

\$1 million home seized by U.S. agents in probe

By Greg Kowalski
staff writer

A \$1 million Bloomfield Township house was among seven properties seized by agents of the Internal Revenue Service and the Customs Service last week as part of an investigation of an alleged money-laundering operation.

A Farmington Hills house also was searched in the investigation. The 4,500-square-foot Bloomfield Township house on Golf Ridge near Wabec Lake is owned by Ronnie Hudson, said Richard Hoglund, head of criminal investigations for the Customs Service.

Neither Hudson nor any of the other owners of houses or businesses that were seized or charged with crimes, Hoglund said. Agents also seized the Fatal Attraction bar on Eight Mile Road, which they said is owned by Hudson. The bar, once known as the Silent Woman, was not open yet because it had not yet obtained a liquor license.

SIX RENTED residences in Detroit were also seized. In addition, agents searched two Royal Oak jewelry stores — Gold Corp. and

Khalife Brothers Jewelry. Goods and documents were removed from the stores and boxes of documents were taken from Hudson's house, Hoglund said.

The houses of four men also were searched: Paul Khalife of West Bloomfield Township, Walid Khalife of Bloomfield Township, Jamal Khalife of Bloomfield Hills and Fred Abdenour of Farmington Hills.

Neither the stores nor the people have listed phone numbers. "The evidence acquired through the searches will be used to go to a grand jury," for possible criminal charges, Hoglund said.

Hoglund added that the raids were part of a "larger operation" involving the IRS and the Customs Service.

He declined to comment on a report that the money was being laundered through a prostitution operation in Detroit. In money laundering, illegal cash is passed through a business and made to appear to be legitimate profits.

Bloomfield Township police went along to assist the federal agents but did not directly participate in their actions, Lt. Jeffrey Werner said.

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The state Senate tacked a \$50,000 grant for the Holocaust Memorial Center in West Bloomfield onto a supplemental appropriations bill. That was a victory for Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

But senators also stripped \$25 million in cultural "equity" aid and plunked it into welfare before sending the heavily amended bill to the House. That was a victory for Sen. Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo.

"It'll probably go to conference," said Sen. R. Robert Geake, R-Northville, who chairs the Senate subcommittee on social services. Geake expects the House to make major changes, which the conference committee will have to iron out.

FAXON, WHO prides himself on winning key amendments in a Republican-dominated chamber, said the vote "represents our commitment to the truth of history. The efforts of the revisionists are vigorously denied."

He referred to a California group's advertisement in a college paper saying the Holocaust — Hitler's systematic extermination of 6 million European Jews before and during World War II — never occurred. "Millions of lost lives are not forgotten," Faxon said.

His amendment restores a major portion of the

\$55,000 in state money the Holocaust center got in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

"There was general agreement so new items would be added to this bill, though a number of worthy programs were proposed," said Geake of senators shut down most other amendments.

The Holocaust amendment passed 24 to 11. Area supporters were Republicans Michael Bouchard of Birmingham, Mat Dunaski of Lake Orion, David Hoagman of West Bloomfield and Democrats Faxon, William Faust of Westland and George Hart of Dearborn.

Opposed were Geake and most of the Republican leadership.

IN AN UNRECORDED vote, senators gave a bare 20 votes to Welborn's amendment to strip the entire \$25 million from the "equity" package and \$2 million for the Grand Rapids Museum and add it to social services.

Arts supporters such as Faxon and Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, argued against eliminating arts funding, even for welfare.

"The expense of closing down (museums) is enormous. Culture should not be done away with," said Faxon.

"If we lose our major cultural institutions, we lose our ability to attract new business," said Pollack.

The debate turned into a rules squabble when Pollack asked to have her dissenting remarks

printed in the Senate Journal. Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, a 23-year Senate veteran, joined Republican leaders in objecting because the rollcall was unrecorded. Pollack's remarks were finally allowed in.

THE BILL would:

- Authorize \$1.8 million for a power plant for Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland.
- Add \$18 million for prisons in Macomb, Saginaw, Mainstreet and Baraga counties.
- Restore \$4.1 million for Science Building II at Central Michigan University.

It would add \$97 million to the Department of Social Services budget to:

- Restore adoption subsidies.
- Establish criteria for the state disability program.
- Reimburse county medical care facilities.
- Require hospitals to encourage fathers to acknowledge paternity, a reflection on the state's 20 percent out-of-wedlock birth rate.
- Fund a delinquency prevention and treatment program.
- Restore and supplement foster care for children.
- Supplement domestic violence prevention programs.

Geake said another bill, not yet introduced, would be aimed at restoring Wayne County's patient care management system.

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However, if you suffer from a continuing arthritis that requires intensive therapy or your joint condition is not under control despite institution of appropriate medication, rheumatologic consultation is in order. If you have joint pain and impaired mobility and are without a diagnosis, then you should make an appointment with a rheumatologist, likely at least once, and possibly for long term management.
A specialist is also useful if you are uncertain if your problem is musculoskeletal or if you are not sure if the present care you receive represents "all that can be done." Rheumatologists are prepared to discuss both these matters.
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