

Collins Tax Case Dropped

State Assemblyman Gene Collins' two-count income tax evasion indictment was dismissed Tuesday for violation of Speedy Trial Act by visiting U.S. District Judge Edward J. Schwartz.

However, in dismissing the case without prejudice, the judge left the door open to the government to seek reindictment against the Democratic assemblyman. Federal Public Defender Daniel Markoff said Collins is willing to pay his taxes. Markoff said he hopes to commence talks with the U.S. attorney's office to resolve the situation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Lieberman said the government will once again evaluate the case.

"It would be inappropriate to comment at this point as to whether we will seek to reindict him," Lieberman said.

Schwartz, of San Diego, began his first day on the Las Vegas bench to handle the court's heavy caseload, as U.S. District Judge Harry Claiborne remains on a leave of absence to combat charges that he accepted \$85,000 in bribes from brothel owner Joe Conforte.

Collins, 40, 1101 Eleanor Ave., was indicted

last May on charges of failing to file federal income tax return for 1979 and 1980. He allegedly failed to file returns on \$15,386 in income for 1979 and \$22,316 in 1980.

Under the Speedy Trial Act, a defendant must be brought to trial within 70 days from the date of arraignment, with certain extensions for such considerations as the filing of stipulations and judicial findings.

Markoff filed a motion Friday seeking dismissal of the indictment for violation of the act. Markoff contended the deadline for the trial was Dec. 6.

Collins, an electrician and a 22-year resident of Las Vegas, was elected to the Assembly in 1982 after defeating the Rev. Marion Bennett, a five-term incumbent.

Rev. James Allen A 'No Show'

The Rev. James Allen, who had vowed to return to Las Vegas Tuesday to press for an investigation of alleged prior wrongdoings by former NAACP officials, missed his deadline.

He said Tuesday he won't be back "because I can't get any support."

Allen, 27, said he had reassumed five weeks ago his position as pastor of the Allen Chapel, African Methodist Church in Chey-

enne, Wyo., which he helped build before he came to Las Vegas about two years ago.

Since he left Las Vegas in September, Allen had been living in Roswell, N.M.

Shortly before he left town, he filed a complaint with the FBI charging \$500,000 of the millions used to build the chapter's senior citizens housing project had been misused.

Rev. Bennett Agrees To Fix Buildings

Former State Assemblyman Marion Bennett pleaded "no contest," last Thursday in Municipal Court to two charges in connection with his condemned apartment buildings at 619 W. Van Burn St.

Deputy City Attorney Nancy Becker and Bennett's lawyer, Ralph Denton, reported after huddling for 1½ hours that a plea bargain had been agreed to, with

Bennett consenting to bring the buildings up to code within the next six months.

If so the city will recommend a \$150 fine on the nolo contendere plea for not having a proper permit, and dismissal of the second charge of operating an unsafe building.

Jackson Disappointed Over Alabama Support

A disappointed Jesse Jackson sat in his 19th floor hotel suite at the end of a long day of politicking and said his failure to gain the endorsement of a large black political group in Alabama was not the end of his presidential campaign.

Jackson, in Mobile along with two other contenders for the Democratic nomination, suffered two blows to his campaign Saturday. The first discouraging news came from Washington, where the National Organization for Women said it endorsed Vice President Walter Mondale.

Just hours later, the

Alabama Democratic Conference, the largest black political organization in the state, decided in a heated, emotional meeting that Jackson had no realistic chance of winning and endorsed a slate with Mondale as president and Jackson as vice president.

The 116 to 38 vote was greeted with dismay by many of the blacks in the meeting room who began to sing "We Shall Overcome." There was bitterness, some saying the lopsided vote was a sellout. One woman said her blood was boiling so bad she refused to talk about it.

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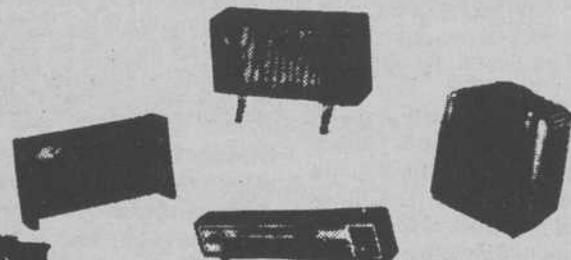
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