

CULPEPPER SENTENCED FOR INCOME TAX EVASION \ DETROIT ATTORNEY FACES PRISON, PROBATION, FINES

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Author: BOB CAMPBELL Free Press Staff Writer

A federal judge, declaring Detroit criminal lawyer W. **Otis Culpepper** to be more amoral than immoral, sentenced him Wednesday to three years in prison for income tax evasion and ordered him to pay more than \$16,000 in fines and costs.

U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn also denied **Culpepper** 's requests for a new trial and to be freed on bond during the course of an appeal.

"The purpose of the sentence is twofold," Cohn said in reading the sentence. "First, to deter others from doing the same thing -- to send a message so to speak. Second, to express the community's disapproval of your actions, especially as a lawyer."

Cohn told **Culpepper** he was influenced not to levy a stiffer sentence by "the fact that you appeared to be more amoral, that is a person who simply lives outside conventional rules, than you have shown yourself to be immoral, that is a person who has a criminal bent of mind."

Culpepper , 39, a leading defender of drug and murder suspects, including members of the notorious Young Boys Inc. drug ring, was convicted May 12 by Cohn on one count of evading payment of \$10,295 in income taxes in 1978 and 1980 and two counts of evading taxes on \$76,244 of income in 1982 and 1983. Cohn said it would be up to the IRS to seek restitution for the unpaid taxes.

Culpepper was sentenced to three-year concurrent terms on two of the counts, and five years' probation on a third. He was fined \$5,000 for each count and assessed \$1,271 in court costs.

The prosecution showed that **Culpepper** had not reported as income the receipt of a 1976 Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow and a 1976 Mercedes-Benz that Young Boys leader Milton Jones gave him for legal services.

Culpepper showed no emotion when the sentence was read and declined Cohn's offer to make a statement before sentencing. **Culpepper** and his attorney, Hugh Davis, would not comment on the sentence, but Davis has said he would appeal the conviction.

Culpepper could have been sentenced to a total of 15 years in prison and fined up to \$210,000. He must begin serving his sentence within 90 days.

Caption: Photo

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