

SCAN
19 - 001

CONFIRMING
LEO EMIL WANTA

1 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY
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3 STATE OF WISCONSIN,
4 Plaintiff, TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5 vs. Case No. 92-CF-683
6 LEO E. WANTA,
7 Defendant.
8 -----
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10 DATE: October 31, 1994;
11 Madison, Wisconsin;

12 PRESIDING: The Honorable MICHAEL B. TORPHY, JR.,
13 Circuit Court Judge;

14 APPEARANCES: The State appears by DOUGLAS HAAG,
15 Assistant Attorney General;
16
17 The Defendant appears in person and by
18 JOHN CHAVEZ, Attorney, Madison,
19 Wisconsin;

20 PROCEEDINGS: Competency Hearing.
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23 DEBORAH ZWIEBEL MANKE, RPR
24 Official Court Reporter
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PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: We are on the record in the matter entitled State of Wisconsin vs. Leo E. Wanta. Mr. Wanta is charged in an information with with two counts of violations of Section 71.83(2)(b)1 and four counts of violations of Section 71.83(2)(b)3.

On an earlier date the Court was apprised, generally speaking, regarding the subject of Mr. Wanta's ability to proceed under Sections 971.13 and 971.14 of the statutes. The Court determined that there was reason to doubt Mr. Wanta's competency, accordingly, ordered a competency examination, and the most current response to that was a letter from Connie M. Lee, MD dated October 12th of 1994 which the Court -- copies were sent to the Assistant Attorney General Mr. Haag who appears today and Mr. John Chavez who represents Mr. Wanta, both Mr. Wanta and Mr. Chavez appearing as well personally.

I guess the question is: Are we ready to proceed, Mr. Haag?

MR. HAAG: Yes, Your Honor, State's ready to proceed. However, through developments in the last hour or so I can inform the Court of some

1 discussions that counsel has had with the attending
2 psychiatrists both from Mendota and Winnebago and
3 also a psychologist from Winnebago that could
4 shorten this proceeding considerably this
5 afternoon.

6 I am prepared to go forward, put on the
7 testimony of either Dr. -- of both Dr. Lee and Dr.
8 Mays. However, with the Court's permission, I
9 would outline what Dr. Mays, who filed the
10 competency report with Your Honor dated October
11 19th, would be recommending, and I can indicate to
12 the Court what that would be and the Court can
13 inquire of Dr. Mays or Dr. Lee, and I'm suggesting
14 that it could save some time. Obviously, if
15 counsel or Mr. Wanta want that in the form of
16 testimony to be adduced, I can provide that to the
17 Court.

18 THE COURT: I guess I won't ask Mr.
19 Chavez to respond until you tell me what --

20 MR. CHAVEZ: Your Honor, it's my client's
21 position that he is competent to proceed and always
22 has been. Again, that is not my position. As I
23 informed the Court on earlier occasions, it is my
24 understanding of the law that I am to bring to the
25 Court's attention any doubt that I may have

1 relative to my client's competency to proceed and I
2 do have that doubt.

3 THE COURT: Well, I guess at this point
4 I'd ask Mr. -- to what Mr. Haag was making
5 reference.

6 MR. HAAG: Your Honor, the report of Dr.
7 Lee's dated -- I said October 19th before, I meant
8 October 12th.

9 THE COURT: You said Dr. Mays. There's
10 what I was looking for.

11 MR. HAAG: We need another competency
12 examination, Your Honor, but Dr. Lee's report of
13 October 12th is a part of the court record in this
14 case. It reflects the negative information about
15 Dr. Lee having consulted with Mr. Chavez, having
16 consulted with Dr. Mays, and there is nothing in
17 the report that -- as a matter of fact, Dr. Lee
18 reviewed the transcript of the prior hearing of
19 July 13th in this matter.

20 And Dr. Mays, Mr. Chavez, myself, Dr. Lee
21 and the psychologist, I believe, Dr. Peterson had a
22 conference for about an hour prior to this hearing.
23 Numerous factual matters were discussed with Dr.
24 Lee, and if I am misrepresenting her position, I'm
25 sure she will straighten me out, Your Honor, but it

1 is my understanding and belief that Dr. Lee is
2 proposing that there be another period of
3 observation for Mr. Wanta, one that would give her
4 an opportunity to further investigate and receive
5 information from Mr. Chavez, from the State, from
6 Dr. Mays and from all other collateral sources as
7 to the reliability of some of the underlying
8 information that she had put in her report, and she
9 believes that that could -- that could influence
10 her opinion as to whether or not Mr. Wanta is, in
11 fact, competent to proceed. She, in short, thinks
12 that it might benefit all concerned if he were
13 committed for an additional period of time so that
14 she could further examine and investigate the
15 underlying matters.

16 THE COURT: Dr. Lee, I assume that's you,
17 is that an accurate statement?

18 DR. LEE: Yes, it is, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: And Mr. Haag has indicated
20 for an additional period of time. Do you have any
21 feeling about that as to what time, doctor, how
22 long? You're the ones that have had the
23 conversations. I don't know.

24 MR. HAAG: Well, I thought you were
25 asking Dr. Lee.

1 THE COURT: I was.

2 DR. LEE: I did look at him because I

3 suggested three months to do follow-ups because

4 that's not something that is in our general --

5 THE COURT: The point I'm making is that

6 apparently is something that you feel would be

7 valuable, and you've got to know more about how

8 long that stuff takes than I do.

9 DR. LEE: I would estimate three months.

10 If I'm certain earlier, I'll write a letter

11 earlier.

12 THE COURT: Do you want to add anything

13 further on that?

14 MR. HAAG: No, Your Honor, I think that's

15 -- that's a time period thus suggested by the

16 expert witness and by counsel.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Chavez, I'll give you an

18 opportunity as I will give Mr. Wanta in a moment or

19 two to respond to that.

20 MR. CHAVEZ: Again, Your Honor, as I

21 earlier explained to you, it is my opinion, legal

22 opinion not a medical opinion, I feel Mr. Wanta is

23 incompetent to proceed and I think that the

24 additional three months is appropriate.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Wanta, would you like to

1 be heard very briefly on the subject, other than
2 what you have already indicated you feel competent,
3 that you are now and have been?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, as I said
5 before, I now have been falsely arrested and
6 incarcerated illegally for 16 months. I am
7 competent. I have always told the truth. I am
8 innocent of the false charges. Given an
9 opportunity, I can prove it without a doubt to you,
10 Your Honor. I just don't understand what in the
11 world the State of Wisconsin is attempting to do.
12 I find no merit to what in the world they're doing.
13 I'm not a lawyer. Thank God, I'm not.

14 Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I guess I'd have to preface
16 my decision on the request with a few comments.
17 The record in this case is not voluminous but it is
18 extensive. To say the least, it is a record that
19 is -- that indicates different approaches and
20 different opinions. It is bizarre in some -- on
21 some occasions and confusing on others. I think
22 that Mr. Wanta has earlier -- there was an earlier
23 commitment for evaluation of competency and we have
24 proceeded past that on to the current evaluation
25 referred to by counsel.

1 I guess I would have to say that the
2 Court's actions previously in this case would not
3 have been undertaken without a belief that
4 reasonably there was a problem with Mr. Wanta's
5 competency to proceed. I have heard the State's
6 comments. I've heard the testimony presented in
7 earlier hearings. I have received, as I have
8 indicated, one or two earlier reports regarding
9 competency.

10 I have the most recent one that was
11 referred to today from Dr. Lee. It is Dr. Lee that
12 advises that it's her feeling that her opinion
13 would be enhanced and made more complete at any
14 rate or more finite, whatever word you want to use,
15 with an additional opportunity to review this
16 record and other records and other person's contact
17 with Mr. Wanta.

18 I find it difficult to say that I don't
19 want to hear any more from a professional who is in
20 the position to advise the Court perhaps not
21 accurately ultimately, but at least appropriately
22 as to what -- and when I say that, I'm not trying
23 to gauge this thing one way or another, but there
24 is a hearing when I have to decide based on
25 whatever evidence is presented. It seems to me

1 that that evidence ought to be complete and that's
2 the only way I can really deal with it. And I
3 would be hopeful that Dr. Lee could provide as
4 promptly within the framework of the necessary
5 information acquisition and evaluation that she
6 could, but I don't see any possible advantage to
7 anybody ultimately, particularly me, in the record
8 to say I don't want any more information.

9 Accordingly, the Court will grant the
10 motion, return Mr. Wanta to the custody of the
11 department for further consultation. And if you
12 wish to draft an order in that regard Mr. Haag, the
13 Court would appreciate it.

14 MR. HAAG: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 MR. CHAVEZ: Judge, one other thing. My
17 client wishes to go back to Winnebago Mental Health
18 Institute today if possible. Would that be the
19 Court's order?

20 THE COURT: I am perfectly willing to
21 have that happen. I would ask the sheriff, if that
22 can be done, to have it done. I assume -- Dr. Lee
23 appears to be at Winnebago, or at least that's
24 where her signature shows she's from, and I
25 certainly have no desire to keep Mr. Wanta here,

1 but I -- neither am I in a position at three
2 o'clock in the afternoon to tell the sheriff to
3 take cars off the road or deputies out of service
4 someplace else. I would request that they take him
5 up there if they can.

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Judge, I misspoke, his
7 request is with the mental health staff and I don't
8 know how that works. It certainly seems to be
9 something under the sheriff's jurisdiction and I --

10 THE COURT: I am not willing to release
11 him to staff. I don't think that's appropriate.

12 MR. CHAVEZ: That's my client's request
13 for the record.

14 THE COURT: I understand that and I just
15 am not willing to release him to staff and that's
16 that.

17 MR. CHAVEZ: Thank you, Judge.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 MR. HAAG: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 (Proceedings concluded.)

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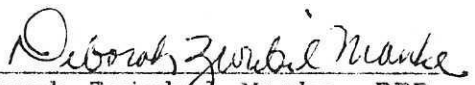
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1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)
2 COUNTY OF DANE) ss:
3)

4 I, DEBORAH ZWIEBEL MANKE, hereby certify
5 that I am the duly-qualified and officially-appointed
6 court reporter for the State of Wisconsin, Circuit Court,
7 County of Dane, Branch 2; that I was such on the 31st day
8 of October, 1994; that on that date I stenographically
9 reported the proceedings had before said Court; and that
10 the attached foregoing comprises a true and accurate
11 transcript of my stenographic notes and of the whole
12 thereof.

13 Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 7th day
14 of November, 1994.

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Deborah Zwiebel Manke, RPR
Official Court Reporter

23 The foregoing certification of this transcript does not
24 apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless
25 under the direct control and/or direction of the
certifying reporter.

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

CASE NO: 92-CF-683

LEO E. WANTA,

COPY

Defendant.

DATE: December 14, 1993;

BEFORE: The Honorable TODD E. MEURER,
Judicial Court Commissioner;

APPEARANCES: The State of Wisconsin represented
by Assistant Attorney General
JUDITH SCHULTZ;

LEO E. WANTA present with
Attorney JON HELLAND,
State Public Defender;

PROCEEDINGS: Initial Appearance.

Lori J. Gerlach
Official Court Reporter

1 STATE OF WISCONSIN VERSUS LEO E. WANTA
2 CASE NO: 92-CF-683
3 FILING FALSE INCOME TAX RETURN, 2 COUNTS
4 TAX EVASION, 4 COUNTS
5 DECEMBER 14, 1993

6 MS. SCHULTZ: The State appears by
7 Assistant Attorney General Judith Schultz,
8 S-c-h-u-l-t-z.

9 MR. HELLAND: Mr. Wanta appears in
10 person with Attorney Jon Helland.

11 We've received a copy of a lengthy Criminal
12 Complaint. It looks like it's about 17 pages. We'll
13 waive the reading of that complaint.

14 Basically the complaint appears to allege that the
15 defendant committed crimes of filing false income tax
16 returns for the years of -- 1988. The body of the
17 complaint, we'll waive reading of it, noting this is a
18 special appearance also.

19 THE COURT: There are six counts
20 relating to --

21 MR. HELLAND: I'm sorry, I think they're
22 all relating to that topic; is that correct?

23 THE COURT: That's true, and they're all
24 felonies, so we'll schedule them for a Preliminary
25 Hearing.

26 Does the State have a position as it relates to

1 bail?

2 MS. SCHULTZ: Yes, it does, your Honor.
3 I'm prepared to make a fairly lengthy application with
4 respect to the difficulty the State has had in it's
5 securing Mr. Wanta's attendance in response to this
6 warrant.

7 The complaint in this case was filed in May of
8 1992. At the time this defendant had amassed
9 delinquency tax judgments in the amounts -- in excess
10 of \$200,000. It was quite clear that he had no
11 interest in paying his taxes, whereupon the Department
12 of Revenue decided to pursue criminally.

13 At the time the charges were brought the defendant
14 was located in Singapore. At the time we located him
15 it was because -- with the assistance of the United
16 States Customs we determined he was in jail there at
17 the time under investigation for allegations of fraud.
18 With the assistance of the United States' Attache in
19 Singapore we were able to fax a copy of this warrant
20 and complaint, entire complaint over to Singapore. We
21 had it hand-delivered to Mr. Wanta by the United States
22 Attache and he was advised to return immediately to the
23 United States whereupon he took the arrest warrant and
24 the complaint and advised the attache that he was going
25 instead to Japan. That was in May of 1992. In June of

1 1993 -- I'm sorry, yes, May of '92.

2 In June, we heard from an attorney named Tom
3 Wilson, who is located in Appleton.

4 THE COURT: Now this is June of '92?

5 MS. SCHULTZ: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Okay. He set up a three-way
7 conversation with the defendant and myself. He
8 indicated that the defendant would be happy to pay
9 \$14,000 of his arrears, but that in exchange he
10 expected the charges to be dropped. I explained that
11 yes, we would need him to pay his arrearages in the
12 full amount, not just the \$14,000, and indeed we were
13 not going to drop the charges in exchange for his
14 paying the arrearages. He was going to have to return
15 to respond to the charges. At that point he eliminated
16 himself from the three-way conversation and had a few
17 more words with Mr. Wilson and a few days later a check
18 arrived in the amount of 14,000 and some odd dollars.
19 We -- It was endorsed restrictively indicating this
20 was in full satisfaction of Leo's obligations to the
21 Department of Revenue and the State of Wisconsin. We
22 rejected it, sent it back. I believe his attorney, Mr.
23 Wilson, may have re-submitted the check to the
24 Department of Revenue because I understand they did
25 receive a check in the amount of 14,000 and some odd

1 dollars some weeks later.

2 On June 22 of that year we subsequently heard from
3 the United States Customs again. Apparently Mr. Wanta
4 was in Bangkok in jail under investigations of fraud.
5 At that time they chose not to hold him. Apparently
6 the victim in that case chose not to press charges, he
7 was a business man and he was embarrassed, and at that
8 time since we had been unable to secure his attendance
9 in response to the charges we requested that the United
10 States Attorney for the Western District Of Wisconsin
11 take a look at the matter and determine whether or not
12 a charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution was
13 warranted and indeed such charges were issued and a
14 warrant was sought for Mr. Wanta's return on federal
15 charges. Upon submission of a copy of that warrant to
16 the Department of State in Washington D.C. they revoked
17 this defendant's passport and in July of 1993 we were
18 advised that this defendant had been jailed in
19 Switzerland, again being investigated on charges of
20 fraud. He claimed at that time to be a close friend of
21 Al Gore and also to be the Somolian Ambassador to
22 Switzerland.

23 THE COURT: This gets more interesting
24 every moment.

25 MS. SCHULTZ: We're just getting

1 started. Apparently throughout his peripatetic career
2 he has claimed to be variously an agent of the FBI,
3 CIA, Customs, DEA --

4 THE COURT: I can tell you if Dan Quail
5 doesn't get in here I'll be disappointed.

6 MS. SCHULTZ: Well, I may have missed a
7 note. In any event, because he was not charged again
8 in Switzerland due to embarrassment on the part of the
9 victim, apparently that had something to do with a
10 \$61 million money transfer -- I'm not sure I understand
11 the details -- he had no passport at that time, it
12 having been revoked by the Department of State and the
13 State of Wisconsin, and they most cooperatively
14 deported him to the United States.

15 THE COURT: When did he get deported
16 from Switzerland to the U.S.?

17 MS. SCHULTZ: I believe it was November
18 16 of '93.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MS. SCHULTZ: And he -- or maybe it was
21 the 17th. I may be off a day. And he arrived at JFK
22 the following day whereupon he was arrested by FBI who
23 were serving the warrant charging him with unlawful
24 flight to avoid prosecution.

25 After two days in federal custody he was turned

1 over to New York State authorities on the warrant
2 seeking his extradition, and we have him here now,
3 having had to send Sheriffs to pick him up yesterday in
4 New York City.

5 Given Mr. Wanta's fable reluctance to appear
6 before the Court, his current claims of an address in I
7 believe it was Toronto, Canada, and his claim of
8 diplomatic ambassadorship as his employment, none of
9 which can be verified -- certainly as regards to Somali
10 papers, I'd like to see some verification. In any
11 event, it's fairly clear to us if this gentleman is
12 released from jail he's not coming back and we'd ask
13 for considerable cash bail. I think \$25,000 would be
14 appropriate.

15 THE COURT: What is his total arrearage
16 and fines and everything else that he owes on taxes?

17 (Discussion off the record with revenue
18 manager.)

19 MS. SCHULTZ: I'm asking the revenue
20 manager.

21 THE COURT: Roughly.

22 REVENUE MANAGER: About two or three
23 hundred thousand dollars.

24 MS. SCHULTZ: Somewhere between two to
25 three hundred dollars, we have to add up the fines.

1 THE COURT: And these are -- That two
2 hundred to three hundred thousand dollar figure is
3 money owed to the State of Wisconsin --
4 MS. SCHULTZ: Yes.
5 THE COURT: -- or federal and taxes
6 combined?
7 MS. SCHULTZ: Wisconsin only.
8 THE COURT: Okay. Other information,
9 Mr. Helland, that you can give me?
10 MR. HELLAND: One moment, please.
11 (discussion off the record between Atty. Helland
12 and Mr. Wanta.)
13 Mr. Wanta would like to address some of these
14 concerns.
15 MR. WANTA: If I may approach the bench?
16 THE COURT: And as I just heard your
17 lawyer tell you, everything that's being said is being
18 taken down. Everything that you're saying can be used
19 against you later. Your lawyer's recommendation to
20 you, as I heard him say, is that you not say anything.
21 My recommendation to you is that you only talk through
22 your lawyer; do you understand this?
23 MR. WANTA: I understand my rights, your
24 Honor, but I also know, I also know the truth.
25 THE COURT: Well, the only --

1 MR. WANTA: This is not a joking matter.

2 THE COURT: The only issue before me is
3 what type of bail should be set, not whether or not
4 these allegations are true or not, that's been found to
5 the level of probable cause by Judge Moeser when he
6 signed this arrest warrant. The only issue that I want
7 to talk about with you here today, if you want to say
8 anything, is your ties to the area and what type of
9 bail should be set.

10 The State's asking for significant cash bail
11 because they're saying you don't have any ties to
12 Madison, and you're going to flee if I -- if I release
13 you on a signature bond. That's the issue that I want
14 to talk about here today. If you or your lawyer want
15 to provide any information on that topic, go ahead.

16 (Discussion off the record between Attorney
17 Helland and Mr. Wanta.)

18 MR. HELLAND: The problem I have is that
19 I have no information in front of me regarding Mr.
20 Wanta, and I encourage Mr. Wanta to indicate to me what
21 connections he has to the State. And Mr. Wanta, I
22 should tell you that all the allegations contained in
23 the Criminal Complaint will be addressed at a later
24 time. What we're here today for is to determine
25 whether you're -- whether what type of bail you should

1 receive, and what type of connections you have to
2 Wisconsin, and what type of assurance you can give to
3 this Court that you will return to Court to address
4 these charges, so if you can -- if you can explain to
5 the Commissioner those concerns, I would encourage you
6 to do so.

7 MR. WANTA: For what I got picked up?
8 They have no jurisdiction, this county has no
9 jurisdiction.

10 MR. HELLAND: And I made a special
11 appearance, which preserves all jurisdictional
12 requirements, and I re-enforce that at this time, the
13 special appearance, and I -- so I have appeared
14 specially for you, meaning that if you wish to object
15 to the jurisdiction --

16 MR. WANTA: But they have misled the
17 Court. The FBI gave the records on my diplomatic
18 passport. How can that all be ignored?

19 MR. HELLAND: Well, those have to be
20 addressed in front of the judge, and he can't address
21 those at this time.

22 MR. WANTA: That's why there is no
23 jurisdiction.

24 MR. HELLAND: If there is no
25 jurisdiction, we can ascertain that at a later time.

1 Right now it's essentially a bail hearing to determine
2 what connections you have to this area, and what
3 assurances you can give the Court that you will return
4 to address these concerns.

5 MR. WANTA: If I may state, New
6 Republic/U.S.A. Financial Group, Geselshalt (phonetic)
7 of Vienna, Austria, which is a legal corporation, owns
8 title to a home at 2101 North Edgewood Avenue in
9 Appleton, Wisconsin, 54914. I am the Director General
10 of that corporation and that is the property that the
11 Vienna Corporation owns in the State of Wisconsin.

12 I have a daughter that lives in Eau Claire. I
13 have a son that goes to the University of Wisconsin
14 studying to be a doctor. I have a mother-in-law that's
15 had a stroke because I was illegally put in prison in
16 Geneva by the State of Wisconsin, not by any fraud, by
17 the State of Wisconsin. I was arrested on the way to
18 the embassy. The police pretended they were a taxi and
19 took me directly to jail for the State of Wisconsin for
20 a fugitive warrant for a sham. I spent a hundred and
21 thirty-four days in a Swiss dungeon with nobody to
22 speak to or to talk to and without a lay minister and
23 the bible I probably would have had a stroke myself.

24 My mother-in-law is dying and my wife is holding
25 me responsible, and I think the State of Wisconsin is

1 more responsible because everything in here is
2 absolutely a sham and fraud on the Court. But my
3 family is here. I have my family here -- they live in
4 Wisconsin.

5 I was recruited by the CIA and I am also a US
6 Custom's representative.

7 THE COURT: Where does your wife live?

8 MR. WANTA: Right now she's in Milwaukee
9 taking care of my mother-in-law's affairs and things
10 like that.

11 THE COURT: And when was it that you --
12 Obviously they're saying you've been in Switzerland
13 since July. Prior to that time when was the last time
14 you were residing permanently in Madison?

15 MR. WANTA: I have never resided in
16 Madison. I haven't been in Madison since 1982.

17 MR. HELLAND: I think the only Madison
18 connections is because of the Department of Revenue is
19 here and as a result --

20 MR. WANTA: But they testified that I
21 came to Madison for this, and I never have been in
22 Madison since 1982 when we were doing a grand jury
23 investigation as I was representing a company in Butler
24 where the interstate governments gave me the money to
25 front for the FBI, and I've never said I was a FBI

1 agent or a DEA agent.

2 THE COURT: Let me rephrase the
3 question. Prior to July of 1993, when was the last
4 time you resided in Wisconsin?

5 MR. WANTA: I moved from Wisconsin in
6 January, 1989. I have a five-year lease in Vienna. I
7 have a beautiful house, an apartment arrangement in
8 downtown Vienna, Austria. I am a resident of Austria
9 and I have spent time in Singapore.

10 Now, nor have I ever been a resident or put in
11 jail in Singapore. I was never arrested in Thailand.
12 I was the complainant because the hotel would not
13 release me until a Thailand cashier's check cleared
14 the bank, and that was from the president (inaudible
15 name) --

16 THE COURT: What address are you
17 currently listing?

18 MR. WANTA: If I would leave here I
19 would stay with my daughter in Eau Claire. Her husband
20 is a football coach and teacher of high school there.
21 I was coming home from for the holidays. I wasn't
22 skipping anyplace. I was coming home to visit. I have
23 not lived here since 1989. I owe no taxes. I live in
24 Vienna. I have a passport.

25 THE COURT: When you say you were coming

1 home for the holidays, what holidays are you referring
2 to?

3 MR. WANTA: First of all, from my
4 embassy in Geneva I was catching a plane to be with my
5 daughter on July 20. From there I was going back to
6 the Toronto embassy where I have been recognized by
7 Canada too, and then I was coming back for
8 Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

9 My son will be 31 years old on January 15, and I
10 though I would go back to Ottawa, to the embassy in
11 Ottawa around the 27th.

12 THE COURT: You're telling me you were
13 beginning your travels back for the Christmas holidays
14 in July?

15 MR. WANTA: July 20 is my daughter's
16 birthday. I was coming back for my daughter's birthday
17 on the way back to the Ottawa/Toronto diplomatic
18 projects I have.

19 THE COURT: I've probably gotten into a
20 lot more detail than I needed to. It's clear from the
21 information provided by the State and the information
22 that you've provided, Mr. Wanta, that you're -- at
23 least claim to be an international figure with some
24 family ties to Wisconsin, but your business ties and
25 residential ties do not appear to be strong to the

1 State of Wisconsin.

2 I clearly think that given the information I've
3 received that cash bail is necessary to assure your
4 appearance in Court.

5 MR. WANTA: Can I put up the house, the
6 corporate house? I am Director General. It's
7 \$130,000.

8 THE COURT: My order does not prohibit
9 that.

10 MR. WANTA: No, but I have a \$130,000
11 home.

12 THE COURT: As I said, my order does not
13 prohibit that, but it must be approved by a judge prior
14 to it being done, so your lawyer would have to file a
15 motion to do that. The judge would review the house,
16 any liens on the house, your ownership of the house,
17 and determine whether or not it would be possible, but
18 as I said, I'm not precluding that from being done.

19 If I understand the State's request, maybe I
20 misheard you, you requested \$25,000?

21 MS. SCHULTZ: Cash.

22 THE COURT: Frankly, from what I've
23 heard I'm going to set it in the amount of a \$100,000
24 cash.

25 MR. WANTA: Your Honor, I've --

1 THE COURT: In the amount of the
2 arrearages. And given the defendant's international
3 travels, I think that much is necessary to make sure
4 that -- that he appears to address these charges.

5 MR. WANTA: Your Honor, I have never
6 been arrested before in my life. The State of
7 Wisconsin is the first arrest and only arrest I will
8 ever have and this is a false arrest. This is a
9 conspiracy without question.

10 THE COURT: They think you've been
11 arrested in a number of other countries.

12 MR. WANTA: I have not. I'm testifying
13 under oath. I have never been arrested.

14 THE COURT: I'm not going to argue about
15 it. That doesn't need to be resolved here today.
16 We'll do your Preliminary Hearing as soon as possible.
17 It will be next Thursday, on December 23 at 9:00 in the
18 morning in front of Judge Nowakowski in Branch 13.

19 From a housekeeping perspective, the amount of
20 bail that I just set doesn't make much sense given that
21 there are six counts and I really should be setting
22 some amount on each count. What I'm going to do is --
23 Well, let me just set \$15,000 cash on each count. I
24 realize that doesn't add up to a hundred thousand
25 dollars, but I think it amounts to sufficient bail from

1 the State's perspective, and is reasonable bail from
2 the defendant's perspective.

3 And if the case goes to trial, Judge Torphy will
4 be the judge assigned to this case if it goes to trial.

5 MR. HELLAND: There is some question as
6 to indigency, and --

7 THE COURT: I'm going -- We need to
8 address that, and we'll do that before we conclude
9 these proceedings.

10 Mr. Wanta, you're being charged with six felony
11 counts. Each count can send you to prison for up to
12 five years or result in a \$10,000 fine or both. These
13 are serious charges. You need to get yourself a
14 lawyer. You've appeared here today with a Public
15 Defender representing you at no cost. He will not be
16 representing you in the future unless they determine
17 that you qualify for a free lawyer. We'll give you a
18 form from the Public Defender's Office explaining your
19 right to have a free lawyer in this matter. You also
20 of course have the right to hire a lawyer of your own
21 choosing.

22 MR. HELLAND: Do you have a lawyer?

23 MR. WANTA: I'm suppose to have a
24 lawyer, but what about my charges of fraud on the Court
25 by the State of Wisconsin. It's a direct charge.

1 THE COURT: That's something that you
2 will need to talk with your lawyer about.

3 MR. WANTA: It's on your court, and it's
4 fraud on your court. You have an obligation to
5 investigate the falsehoods of the State of Wisconsin.

6 THE COURT: You should talk with your
7 lawyer about that. If you cannot afford a lawyer on
8 your own, you should contact the Public Defender's
9 Office and you can do that by putting a request slip in
10 in the jail, or if you're released from jail you should
11 go to the address on that form.

12 MS. SCHULTZ: Your Honor --

13 MR. WANTA: Your Honor, I think you
14 should be aware that they have blocked all of my
15 corporate funds.

16 MS. SCHULTZ: One more thing for the
17 record. I want to make sure that it's clear that we've
18 provided counsel with statements of the defendant
19 reduced to writing. He'll have my card so they can
20 reach me.

21 MR. HELLAND: I'm not counsel, so I'm
22 not --

23 THE COURT: Why don't you provide that
24 to the defendant.

25 MR. HELLAND: I will give that to the

1 defendant.

2 MR. WANTA: I'd like to add to the
3 record, the Associate Customs Assistant Attache is
4 under investigation by us in Internal Affairs. He did
5 not give me an arrest warrant, he gave me a blank
6 arrest warrant and said I had two days to pay this or
7 he would sign it. To me that's extremely illegal, and
8 also for wrongful debt.

9 THE COURT: You should talk with your
10 lawyer about that.

11 (pause)

12 Maybe I'm -- Should I be questioning the
13 defendant's competency at all here? I hear people say
14 these exact things to me and I think that they're being
15 grandiose and delusional and I say we have to get you
16 out to Mendota for an evaluation. Is that an issue
17 here?

18 MS. SCHULTZ: I don't believe so. I
19 think what we have here is a lot of brass and
20 considerable skill at manipulating people.

21 THE COURT: Then I won't order any type
22 of evaluation at this time and we'll let Judge
23 Nowakowski deal with these issues at a Preliminary
24 Hearing.

25 MS. SCHULTZ: Thank you.

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THE COURT: Thank you.

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(AT WHICH TIME the proceedings were concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, LORI J. GERLACH, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported in Stenographic machine shorthand the proceedings had before the Court on the 14th day of December, 1993, and that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct copy of the said Stenograph notes.

Dated this 21st day of December, 1993.



Lori J. Gerlach, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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