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### Bakker trial unveils more scandal

PTL official testifies Falwell offered Bakker hush money, other perks

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) Jerry Falwell offered Jim Bakker \$300,000 and other perks to keep his mouth shut after Falwell took over the scandal-ridden PTL, the TV ministry's chief builder testified Monday.

Falwell denied the account given by builder Roe Messner. who testified for the defense at Bakker's fraud trial.

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Messner also said a chief Bakker aide claimed Bakker knew nothing about \$265,000 in hush money to Jessica Hahn. the church secretary with whom Bakker had a sexual encounter in 1980.

Bakker is accused of defrauding followers by using more than \$3.7 million in ministry money to live in high style. The TV evangelist faces up to 120 years in prison and more than \$5 million in fines if convicted on all 24 counts of fraud and conspiracy.

Falwell, founder of the now defunct Moral Majority, took over PTL in 1987 after Bakker resigned in the scandal involving Hahn.

Messner testified that the offer to Bakker from Falwell included a maid, a security guard and telephone expenses if Bakker "kept his mouth shut."

Messner said Bakker wrote at the bottom of the piece of paper: "I'm not making any demands on PTL. I'm not asking for anything.

It was not immediately clear whether Bakker turned down the alleged offer. Messner was not questioned further about the matter

Mark DeMoss, a Falwell spokesman, said in a telephone interview that Messner was mistaken. The offer actually was a demand from Bakker, De-Moss said

Falwell dispatched Messner to Palm Springs, Calif., to talk to Bakker, but he carried no offer. DeMoss said. Messner returned with a handwritten list of demands on the pink stationery of Bakker's wife. Tammy.

DeMoss said Bakker's demands included hospital insurance, Bakker's \$300,000 annual salary for life, Tammy Bakker's \$100,000 annual salary for life royalties on inspirational books and recordings made by the Bakkers, secretary and maid service for a year, use of a South Carolina lakefront house and furniture and attorneys'

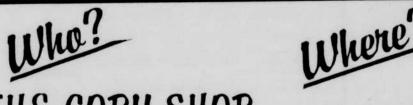
"Simply put, the items Roe Messner testified that Rev. Falwell sent him out to offer Bakker were items that Bakker requested and Messner presented to Rev. Falwell," DeMoss said. 'I would like to think Roe just forgot the sequence of events."

Messner testified that he handled the \$265,000 payment to Ms. Hahn. He said he was called by Richard Dortch. PTL's executive vice president. on Feb. 21, 1985.

Dortch told Messner that if he didn't pay a woman from New York \$265,000 then she would go to The Charlotte Observer with allegations that Bakker raped her. Five days later. Messner said, he wired the \$265,000 to an account number in California that was given to him by Dortch.

Messner said he asked Dortch if Bakker knew about the payment. He said Dortch replied: 'No. I'm acting on my own."

Messner said he agreed to make the payment in part because the Assemblies of God was named as the potential party in a lawsuit threatened by Ms. Hahn. "I didn't think the church ought to be dragged into this incident," Messner



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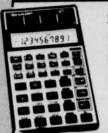
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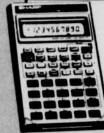
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