

2 CHAMBERS BROTHERS PLEAD GUILTY TO TAX EVASION CHARGES

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Two defendants in the continuing **Chambers Brothers** drug trial pleaded guilty to tax evasion charges in federal court as prosecutors Thursday rested their case against 10 suspected members of the drug ring.

Larry Chambers, 38, pleaded guilty to evading taxes on \$127,679 in income in 1986. His brother Billy Joe, 26, pleaded guilty to evading taxes on \$55,571 in income for the same year.

The brothers face up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, under plea agreements.

The **Chambers brothers** -- Larry, Billy Joe, Otis and Willie -- allegedly ran one of the largest drug rings in Detroit history from 1983 to 1988, said federal officials. Larry and Billy Joe are accused of masterminding the operation and would face life in prison if convicted of running the ring.

The trial, which began Sept. 14 amid tight security, had 16 defendants, but 10 remain. Two pleaded guilty the first day, and prosecutors recently dropped charges against four others when witnesses did not implicate them.

Prosecutors subpoenaed more than 120 witnesses. About two dozen took the stand.

Defense attorneys and prosecutors have refused to discuss the case because of a gag order by U.S. District Judge Richard Suhrheinrich.

Suhrheinrich told jury members Thursday that they would be sequestered in a hotel when they begin deliberation, possibly late next week.

One federal official, who did not want to be identified, said it is not unusual to sequester jury members to shield them from publicity, retaliation or tampering by an outside party.

The trial is to resume Tuesday.

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