

## **DRUG RING LEADERS' LAWYER INDICTED**

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Detroit attorney James B. Feaster, who represented many leaders of the Young Boys Inc. narcotics ring, has been charged with obstruction of justice and helping narcotics dealers avoid income taxes in an 11-count federal indictment announced Friday.

Feaster, who has offices in the First National Building, is charged with illegally trying to get control of more than \$700,000 in cash seized in raids on the drug operation, and with filing false information to obtain a \$25,000 fee paid out of the seized cash.

Feaster also is charged with income tax evasion and advising clients on preparation of false income tax returns. If convicted of all 11 charges, Feaster would face a maximum 58- year prison sentence.

Feaster, 48, is to surrender to federal authorities Monday.

"This is crazy," said Feaster, 48. "It's all a house of cards and it's going to fall apart. When the smoke clears, I'll still be standing."

Elliott Hall, a Detroit attorney and former chief assistant Wayne County prosecutor, said: "Jim Feaster? I'm really, really surprised."

Hall said Feaster had a large practice with an emphasis on federal tax cases.

Feaster's clients have included Young Boys Inc. bosses Sylvester (Seal) Murray, Raymond Peoples, Timothy Peoples and Milton (Butchie) Jones.

Raymond Peoples, credited with being a co-founder of the operation, was shot to death sitting in his car last year. Peoples had recently been released from federal prison. The other leaders are serving federal prison sentences stemming from the sweeping federal indictments two years ago of the narcotics operation.

Feaster said his indictment grew in part from his success in federal court, despite the Young Boys Inc. convictions.

"These people can't stand to lose," Feaster said.

The grand jury indictment came after a lengthy investigation by agents of the IRS and the FBI.

Federal officials also charged he advised clients they could hide their drug profits from the IRS by using safety deposit boxes rented under false names, keeping cash transactions at banks below the \$10,000 limit to avoid reporting requirements, and by using coded computerized bookkeeping systems in their drug deals.

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