

STAR WITNESS THREATENED, PROSECUTOR TELLS JUDGE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, May 18, 1983

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

The " **Hart Street Massacre** " trial was delayed Tuesday when two of the defendants allegedly threatened to kill the state's star witness.

With the jury excused, Assistant Prosecutor David Higbee told Recorder's Court Judge Craig Strong that Darnell (Fats) Wiley drew his finger across his throat Monday afternoon as he told Edward Allen:

"You're gonna die."

Although court-assigned police officers and other persons allegedly witnessed the supposed threat, the 17-year-old Allen said he did not see or hear it.

HOWEVER, ALLEN did tell Strong that as he was testifying, another defendant, Charles (Little Charlie) Wilson, signaled by giving him "shrewd looks" and placing fingers alongside his nose

"That means two in the head," Allen told Strong.

Strong, who delayed the trial for an hour to explore the alleged threats, said he would not allow the jury to hear anything about the incidents . He ruled that Wilson's hand gesture was too vague and that testimony about it would be too prejudicial.

Strong then cautioned the defendants to "be careful" about making any gesture that might be interpreted as a threat.

A RIPPLE of excitement rolled through the spectators before the trial started Tuesday when Higbee rolled a shopping cart into the courtroom with three machine guns, two rifles and two pistols and then arranged the weapons on the floor by his table. The guns will be used as evidence.

Allen testified against Wilson, 20, Wiley, 23, and Derrick (Pappa) Dupree, 28 , under a grant of immunity from prosecution.

Wilson, Wiley, and a third man -- Anthony (Pretty Tony) Armstrong, who will be tried later -- are accused of machine- gunning four people to death last August during the robbery of a drug dealer on the 2200 block of **Hart Street** , on Detroit's east side. Dupree, who allegedly supplied the guns and car used in the robbery-murders, is charged with armed robbery.

KILLED IN the robbery were Charles (Rusty) Hampton and his wife, Pamela, both 21; Herman Robinson, 12, and Charlie Grace, 33. Wounded in the attack was Lawrence Heath, Mrs. Hampton's 17-year-old nephew.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 5B

Record Number: 8302120341

Copyright (c) 1983 Detroit Free Press