

Cocaine deal brings prison term, fine

A Farmington Hills man was sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$500,000 for his conviction on charges of conspiring to buy 22 pounds of cocaine and selling it in the Detroit area.

Following sentencing April 8, U.S. District Judge George Woods freed former labor consultant Leonard Schultz, 59, on \$500,000 personal bond, but ordered him to report to federal authorities May 4.

Defense attorney Robert Harrison of Birmingham had requested proba-

tion, a fine or community service work instead of a prison term.

"The stigma and ill publicity accompanying proceedings is significant punishment for a man of his stature," said attorney David Zacks, an associate of Harrison.

Defense attorneys cited Schultz's age and ill health, including skin cancer, high blood pressure and arthritis. "Any period of incarceration could be a life sentence," Zacks said.

"Mr. Schultz, in fact, voluntarily

cooperated with the federal government as an informant for 35 years without remuneration. We felt that type of civic contribution was meaningful and should rightly be considered by the judge at sentencing," Zacks said.

HARRISON WILL appeal to the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to have Schultz remain free on bond pending appeal of the conviction.

"At the time of his arrest and ar-

raignment, the FBI recommended personal bond and no travel restrictions," Zacks said. "It's clear he's not a threat to the community nor is he likely to flee."

A three-count, grand jury indictment unsealed March 27, 1986, alleged that Schultz conspired with Alan Jay Nadell, 55, of North Miami Beach, Fla., to buy 10 kilograms, or 22 pounds, of cocaine in Florida and resell it in metro Detroit. The conspiracy allegedly occurred between December 1984 and March 1985.

Schultz was charged with conspiring to sell cocaine, using a telephone to arrange a cocaine deal and traveling across state lines as part of the drug transaction.

Under a plea agreement reached in 1985, Nadell agreed to testify as a key government witness against

Schultz in exchange for lifetime probation.

Nadell had been charged with delivery of 225-500 grams of cocaine, punishable by a minimum of 20 years in prison, but agreed to plead guilty to delivery of 50-225 grams, punishable by up to 20 years in prison. He was sentenced to lifetime probation in April 1985, Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga said.

MARLINGA SAID investigators knew, "from our undercover unit, the County of Macomb Enforcement Team, that Mr. Nadell was making this deal in connection with, and really is the front man for, a Leonard Schultz, who was a known associate of members of organized crime."

A federal court jury convicted Schultz Feb. 10 following a week-

long trial. "Mr. Schultz was certainly involved in a cocaine transaction, but the reason was to cause the arrest of the dealers, not to make a profit," Zacks said. "The evidence was clear. He didn't need the money."

Schultz's conviction will be appealed on technical grounds, Zacks said.

The appeal also will be based on the allegation that one of the jurors was too heavily sedated with medication to properly execute his duties during the trial and deliberations, Zacks said.

The U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division Organized Crime and Racketeering Section's Detroit Strike Force headed the investigation into Schultz's alleged cocaine trafficking.

Help for elderly

Faxon bill would curb health costs

By Joanne Maliszowski
staff writer

State Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, is trying again to improve the elderly's access to affordable health insurance.

Faxon recently introduced Senate bills 26 and 27 that would, if adopted, allow elderly parents to be included under their children's health insurance.

"If they live together (with their children), they would be covered for their supplemental, which is often costly," Faxon said.

Some see Faxon's bills as providing a way for the elderly to have coverage for items that Medicare does not pay for and that are unavailable either than under expensive supplemental policies.

"It would definitely be a help to them if they are counted as a family," said Joyce Hunt, a Medicare health advocacy services coordina-

tor for the Area Agency on Aging. "People who can afford it can buy supplemental," Hunt said, for coverage of prescriptions, optical and dental expenses. "But it is expensive." Loretta Conway, supervisor of senior adult activities for the Farmington Hills Special Services Department, supports Faxon's bills.

"THE BILLS FOR putting elderly on their (children's) insurance is a fine idea," Conway said. "It's not difficult to get insurance. But many people are concerned about good coverage so they get several policies. To make sure they are covered, they will buy several when they don't have to."

The proposed changes would "make it easier for caring families to be able to care for their families," Faxon said.

Faxon has introduced similar bills in previous legislative sessions; however, they were never reported out of committee.

In the past, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan opposed Faxon's proposed changes because company officials maintained health-care costs would increase substantially, said Rudolph Difazio, director of media relations.

"WE HAVEN'T taken a current position on the (new) bills. We are reviewing them. We didn't support the past ones. But we approach everyone (each new bill) fresh," Difazio said. Yet Difazio said Faxon's bills provide for benefits "that some extent are available now to many subscribers and they only have to have proof of actual financial need."

Faxon's bills, he said, would "open

the door to allow any subscriber to add parents whether they (parents) have a financial need or not."

That, in turn, will increase costs for employers who must pick up the additional costs of having parents covered under offsprings' policies, Difazio said.

"Younger employees will be subsidizing benefits for older employees who have added their parents to the contract," he added.

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Headlee opposes tax hike

AP — Richard Headlee, president and chief executive officer of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America in Farmington Hills, says he will lead a group fighting proposed school-tax increases across Michigan this spring and early summer.

Headlee is the author of the 1978 constitutional amendment limiting property tax boosts. A Republican, he lost the 1982 gubernatorial race to Democrat James Blanchard.

The group — Taxpayers United for the Michigan Constitution — will lobby against local millage increases for schools, he said.

Headlee said April 9 that his group wants to let people know that "by voting 'no,' they will be responsible for protecting the . . . property tax rates guaranteed them by the Headlee tax limitation amendment."

Headlee criticized the state Department of Education for mounting "well-financed" and "dishonest" campaigns supporting millage increases. He said the use of public money should be limited to information efforts.

Ned Hubbell, a spokesman for the department, acknowledged that state schools Superintendent Phillip Hunkel and other officials have campaigned for millage increases in local school districts.

"WE OPEN public information centers to tell voters how their taxes would change under a proposed millage increase," Hubbell said. "He (Hunkel) has been a great believer in urging people to support the needs of the kids in the local district."

Headlee also charged that the state was shifting about \$400 million a year away from education and into other programs.

"In the current controversy over the need for property tax relief, Michigan citizens should be aware that our constitution already mandates property tax rollbacks this year and prohibits the state from shifting money away from local schools," Headlee said.

He urged people to ask their lawmakers to "stop penalizing school districts by lowering appropriations of state aid."

Education Department officials said a recent state Supreme Court ruling says Michigan isn't committed to a certain level of school financing, except for specific programs like special education.

Douglas Roberts, deputy state schools superintendent, said the Headlee amendment requires at least \$4.6 billion for all local governments for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. Blanchard's proposed budget calls for \$4.9 billion, he said.

"It's my understanding that the budget proposed by the governor has a \$300 million cushion," Roberts said.

The governor has said that state school spending per student has increased 72 percent in the past four years.

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