

POLICE WORK 'SLOPPY' BUT CHARGES STILL STAND

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Jury selection for four people charged with international drug trafficking began Monday after U.S. District Judge Julian Cook refused to dismiss charges because of alleged misconduct by federal agents.

But Cook complained that the agents -- from the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration - were "overzealous at best" and "at the very least . . . sloppy."

THE INCIDENT that led to the defense motion occurred Feb. 2 when a federal informant, Farris Dotson, 34, went to a Lafayette Park apartment to meet with Duane **Davis**, 29, one of the defendants.

Davis; his wife, Alicia, 28; his brother Kenneth, 27, and Judith Kasco, 26, were indicted in August for allegedly taking part in what Robert DeFauw, head of the Detroit Drug Enforcement Agency office, called "a major heroin distribution network." A third **Davis** brother indicted, **Reginald**, 31, described by federal officials as the key figure in the heroin operation, is being sought.

Davis' attorney, Robert Mann, filed the motion to dismiss the indictment after learning that Dotson, a former basketball player in Europe, had been equipped by federal agents with a hidden tape recorder before his visit. Mann argued that Dotson had been sent to meet with **Davis** to try to get **Davis** to incriminate himself before the trial began.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Felder countered that the agents had sent Dotson to meet with **Davis** on an unrelated, new case on which the government was working.

COOK HEARD testimony from Dotson and four agents, including FBI Special Agent Al Finch and Drug Enforcement Agency Special Agent Ken Adams, who testified that they had been using Dotson as a federal informant since Dec. 2, when he offered his services.

But Cook never got to hear the tape from the meeting with **Davis** because Finch testified there was no tape, since he had forgotten to load the hidden recorder before sending Dotson to the meeting.

Calling Dotson a product of "the drug culture," Cook characterized Dotson's testimony variously as "incredible . . . unbelievable . . . evasive" and accused the agents of sending "an unguided missile . . . to talk with Duane **Davis** about another case."

The trial is expected to last eight weeks.

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