

## **FUGITIVE DRUG CZAR HELD IN ALA.**

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**George Casey**, a convicted heroin and cocaine dealer who skipped out on \$500,000 bond in Detroit while awaiting sentencing on a drug conviction in September 1980, was arrested early Sunday in an isolated area of northeastern Alabama.

Casey, 62, once regarded as one of the largest heroin dealers in Detroit, was arrested in Cedar Bluff, Ala., where he had been living off and on for six months, according to John Anthony, an FBI special agent in Detroit.

He was being held in Homewood City Jail pending appearance today before a federal magistrate in Birmingham, Ala.

The one-story stone house where Casey, a native Alabamian, was arrested is owned by Clarence Nash and Rose Russell, both of Detroit, Anthony said.

The arrest "went off mighty well," said Deputy John Fortenberry of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department, which aided in the arrest.

FIVE LAW enforcement officers kept the house under surveillance for several hours before making the arrest, the deputy said. Although there were others in the house, only Casey was arrested.

Casey did not resist arrest and admitted his identity, Anthony said.

In the house, police found a .45-caliber, semiautomatic shoulder weapon with a 30-round ammunition clip and a Colt revolver which were taken in a recent Atlanta robbery, Anthony said.

Casey disappeared in September 1980 shortly after pleading guilty to conducting a continuing criminal enterprise that imported heroin and cocaine and sold the drugs in at least five states.

When Casey was arrested in June 1979, federal drug agents confiscated about one-third of a pound of heroin, four ounces of cocaine and about \$90,000 in cash.

He faced 10 years in prison without parole and a \$100,000 fine on the drug charges. The bond-jumping charges carry a possible penalty of five years in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

He had served two previous prison terms on narcotics convictions and was acquitted of a murder charge in 1970.

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