

## **DEA AGENT TRIED TO LINK FBI \ CHIEF TO DRUGS WITNESS**

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Author: JACK KRESNAK Free Press Staff Writer

In 1982, the No. 2 official of the Detroit office of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration used a racial epithet **to** refer **to** the chief of the Detroit **FBI** office and **tried to link him to** narcotics trafficking, according **to** testimony this week in U.S. District Court.

Former **DEA agent** Richard Smith testified Wednesday in a hearing **to** help determine his sentence on a conviction for leaking grand jury testimony **to** a Free Press reporter. He said that Joseph Salvemini, then assistant special **agent** in charge of the **DEA** in Detroit, had a "strong dislike for the **FBI** , especially Mr. Davis" -- a reference **to** Wayne Davis, head of the Detroit **FBI** office .

Smith's testimony was supported by that from another former **DEA agent** .

THE ALLEGATIONS came in an unusual "motivation and harm" hearing called by Judge Avern Cohn **to** help him determine a penalty for Smith, who was convicted July 22.

Cohn said he called the hearing because there is no prescribed penalty for violating the grand jury secrecy rule, and he wanted **to** determine what motivated Smith **to** leak the information and what harm might have been caused by the leak.

Smith, who is black, was fired in April 1983 and has sued the **DEA** , alleging racial discrimination that culminated in his being fired.

Former **DEA agent** Allan Schwinn, who left the agency last year after 13 years there, testified that around 1982 there was a rumor that a leader of the Young Boys Inc. heroin trafficking ring, Sylvester Murray, would change his plea **to** guilty and testify for federal prosecutors in return for leniency.

Schwinn said he heard Salvemini remark that if Murray "pleads guilty and gives up people, I want him **to** give up everybody, including that big n----- across the street."

**To** "give up" means **to** "testify against," law enforcement officials said. Schwinn said he knew from Salvemini's past remarks that Salvemini was referring **to** Davis.

SMITH TESTIFIED that he heard Salvemini say, "Sylvester Murray should give up the big n---- - across the street." Murray did not plead guilty. He was convicted in 1983 of drug dealing and sentenced **to** 15 years in prison and ordered **to** pay a \$100,000 fine.

Smith added that Salvemini wanted a witness working with Smith **to link** Davis **to** the Davis Family Group, a family allegedly running an international heroin distribution ring. Schwinn and Salvemini are white; Davis is black and is not related **to** members of the Davis Family Group.

Salvemini knew there was no basis for the allegation against Davis and "was only trying **to** get that out **to** smear Mr. Davis," Smith said.

Smith testified that he was harassed by **DEA** officials, who, he believed, were obstructing justice in the Davis Family Group case by not prosecuting several suspects working with the group. He said he gave Free Press reporter Joe Swickard copies of two reports he wrote about the case, thinking Swickard would expose the obstruction of justice.

Davis, who is leaving the Detroit office in two weeks **to** take charge of the **FBI**'s Philadelphia office, said Thursday that he had heard "that some disparaging remarks and racial epithets were applied **to** me or directed at me . . . not **to** me personally, but in the presence of others."

"Whether it's true or not, I don't know," he said. "If it was, then there's certainly no room in our society for that kind of juvenile behavior."

Davis said there have been times when differences arose between the Detroit **FBI** and **DEA** offices, but that the agencies attempt **to** "resolve such differences as best we can."

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