

Testimony finds

Armsbury, Oba linked to Eugene bombings

By JOHN LANIER
Of the Emerald

Legal proceedings involving two former University students continued to make the news over the Christmas vacation in hearings dealing with the setting of bail and in testimony allegedly linking the two to a series of bombings in the Eugene area.

The two are:

Charles Duane Armsbury, 28, currently serving two consecutive 10-year terms at McNeil Island federal penitentiary after his conviction last year on a charge of illegal possession of a sawed-off shotgun.

Armsbury is a former teaching fellow in sociology at the University. He was also a candidate for mayor of Eugene in 1968 and a member of the Eugene Patriot Party.

Richard J. Oba, presently free on bail pending an appeal in federal court of his conviction for violation of the federal firearms control act stemming from a series of bombings in the Eugene area on the night of May 19, 1969.

Oba had pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a destructive device and was sentenced to an eight-year prison term in connection with the charge. He was a University student at the time of his arrest.

Oba testified in a federal judge's chamber in Portland on Dec. 24 that Armsbury had attended discussions in Eugene prior to the 1969 bombings in which the bombings were discussed.

He also testified that he was at least partially responsible for the bombings, which did an estimated \$100,000 in damage to a University office, the Eugene Register-Guard building, a state highway department building and a church.

The testimony, before U.S. Dist. Judge Alfred T. Goodwin, was part of a hearing on a motion which would have established bail for Armsbury while he appeals his conviction and 10-year sentence.

Oba had earlier refused to testify at a similar hearing and had been jailed under provisions of a recently passed crime control measure.

Answering questions posed by U.S. Atty. Sidney I. Lezak, Oba failed to confirm that a definite meeting had occurred in which plans for the bombings were discussed.

According to the Portland Oregonian, another government witness, former Black Panther member Arthur Cox, has testified

that such a meeting did take place, but Armsbury has denied it.

Cox testified that the meeting took place in Oba's apartment and that Armsbury was involved in the planning of the bombings.

Cox said he had given the information in the hope that it would help him in a probation he is presently serving after being convicted of being an ex-convict in possession of a firearm.

Oba testified that he had had conversations with Armsbury about the bombings, but that Armsbury's role "was secondary." "He didn't say much," Oba said, "he just nodded his head."

Oba also said that Armsbury didn't have dynamite in his possession, that "it was given to him," and that he understood Armsbury was "I suppose to explode (the dynamite) like I did."

The former student said he had discussed the purpose of the bombings with Armsbury and they had concluded they would raise the awareness of the people about conditions in American society.

After the bombings "I think we both came to the conclusion that the bombing was a mistake," he said.

Oba told the judge he does not

believe Armsbury is a threat to the community, and that the former teaching fellow is now dedicated to helping the poor and dispossessed.

Lezak said after the hearing that it was the first time Oba had "admitted" his part in the bombings. He added that the government would not attempt to prosecute Oba further in connection with the bombings.

Lezak also said that Oba had refused an offer of immunity from prosecution because "he said he didn't want people to think that was the only reason he was testifying."

Goodwin had originally set bail for Armsbury at \$25,000 for his appeal, but later revoked all bail on the grounds that Armsbury was "a threat to the community."

The Dec. 24 bail hearing, and one earlier that week, were held on order of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ordered that Goodwin conduct a public bail hearing at which both sides could present evidence.

Goodwin still has not set bail, however, and has instead asked for an explanation of the Circuit Court's order, the last legal maneuver open to the judge before making a decision.

At the earlier bail hearing, Armsbury stated "I know I'm not

a danger to the community."

He also said that he opposed violence, that he was seeking an end to it, and that the weapons in his possession at the time of his arrest (February 1970) were for self-defense against earlier attacks on the Patriot Party headquarters.

At the Dec. 24 hearing Armsbury testified that he wasn't involved in the bombings and that he knew Oba but didn't know he had dynamite.

Armsbury and his lawyer, Ross Brown, objected to Oba's being allowed to testify and called the session "a trumped up hearing," because the public was excluded, his regular attorney was out of town and no witnesses were present who could have countered Oba's testimony.

Brown told the judge that Oba's testimony supported Armsbury's contentions because there was no evidence linking Armsbury directly to any specific meeting.

U.S. Atty. Lezak contended that Oba's statements did link Armsbury to the bombings and said: "We now have established that he is a bomber."

Goodwin is expected to rule on the bail request sometime this month. Meanwhile, Armsbury remains in custody and his appeal remains in the court system.

'Devastating' if not

Lallas says building funds need to be given University

Criticism of Governor Tom McCall's building construction cutbacks in his 1971-73 budget has been aired by University Planning Director John Lallas.

Lallas said, "it would be devastating" if the University goes another fiscal year with major construction funds from the State Legislature, at a December 10 meeting of the Campus Planning Committee.

University President Robert Clark and Roy Lieuallen, chancellor of the State System of Higher Education, are presently "analyzing and examining closely" McCall's recommendations, Lallas said.

The governor's proposal is that \$6 million be allocated for capital construction for the entire State System of Higher Education. This allows for an emphasis on restoration and rehabilitation with a minimum of new construction. The board had requested \$63 million.

The director of planning said the University's requests for construction of three building projects—administrative services, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences—are "simply to make up for existing deficiencies. Somehow this is not perceived in as serious terms as seen here."

In conjunction with the budget limitations, the State Board reduced both size and budget for the administrative services building.

Lallas recalled the University "received a shattering blow during the 1969 biennium" when

it "literally lost" the proposed new College of Education and behavioral sciences buildings.

The 1969 Legislature authorized funds for the projects, but they were held up last March when McCall ordered a "freeze" on new construction financed primarily with state funds. The freeze was applied in connection with a plan to try to trim an anticipated deficit in the state's welfare program.

The State Legislative Emergency Board postponed action on the two buildings at its May meeting, then voted 6 to 1 in September to return the building requests to the full Legislature when it convenes January 11.

In other business, the committee agreed to investigate the possibility of replacing the metal barricades presently located at either end of 13th Avenue on Kincaid and University streets with more attractive posts.

Track coach Bill Bowerman, a committee member, said a questionnaire on parking problems will soon be sent to each department to determine the extent of traffic problems in the University community.

Bowerman said parking problems are "generally less acute than a year ago." Several committee members observed that both student and faculty parking lots have many more spaces available because of increased fees for parking permits.

"I suspect a lot of people are riding bicycles and enjoying it," Bowerman added.

Neil Young to perform Sunday

Singer and guitarist Neil Young will perform at the University Sunday.

Young's concert will be in McArthur Court at 8 p.m.

Known for his high-pitched voice, Young has been a member of the now defunct Buffalo Springfield and a sometime performer with Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young (CSNY). Before, after and inbetween his group efforts, he recorded three albums on his own, his most recent effort being "After the Gold Rush."

He authored the songs "Helpless," "Country Girl" and "Down by the River," some of which were performed when CSNY came to Portland early last summer.

Billed as his only college concert this year, Young's appearance is part of a West coast tour. Young will perform in Seattle this Saturday.

Tickets are available at the EMU Main Desk, Mattox Pipe Shop and Viscount Records for \$2, \$2.50, \$3.50 and \$4.



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