

'Cat and mouse' wiretaps are played

Nov 11/82

By VIRGINIA L. BOHN
Star Reporter

WESTMINSTER — Wiretapped telephone conversations between Robert Myers and others, played in his murder trial Wednesday, did not directly implicate him in his wife's murder.

In most of the 11 conversations, Myers indicated that his business and home phones were tapped, and he arranged to talk with the callers in person. The majority were recorded in September, 1981, just two months before Myers was indicted for allegedly arranging the 1979 contract murder of his wife, Mary Ruth.

Daniel Lee Chadderton was convicted in May of being the trigger man in the murder that prosecutors claim was planned by Myers and Tina Myers, the woman he married less than a month after the slaying.

"The reason (Maryland State Police Corporal James M.) Lee's trying to put us in jail is he's scared. He's trying to f--- us all up. Play one against the other. Get one of us to go flat. Impossible," Myers was recorded as saying to Chadderton.

"If it goes flat, it's permanent," Chadderton replied.

"That's right. Any one of them," Myers said laughing.

The conversation, recorded September 18, 1981, took place in person in Myers' Westminster office. It was

picked up by the wiretap as Myers was calling an airline to arrange transportation to Bermuda. At the time, Tina Myers was in Bermuda facing a charge — of which she was later convicted — of marrying Myers while she was married to another man.

In a conversation between Myers and Chadderton recorded earlier that day, Myers talked about how he thought Lee was trying to get the three defendants to talk about each other.

"Lee told Tina while I was over there (Bermuda), that, Christ, you were blackmailing me and all this kind of sh—... Can you believe that? Just because you help a friend out when he don't have a job... A few bucks for groceries, you know, that's blackmail, right?" Myers said to Chadderton. According to testimony offered earlier in the trial, Myers continually gave money to Chadderton in addition to the \$10,000 he allegedly paid him to kill Mary Ruth.

"I never hated no one, but this Lee's for the birds... That common son of a b—," Myers said.

"We ain't got nothing to hide. I don't think we should let (it) split our friendship up," he added.

At the end of the conversation, the two men agreed to meet at Myers' office later that day. It was during the subsequent meeting that their exchange about Lee trying to arrest them took place.

The office was apparently chosen as their meeting grounds because, Myers said, "I don't want to be seen in any bars or nothing when she's (Tina) in jail. You understand me?"

Another call from Chadderton to Myers' home revealed that Chadderton had information for Myers that he was trying to keep from Tina. When Chadderton called Myers' house at noon on September 4, 1981, he was only able to reach Tina's young son.

Chadderton hung up after he learned that Myers was not there, but he called back three minutes later and left a Los Angeles phone number for Myers to call. He instructed Tina's son to only give the number to Myers.

"Don't give it to your mom," he said.

When the boy twice asked who was calling, Chadderton declined to leave his name.

An August 20, 1981 call recorded Myers telling Chadderton to "meet me as soon as you can." Myers indicated that he didn't want Tina to know about the meeting.

Several of the recorded phone calls showed the effect of Lee's investigation on Myers. Lee began investigating the case on the day of the murder. According to the corporal's earlier testimony, he told Myers about 24 hours after the killing that he would probably be arrested for his wife's murder.

"I got my right mind and all from, you know, this past year. But they're trying to drive me back crazy again," Myers was recorded as telling a friend on September 5, 1981.

Two days later, wiretaps recorded Myers saying, "This gonna drive me to drink. But I know that's the worst thing to do. That's what Lee's wants me to do. Bastard."

The 11 conversations played to the jury were chosen from about 1,000 calls that were

see WIRE TAPS Page 1



Wiretap Nov 11/82

Continued from Page 1

wiretapped from August 20, 1981, until September 24, 1981. The recordings were made under the supervision of Maryland State Police Corporal James E. Schreyer who played them for the jury.

Much of the talking was difficult to understand, but the jury was provided with transcripts to read as the tape was being played.

Six of the conversations were recorded from the telephone at Myers' Turkey Foot Road home, and the remaining five were recorded from the two phones at Myers' Westminster accounting firm, Maryland Business Services.

Wednesday's court session also included testimony from Rose M. Lanzetta, a forensic chemist with the Maryland State Police.

She testified that a light brown Caucasian head hair found clutched in Mary Ruth Myers' right hand did not match the hair of Mary Ruth Chadderton, or Myers. Two white synthetic fibers also found in her right hand were not identifiable, Lanzetta said.

The prosecution, which began presenting its case on October 6, is expected to rest on Friday. The defense will then begin its case.

No court was held today due



Court hears tapes of Myers's phone calls

By Patricia A. Rauter
Carroll County Bureau of The Sun

Westminster—Prosecutors introduced a series of 11 wiretapped telephone conversations by contract murderer defendant Robert L. Myers yesterday as it neared the conclusion of its case against him.

The tapes included several conversations between Mr. Myers and Daniel L. Chadderton, whom the state maintains Mr. Myers paid \$10,000 to kill his wife, Mary Ruth.

All were taped in September, 1981, and most occurred after Ernestine (Tina) Gillen Myers—whom Mr. Myers married 28 days after his wife's August 29, 1979, death—had been extradited to Bermuda on bigamy charges.

Tina Myers also was indicted in the murder but was given immunity from prosecution in return for her testimony against her husband and Chadderton, who was convicted of the murder early this year.

In the calls, which took place two months before the trio was indicted by a Carroll county grand jury, Mr.

Myers does not mention any involvement in the murder.

But he complained bitterly about police surveillance and, particularly, the activities of Cpl. James M. Leete, the chief state police investigator on the case.

"Leete's trying to put us in jail because he's scared," Mr. Myers told Chadderton in a tape made September 18, 1981. "He's trying to f--- us all. Trying to play one against the other.... trying to get one wheel to go flat."

"If one goes flat, it's permanent," Chadderton replied.

"That's right," Mr. Myers said, laughing, "any one of them."

In the recorded conversations, Mr. Myers repeatedly told callers his telephones were tapped.

In one conversation between Mr. Myers and Sherrie Chadderton, Daniel Chadderton's wife, Mrs. Chadderton said she "might need a little help."

But, she added, "I'd rather not talk to you on your phone. It's tapped."

Mr. Myers said Corporal Leete was telling Tina Myers that he was

seeing other women as she awaited trial in Bermuda on charges she was still married to a Florida plumber when she wed Mr. Myers.

He was not running around on her, he told Tina Myers's former landlady, Charlotte Horton, and said in conversations with Mrs. Chadderton's mother.

"I helped Sher [Mrs. Chadderton] out with some grocery money, and Leete told her [Tina] Sher and I were having an affair.... That's what the cops do to try to come between people," he told Mrs. Chadderton's mother.

In a conversation with Mrs. Horton, he said, "Oh, God... this is going to drive me to drink. But I know that's the worse thing I can do. That's what Leete wants me to do."

He said he did not go out with other women and he had not been drinking in his wife's absence.

"I don't drink since I met that girl [Tina], but you know even before I met Tina, I never fooled around with any women," he said.

In the same conversation, he said he had met with Chadderton

"I did meet with Dan a couple of times, but not to drink.... But that didn't look good," he said.

Cpl. James E. Schroyer, in charge of electronic surveillance in the Myers case for the State Police, said officers got court permission to bug the Myers home, as well as tap its phone.

But that mission, he said, was never accomplished, because after entering the house while the Myerses were away, Cpl. Shroyer said his partner inadvertently punched his foot through the living room ceiling as he attempted to plant the device in the attic.

Police later returned to the house, he testified, and removed the bug.

Also yesterday, a Kingsville man who sold the North Winds motel in Ocean City to Mary Ruth and Robert Myers in 1978, testified he had asked Mr. Myers point-blank if he had anything to do with the woman's death.

"He said no. He made reference to he could have had it done, but he didn't," said Walter Heinecke, adding, "We didn't discuss it any more."

Myers jury hears record of calls

MYERS, From B1

Myers complained of Marco's close tabs on him.

Myers had called Chadderton Aug. 28, 1981:

"Well, I gotta get there [home] as soon as possible, cause you know Tina," Myers said. "The minute I call and tell her I'm coming home, she expects me home."

"Did you tell her you were coming?" Chadderton asked.

"Hell, no, not yet," Myers said. "I gotta call her, though."

"All right," Chadderton said.

"Cause if she calls here and I ain't here, I catch hell again," Myers said.

"OK, we'll call her and tell her you're going to stop with a client," Chadderton said.

"No," Myers said.

"And you'll be on your way home," Chadderton said.

"Yeah, I'll have a beer or two. Maybe I can try to talk her into letting me pick her up some food, see, and I got an excuse to be late."

"OK," Chadderton said.

During several of the calls, Myers cautioned the other party and said he knew the line was tapped.

"You know I got a lot to tell you, but I can't tell you over the phone," he told Chadderton in another conversation.

Myers complained about Leete on other occasions, such as during a Sept. 7, 1981, call to the mother of Chadderton's wife, Sherrie.

"And that damn state trooper went over to my

wife in Bermuda over there and told her that Sherrie and I was having an affair and this kind of crazy . . ." Myers said.

"She wasn't brought up like that," the mother said.

"No, well I'm just trying to tell you what the cops do and how they're trying to come between my wife and I," Myers said.

"Oh, yeah, they figure you get one against the other, they'll say things they won't say other times," the mother said.

On another occasion, Myers lamented to Charlotte Horton, the owner of a boarding house where Marco used to stay.

"Oh God, this is going to drive me to drink," Myers said. "But I know that's the worse thing to do. That's what Leete wants me to do."

"That's what he wants you to do," Horton said.

Myers said, "Well . . . I did meet Dan a couple of times, but not drinking. You know what I mean? But that didn't look good. . . We'd meet about court things and we'd meet a place different every time. Because the cops . . ."

"But I didn't drink or anything," Myers continued. "Hell, I don't drink since I met that girl. But you, but you know even before I met Tina, I never fooled with any women, did I?"

In a conversation with Chadderton, Myers said, "Leete told Tina you were blackmailing me . . . Can you believe it? Just because you help a friend without a job . . . People say this Leete's getting pretty desperate. He's been spending money for two months."

Chadderton and Myers had another conversa-

tion that went as follows:

Chadderton: "What'd you do to my old woman, man? You kept her upstairs all night."

Myers: "Not me."

C: "Yes, you did."

M: "Tina did. The hell I did."

C: "I asked her, boy."

M: "You're full of . . ."

C: "I went to bed at 11."

M: "I know. Ain't that awful?"

C: "Ain't it terrible?"

M: "That was Tina's doing."

C: "You must have had a good time up there, fella."

M: "You dumb . . ."

C: [Laughs]

M: "OK."

C: "Well, next time, you can send them both down to me, you hear me?"

M: "All right."

C: [Laughs]

M: ". . . You got enough trouble handling one."

C: [Laughs] "I heard that."

M: "Til, I'll see you later."

C: "Sounds like you're picking on me."

M: "Uh-uh."

C: "OK, me either. I got a lot of . . . to do. That's all."

M: "Mmmmmmm."

C: "O.K., talk to you later. Bye-bye."

M: "Bye."

The trial, not in session today due to the Veterans Day holiday, will resume tomorrow in Westminster.

Myers jury hears record of calls to Chadderton

Nov 11/82

By Mark Parrent

Evening Sun Staff

On Sept. 8, 1981, Robert L. Myers called an airline for reservations to Bermuda, where his wife Tina Marco was facing bigamy charges. As he waited, he talked to Daniel L. Chadderton, And State Police, using a wiretap, listened to them.

Jurors in Myers' contract murder trial in Carroll County Circuit Court heard a tape of the call yesterday. Myers is charged with hiring Chadderton in 1979 to kill his second wife, Mary Ruth. Chadderton was convicted of the killing last May.

At the time Myers made the call, State Police Cpl. James M. Leece had been attempting to gather enough evidence to indict them for more than two years. His testimony showed that the bigamy charges Marco faced were placed in an attempt to gain her cooperation in the murder investigation. And Myers and Chadderton apparently suspected as much.

"The reason Leece's trying to put us in jail is he's scared," Myers told Chadderton. "He's trying to ... us all up. Play one against the other. Get one wheel to go flat, impossible."

"If it goes flat, it's permanent," Chadderton said.

"That's right," Myers said and laughed. "Any one of them."

Marco, also indicted in the alleged plot, was granted immunity when she agreed to testify against Myers and Chadderton.

The call was one of more than 1,000 State Police monitored using a wiretaps with permission of the court. Several tapes were played for the jury and Judge Luke K. Burns Jr. yesterday, some of the conversations laced with expletives and profanity.

Police also attempted to bug Myers' Silver Run home, but aborted the mission when a trooper put his foot through the ceiling.

In another phone conversation with Chadderton,

See MYERS, B4, Col. 1