

MURDAUGH IS SEEKING DISMISSAL OF CHARGES

By the Associated Press

Fourteenth Circuit Sol. Randolph Murdaugh will ask dismissal of an indictment against him in the Colleton County liquor conspiracy case on grounds of alleged improper grand jury evidence.

Among his charges, contained in one of four motions, is that federal investigators in the case promised "light sentences" to induce testimony against Murdaugh.

Attorneys for Murdaugh, one of 30 defendants scheduled for federal trial Sept. 17, last night mailed copies of the motions to Dist. Atty. N. Welch Morrisette. They also ask:

A separate trial for Murdaugh, a bill of particulars for details of the government's case and the elimination of charges or several overt conspiracy acts because they are "immaterial, irrelevant and merely surplusage. . ."

The motions, along with a subpoena requiring the prosecution to produce all records and evidence in the case, will come up at an Aug. 20 pre-trial conference in Charleston. The trial also will be held in Charleston.

The specific government charge against Murdaugh is that he conspired to transport an "illegal distillery" from Hampton to Colleton County to prevent interference by local law enforcement officers.

The main allegation in the indictment concerns a statement the government said Murdaugh made to Robert F. Clifton. The latter told the grand jury in a written statement, according to the defense lawyers, that Murdaugh told him to move a still into Colleton County.

Attys. Henry H. Edens and Henry Hammer will base their dismissal motion in part on a rule requiring that grand jury testimony be given under oath.

If the motion fails, Murdaugh will ask separate trial on grounds

a joint trial would subject him "to the danger of guilt by transference rather than by competence and proper evidence. . ."

He adds in one of his motions that as solicitor he "has prosecuted several of the named co-conspirators in this case. . . I tried with them, Murdaugh will argue, his "substantial rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced thereby."

Murdaugh also charges that he is "informed and believes that promises have been made by government agents to some of the other defendants in this case in order to induce and influence such defendants to implicate" the solicitor.

Indicted along with Murdaugh was Colleton County Sheriff G. Haskell Thompson.

Thompson was ordered suspended from office by Gov. Timmerman. His case contesting the constitutionality of the law under which the governor acted is now before the State Supreme Court.

VODKA



80 & 100 proof Distilled from grain. Sta. P.