

## WERSHE 'S FATHER ARRESTED, CHARGED

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Sunday, January 17, 1988

Author: MARK LOWERY Free Press Staff Writer

The father of convicted drug kingpin **Richard** (White Boy Rick) **Wershe Jr** . was behind bars Saturday after his arraignment in U.S. District Court on charges of threatening a federal officer involved in his son's prosecution.

U.S. Magistrate Virginia Morgan remanded **Richard Wershe Sr.** to jail without bail pending a bond hearing Tuesday.

The elder **Wershe** , 44, is accused of threatening Gerald Biernacki, a federal law enforcement officer. The incident allegedly happened Thursday morning in Detroit's Recorder's Court while a jury was deliberating in the case against his son.

The younger **Wershe** , 18, Friday was convicted of possession of eight kilograms of cocaine and faces life in prison. The seizure of the cocaine -- worth an estimated \$5 million -- was the largest cocaine seizure in Detroit history, police said.

**Richard Wershe Jr** . is being held in the Wayne County Jail pending trial on two other drug charges, including possession of five kilograms of cocaine. It was unclear Saturday where his father was being detained.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Bunting, the elder **Wershe** told Biernacki: "You better not sleep tonight, motherf-----."

Biernacki told federal officials that it was the second time the elder **Wershe** had threatened him. He said the threats were in retaliation for his involvement in the case against the younger **Wershe** .

**Richard Wershe Sr.** stood silently through most of the proceeding but told Morgan: "I've never threatened anyone."

His lawyer, William Buffalino **Jr** ., disputed the charges.

"If he did this Thursday morning, why did they wait to Friday night before they tried to arrest him?" Buffalino asked, noting that the elder **Wershe** sat through court proceedings Thursday and Friday and that the first attempt to arrest him was not made until Friday evening. **Richard Wershe Sr.** turned himself in to federal officials Saturday.

### CUTLINE

**Richard Wershe Sr.**, left, and his lawyer, William Buffalino **Jr** ., arrive at U.S. District Court on Saturday.

\*\*\*\*

Caption: Photo STEVEN R. NICKERSON

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A;

Index Terms: DRUG ; COURT ; VERDICT ; PARENT

Record Number: 8801030439

Copyright (c) 1988 Detroit Free Press