuit court on all four of the charges brought against him.

18th District Court Judge Alice Gilbert made the ruling after a dramatic day-and-a-half preliminary examination during which Campbell brusquely took the stand on his own behalf and prosecution and defense attorneys freely argued the case in and out of the court room.

Campbell, who was arrested by Orchard Lake police Feb. 6 after a minor traffic accident and who since has been characterized by police sources as a hard-assed son of a Detroit narcotics underworld, faces three charges of carrying a concealed weapon and a fourth charge of possession of heroin.

JUDGE GILBERT did reduce the unusually high \$1 million bond against Campbell to \$100,000 per charge. However, Campbell's attorneys still argued that bond was too high and called Judge Gilbert's entire ruling "verminous."

Claiming that Campbell had been illegally searched by police and victimized by damaging allegations in the press, Campbell's attorneys vowed to appeal their client's case until he is freed.

Campbell, who quietly stroked his beard when Judge Gilbert read her ruling, was otherwise an outspoken witness. Unlike most defendants, who remain mute while their case is being heard, Campbell frequently spoke and was spoken to.

While on the witness stand, Campbell invited Richard Thompson, assistant Oakland County prosecutor, to continue drilling him with tough questions. During court recesses, Campbell often turned around to talk with his friends in the audience.

ON AT least two occasions, Campbell agreed to talk with reporters and, without hostility in his voice, labeled much of what they'd written as "garbage" and insisted he was innocent. Sometimes under his breath and often openly, Campbell ridiculed Thompson, who had repeated to newsmen the allegation that Campbell was a hit man.

"That idiot over there," Campbell said, referring to Thompson. "He

calls me a hit man. I oughta hit him in the mouth."

Speculation about Campbell's role in the narcotics underworld often overshadowed the matters before Judge Gilbert, which ostensibly dealt only with weapons and drug charges.

ALMOST DAILY new revelations surfaced about Campbell and what had been found in his automobile.

Among the discovered items were four guns including a .43 caliber automatic pistol found loaded and cocked, on Campbell's front seat and a sawed off shotgun found in a locked attache case in the trunk, pockets of heroin, \$8,000 in cash and two sets of false identification.

What attracted the most attention, however, were 29 notebooks found in Campbell's trunk in them were crammed the names of law enforcement officials, newsmen and suspected victims of execution-style murders.

According to one Detroit newspaper, at least 10 of the names in Campbell's notebooks were suspected victims of drug-related executions.

THE NOTEBOOKS also reportedly listed the names and whereabouts of undercover police officers and many of the secret witnesses scheduled to appear in the upcoming narcotics conspiracy trial involving the 10th (Laverne) Precinct in Detroit.

Alongside the names in the notebooks were telephone and automobile license numbers, addresses and car descriptions, and names of relatives. Police also reportedly found photographs of police officials and undercover agents.

The publicity has also detailed Campbell's criminal background. He was convicted of second degree murder in 1956 and spent 11 years in prison. Between 1946 and 1950, he was convicted four times for burglary.

Detroit police have been seeking Campbell for the past two years in connection with the 10th Precinct drug scandal. He was among the 28 persons indicted by a Wayne County citizens' grand jury in that case.

ACCORDING TO one newspaper account Friday, investigators believe Campbell had a contract to assassinate the key witness in that 10th precinct case. Then the name of Wiley Reed, the star witness, was found in Campbell's car and sources close to the investigation believe the contract to kill Reed was "let" in the summer of 1972, according to that news account.

Throughout the examination in district court last week, Campbell insist-

ed he didn't fit the role of underworld killer. With news articles spread out among his other papers on the defense table, Campbell roared.

"Why do they say those things about me?"

"How am I gonna hold my head up? I don't know how I'm gonna face people."

ASKED ON the witness stand why he carried four guns in the car, Campbell said the two pistols were "for my protection" and the firearms in the trunk "were just there."

"When people been calling me the names they been calling me, I need them (the guns)," Campbell said.

Asked about the notebooks of names, Campbell said they were people he caught "lurking" around some of the businesses he has owned. Police say Campbell is co-owner of a Detroit bar, a funeral home and a gas station, but Campbell was vague on particulars.

Campbell also insisted he used many of the names in connection with his work as a free-lance legal researcher, a skill Campbell said he acquired during his years in prison.

Asked why the serial numbers were drilled off one of his pistols—which is usually done to avoid tracing a gun to its owner—Campbell said the gun was like that when he got it.

Asked why he carried so much money, Campbell asked, "Where is the crime in that?"

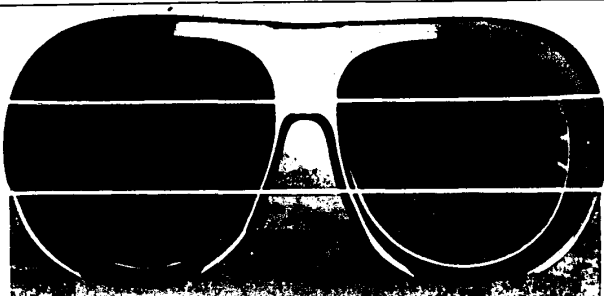
WHEN CAMPBELL wasn't answering allegations, he frequently offered some of his own.

He signaled out two Detroit newspaper reporters and said they "were on his s--- list" for printing the things they did. He accused Thompson of "harassing" his friend Mary Williams, an Orchard Lake woman he frequently visits at her home on Commerce Lake Road. (Thompson said he only questioned her.)

And Campbell blasted Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, charging him with exploiting Campbell's case for political advantage.

"I'm a victim of Oakland County politics," Campbell said. "We all know Patterson's trying to further his personal ambitions, but he's not sticking to the facts."

Patterson, as well as former Detroit police commissioner (now Oakland undersheriff) John Nichols, were the only Oakland County law enforcement officials identified as of Friday as being included in Campbell's notebooks.



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