

REPUTED HIT MAN IS HIT BY SHOTS

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, May 4, 1985
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In a little-noticed incident last month, reputed underworld hit man **Chester Wheeler** Campbell was himself the target of a gunman.

Campbell, 54, was shot April 24 as he was reading a newspaper in an auto repair shop in the 8000 block of Oakland. Three or four bullets hit him in the leg and thigh, and one grazed his head.

Campbell, who was paroled from a federal prison last September, said from his hospital bed Thursday that he had just been through an 11-hour operation "and I don't have anything newsworthy to say."

When Campbell was arrested in 1975 after trying to run a police car off the road in Orchard Lake, police found in his car notebooks with more than 300 names, addresses and phone numbers of police officials, drug dealers and news reporters. There also were names of victims of unsolved narcotics executions, police said.

Campbell, who was labeled a narcotics hit man by Wayne County officials, was convicted in 1977 in Oakland County as a habitual criminal and sentenced to seven to 7 1/2 years in prison. Earlier that year, he was sentenced to 12 years in a federal prison for illegal possession of guns.

U.S. District Judge Robert DeMascio imposed that sentence after Campbell and his court-appointed attorney refused to make any statement in Campbell's behalf.

During that trial, Campbell sparred verbally with DeMascio. At one point, after the judge had suggested that Campbell remove a toothpick from his mouth, he said: "Why? It doesn't impair my speech any."

First-degree murder charges against Campbell and another defendant in a 1972 slaying were dismissed in 1975 after the star defense witness was stabbed to death in a maximum-security prison. Attorneys for the witness and the prosecution said there was no reason to suspect that the killing was related to the murder trial.

Campbell was released from prison in 1968 after serving 13 years for the second-degree murder of a Detroit man.

Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: SHOOTING ; INJURY

Record Number: 8501180184

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