

3/19/93 Chi. Trib. 2
1993 WLNR 4069121

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Copyright 1993 Chicago Tribune Company

March 19, 1993

Section: CHICAGOLAND\

RUKN SAYS HE WAS TOLD FIX WAS IN
Matt O'Connor.

A former El Rukn hit man testified Thursday that he agreed to let a judge with a "hard" reputation decide his fate on double-murder charges in 1986 only after the gang's corrupt attorney assured him he could fix the case.

But Earl Hawkins, a longtime Rukn "general," said he was convicted of both murders days after attorney William Swano told him that the judge, Thomas Maloney, returned the bribe money because the case "was too hot."

The testimony by Hawkins, who is on Death Row as a result of Maloney's verdict, came during Maloney's federal trial on bribery allegations.

Maloney, who retired in 1990 after 13 years on the bench, is charged with taking \$10,000 from Swano to fix the trial of Hawkins and Rukn co-defendant Nathson Fields for the murders of a rival drug dealer and his wife.

But prosecutors allege that Maloney sensed too much publicity on the case, returned the cash to Swano and convicted both defendants.

Hawkins testified Swano told him he would need about \$20,000 to give to the judge "and we can beat it."

Hawkins said he had no intention at first of letting Maloney decide his fate, because he "was known as a hard judge . . . who (would) give you a lot of (prison) time."

But Hawkins said that Swano insisted he could work with Maloney. "I've worked with him before," Hawkins testified Swano told him. "The only case I ever lost to him was an armed robbery case where the guy didn't give me no money to give to the judge."

After the trial started, Hawkins testified Swano told him he had passed the bribe money on to

Maloney. But days later, Swano told him the judge had returned it.

Hawkins said Swano had appeared "surprised" and "scared" when he first told him the judge had reneged on the deal.

Maloney's lawyers contend Swano scammed the Rukns into believing the judge would fix the case for a payoff so he could pocket the money himself.

But Hawkins insisted Thursday, "If something went wrong, it went wrong with the judge."

Hawkins, who has admitted killing five people and conspiring in the murders of 10 others, said he hopes his cooperation with federal authorities will help in the appeal of his death sentence.

Under cross-examination by Marc Martin, one of Maloney's lawyers, Hawkins admitted he snorted cocaine, smoked five to 10 marijuana cigarettes and drank 3 to 4 ounces of codeine syrup almost every day from 1980 until his arrest in 1985.

In chilling detail, Hawkins explained how he and Anthony Sumner killed a drug dealer and his wife in 1985 after going to their South Side home one morning to rob the dealer of cocaine and money.

After he fatally shot the dealer, Joseph White, Hawkins admitted he fired two bullets into Dee Eggers Vaughn.

Hawkins also testified he saw Swano snort cocaine at Rukn headquarters a couple of times.

Under questioning by Assistant U.S. Atty. William Hogan Jr., Hawkins said that, to his knowledge, Swano, who represented many Rukns in murder trials, never tried to fix any of them except for the one before Maloney.

Swano, who pleaded guilty to racketeering in 1991 and claims that he fixed four cases with Maloney, is expected to be the government's key witness in the trial, now in its third week in U.S. District Court.

Copyright © 1993 Chicago Tribune Company

---- INDEX REFERENCES ---

NEWS SUBJECT: (Violent Crime (1VI27); Crime (1CR87); Social Issues (1SO05))

REGION: (USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); North America (1NO39))

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (ASSISTANT U S ATTY; EL RUKN; FIX; MALONEY; RUKN; RUKN CO) (Anthony Sumner; Earl Hawkins; Hawkins; Joseph White; Maloney; Marc Martin; Nathson Fields; Swano; Thomas Maloney; William Hogan Jr.; William Swano)

KEYWORDS: COURT; OFFICIAL; BRIBERY; ISSUE

EDITION: NORTH SPORTS FINAL\

Word Count: 646

3/19/93 CHICAGOTR 2

END OF DOCUMENT