

FARM UNION FOES LINKED TO THEFTS

Ex-Deputy Says 2 Growers Paid for Coast Burglaries

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SAN JOSE, Calif., Dec. 27— A former deputy sheriff who has been arrested for burglary has told law enforcement officials here that he was paid by two California growers to break into offices of the United Farm Workers union in the mid-1960's and steal union documents.

Jerry Ducote, who is 46 years old, made the allegations in a statement last February to a California Department of Justice investigator looking into a series of political burglaries. The statement was filed in Municipal Court here this week, when Mr. Ducote was arrested on 21 felony counts relating to the burglaries. He is being held on \$100,000 bail.

Other targets of the burglaries, which were apparently committed in 1966 and 1967, were Ramparts Magazine, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the American-Russian Institute, The Peoples World [a Communist-oriented newspaper], the offices of anti-war activists in three California cities, the home and offices of the late Saul Alinsky, the community organizer who helped Cesar Chavez to form the United Farm Workers, and the home of William Stanton, a former liberal member of the California Assembly.

Loan From Businessmen

Mr. Ducote was arrested under mysterious circumstances, apparently because as late as last year he persuaded a group of businessmen here to lend him money in his fruitless effort to link Mr. Chavez to the Communist Party.

The charges against Mr. Ducote include 13 counts of grand theft, involving \$15,300 in loans he allegedly received from the San Jose businessmen.

According to law enforcement officials here, the investigation began when the businessmen complained to the district attorney's office after they discovered that Mr. Ducote had done little or no investigating with the money.

The charge that growers who resisted Mr. Chavez's attempts to organize California's field workers were behind the thefts of grape boycott plans, financial records and lists of members and financial contributors first appeared in an article in The Fresno Bee in May 1974, after Mr. Ducote apparently discussed the burglaries with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was not named in the article.

Sued by Ramparts Magazine

In September 1974, Mr. Ducote and 500 unknown persons were sued by Ramparts magazine for \$30 million in connection with the burglary of the magazine's offices in San Francisco in March 1967. The burglary occurred shortly after the magazine disclosed that the Central Intelligence Agency had funneled money to the National Students Association in the hope of gaining information about radical students.

Mr. Ducote's statement said that Jack Pandol, a Delano grape grower, and Stephen D'Arrigo, a Salinas lettuce grower, financed the burglaries of the United Farm Workers offices after a meeting in April 1967 arranged by Kenneth Wilhelm, a school teacher who was then secretary of the county farm bureau here.

The three men denied this week that they had financed any burglaries. Mr. Wilhelm conceded, however, that he had hired Mr. Ducote for some "investigative work," and Mr. Pandol acknowledged that he had given some work to Mr. Ducote because he was trying to link Mr. Chavez to the Communist Party.

Posed as Agent

As part of his effort to link the United Farm Workers leader to the Communists, Mr. Ducote said he posed as an F.B.I. agent and as an investigator for the House Un-American Activities Committee. The committee, which changed its name to the House Internal Security Committee in 1969, was abolished last January.

Jerry Cohen, the United Farm Workers' chief counsel, said this week that Mr. Ducote tried to sell him the stolen union documents "for \$25,000" at a Bakersfield hotel in February 1974. Mr. Cohen said he scheduled a second meeting with Mr. Ducote at another Bakersfield hotel and arranged to have the meeting observed by an F.B.I. agent whom he had alerted.

Mr. Cohen and Mr. Chavez contend that government officials have been deliberately lax in looking into the burglaries. Mr. Cohen referred to Mr. Ducote's statement that he had met with a C.I.A. agent in Washington after meetings in 1967 with then Representative Charles Gubser, Republican of California, and with members of the House Un-American Activities Committee, to whom he had turned over copies of the stolen documents.

Throughout his statement, Mr. Ducote hints that various state and Federal officials, including C.I.A. agents, instigated and financed some of the burglaries, including the one at Ramparts, but he supplied no names and was sketchy about details.

A preliminary hearing on the charges will be held here on Jan. 8.

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