Bail set for man accused of threatening Reagan

By Bruce Olson

A federal judge Tuesday set bail at $150,000 for a man accused of threatening to kill President Reagan, turning down a request that would have freed him.

The suuspect, Isom Joseph Dean Jr., 24 pleaded innocent.

Defense attorney Fred Bennett said the bail was too high for Dean's family to meet and the suspect would probably remain in Baltimore City Jail until his trial begins Feb. 16.

Dean was arrested Sept. 2 in Towson in a car loaded with an arsenal of guns just 50 miles from the White House. The car contained three high-powered rifles and other ammunition and U.S. Secret Service Agents said Dean told them "He hated the President and he should be dipsosed of."

Citing six prior convictions and a "history of psychiatric disorder," U.S. District Judge Shirley Jones turned down a defense plea that Dean be released on a $50,000 property bond that Dean's family agreed to post.

Bennett argued that Dean had a long history of family ties in the Baltimore area. The judge said the crime was too serious for such a bond and turned down the request.

Dean was examined and found competent to stand trial by a federal team at the U.S. Medical Center in Springfield, MO, last week and returned to Baltimore for Tuesday's arraignment.

In arguing for Dean's release, Bennett said the defendant had a history of drug problems and could receive treatment as a condition of his bail if he was allowed to be released.

"He has no record of failure to appear in court and no record of flight. The terms of the property bond would be a sledgehammer over his head," Bennett said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Dunne recommended bail of $200,000 and said, "The crimes Dean has been convicted in the past show a history of untrustworthiness."

He said Dean had been convicted of six crimes in Maryland, North Carolina, Delaware and Pennsylvania and had a history of drug and alcohol use.

Dunne said he could "hardly think of a more serious crime. He said he was on his way to Washington to shoot the president."

Dean is charged in a two-count indictment with threatening to kill the president and for illegal possession of firearms.

Judge Jones said "both are very serious charges. He was caught flat out with the weapons and his character and mental state weigh very heavily against him. It seems that he can be considered dangerous."

She set pretrial motions for Dec. 23.

The suspect's mother, Eva Dean, said her son had been depressed since last Christmas when his brother tried to kill him.

Journal lays off news department

The Philadelphia Journal, 4 years old and $15 million in the red, plans to lay off its news and entertainment staff and switch to an all-sports format, a spokesman for the newspaper said Tuesday.

But he said the tabloid newspaper could fold entirely before the scheduled Jan. 11 changes unless the remaining sports and advertising staff, drivers and other workers agree to massive contract concessions.

Michel Trudeau, general manager and editor-in-chief, told the staff Monday night that the newspaper would become an all-sports publication by Jan. 11 and stop its Saturday edition after this week. The newspaper currently publishes six days a week.

Talks between representatives of the newspaper guild and the teamsters and journal management resumed Tuesday after adjourning at 11 p.m. Monday.

One union official, who refused to be identified, said the proposed labor concessions included 16 percent pay cuts and elimination of medical benefits.

The owners of the Journal, Quebecor Inc., of Montreal, orginally set a noon Sunday deadline for the concessions. Sources said Tuesday, however, that the deadline will probably be extended.

The Journal employs 157 in all its departments and planeed to lay off all 18 journalists in news and entertainment. A union official said layoffs in other departments were part of the negotiations.

Trudeau remained unavilable for comment.

The Journal has a daily circulation of 105,000 Monday through Friday and approximately 86,000 on Saturday.

Trudeau told the staff the newspaper has lost $15 million since it began publication Dec. 5, 1977 and $4 million alone in the past year. Quebecor, which posted a 26 percent drop in net income in the first nine months of 1981, wants to cut $3 million in the newspaper's operating costs.

Walt Herring, the Journal's managing editor until he resigned six months ago, said the newspaper "has taken a band-aid approach from the beginning" to stabilizing itself financially.

"If they can economize a lot and keep the 105,000 (circulation), maybe it will fly," said Herring. "It's amazing the paper is there at all. Nobody gave it a shot."

Driver loses job for spanking student

A Harford County school bus driver lost his job because of charges he overstepped his authority in slapping a 10 - year - old boy who was misbehaving, school officials said.

County School Superintendent Alfonso A. Roberty said this week that Kenneth L. Sellers, 46, will no longer be allowed to drive a school bus because of his "inappropriate" conduct.

Sellers allegedly slapped a Norrisville Elementary School fourth grader after the child used a four - letter word and refused to behave on the bus ride home.

County school regulations stipulate that no one except principals or assistant principals may spank pupils.

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NEWEST CHICKEN GEORGE — Mrs. Janet McLean is one of several patrons who received free chicken Tuesday when Chicken George restaurant opened its newest location in the 100 block of Howard Street. During the day-long opening, long lines of customers formed to receive a free piece of chicken, rice or greens and a biscuit. Other Chicken George locations in the city include Mondawmin Mall, Walbrook Shopping Plaza and the Edmondson Village Shopping Center.

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

Plan urged to limit inmates

By John W. Frece

A Washington County group Wednesday asked Gov. Harry Hughes to back a plan to limit the number of inmates that could be imprisoned in different regions of the state to the number each region produces.

The five Western Maryland businessmen who met with Hughes for a little more than 30 minutes also asked the governor to reverse his decision to build a new prison near Hagerstown that had originally been planned for Jessup.

Hughes said he would have his staff study the proposal to limit where future prison inmates are housed, but told the group he would not change his mind regarding the new Hagerstown prison.

"The governor said he could not reverse his decision to expand prison facilities there because he felt that was the right place for them," said Hughes' press secretary, Lou Panos.

The group, calling itself the "Coalition Against Prison Expansion," asked Hughes to support a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would divide the state into three geographic regions. The number of inmates that could be incarcerated in each of the regions would not be permitted to exceed the number of prisoners committed from each region, except in emergencies.

Under the plan, Region 1 would include Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery, Harford, Cecil and Baltimore Counties and Region 3 would include only Baltimore City. Region 2 would include the rest of the state, Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore and Howard, Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties.

The delegation complained that prisons in Hagerstown and Jessup currently and traditionally house an unfairly disproportionate share of inmates who are committed to the state system from Baltimore.

Relying on state statistics, they said 53.3 percent of all state prisoners are committed from Baltimore, although only 23.7 percent of all state prisoners are housed in the city.

Michael F. Canning, the governor's assistant for prison matters, said Hughes had not had an opportunity to review the proposal. "He has asked the staff to look into it," he said.

Canning said the Washington County delegation contended such a limit would remove politics from prison planning decisions but Canning said Hughes disagreed.

"The governor said it really isn't going to do that because anything that gets approved anyway has to get through the legislature. To get a constitutional amendment approved is politics," Canning said.

"The governor also indicated, as he has said before, that after this prison is built (in Hagerstown), these additional beds, that he thinks that is enough for Hagerstown, that they shouldn't have to support any additional facilities up there," Canning said.

NEW PRESIDENT — Dr. Rosetta F. Sands became the president of the Maryland Nurses Association at its 1981 fall convention. Dr. Sands is the first black nurse to head this state organization which is the official voice for all registered nurses in Maryland. Dr. Sands is an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing.

Mandel accepts contractor job

By Bruce Olson

Former two-term Gov. Marvin Mandel took a job Tuesday with Charles J. Cirelli and Sons, an Anne Arundel County General Contractor involved in real estate development and construction.

Mandel, 61, who said he had been "straining at the bit to get back to work," said he was enjoying his first day at work and planned to stay with the firm.

Mandel's sentence for mail fraud and racketeering was commuted by President Reagan last week and Mandel will be free Dec. 20. In the meantime, he's living in a Volunteers of America halfway house in East Baltimore.

He left the facility early Tuesday morning and did not have to report back until 10 p.m. Tuesday night, a condition only allowed those who have a job.

Mandel said he would be involved in real estate development and financing at the firm, just 10 miles from his home in Annapolis.

He would not say how much the job paid.

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