

New Flood trial sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government will make another attempt to convict Rep. Daniel J. Flood of perjury and bribery charges, the Justice Department announced yesterday.

The first trial of the Pennsylvania Democrat ended Feb. 3 with a hung jury. Only one of the 12 members held out for acquittal on all the counts, according to jurors.

Justice Department spokesman Terry Adamson issued a one-paragraph statement that said the department will seek a new trial and that Flood's attorney, Axel Kleiboemer, was notified. Kleiboemer said he would have no comment.

Adamson said the decision to seek a new trial did not stem from an investigation into possible jury tampering in the first trial.

The lone juror who held out for acquittal, William Cash, had claimed to jurors that he had confidential information which could be interpreted as helping to exonerate Flood.

However, when later questioned about that report, Cash said he was only joking when he claimed to have a secret source who gave him information.

The Justice Department announced last Friday that the FBI would begin a jury-tampering investigation, in part because the information that Cash revealed to the other jurors bore some similarity to that contained in a confidential year-old FBI report.

There was some question as to whether prosecutors would seek a new trial because of Flood's age and the state of his health. The 16-term congressman is 75 and was hospitalized two days after

the first trial for what aides said was exhaustion.

Flood was accused of taking more than \$50,000 in bribes in return for using his influence as chairman of an important congressional subcommittee on labor and health, education and welfare which oversees billions of dollars in annual federal spending.

Witnesses against Flood included his former aide, Stephen B. Elko, who is serving a two-year prison term for taking \$25,000 in bribes to influence Flood in connection with federal aid for a now-defunct chain of trade schools in California.

Flood, who is from Wilkes-Barre, was elected to a new term last November, after he was indicted on the perjury and bribery charges.

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African president flees country

PARIS (UPI) — President Felix Malloum of Chad fled his palace and took refuge at a French military base yesterday and the chief of the national police assumed power in N'Djamena, Sudan's SUNA news agency said.

SUNA reported that once Malloum had fled to the French camp in N'Djamena, the capital of the Central African nation, the commander of the Chadian police, Col. Abdul Gadir Kamoji, had assumed power.

"Fierce fighting between forces backing Malloum and troops loyal to (Premier Hissen) Habre resumed today with Habre's troops advancing on all fronts in the capital," SUNA said.

The agency said Kamoji played a key role in the military coup which toppled pro-French President Ngarta Tombalbaye four years ago.

Malloum's presidential palace was threatened by advancing Habre forces and the president fled to the camp manned by hundreds of heavily armed French paratroopers, diplomatic reports in Paris said.

More than 1,000 French residents were hastily evacuated to the same base because of heightened offensives by Habre's self-styled Army of the North which reopened fire on government forces in N'Djamena for the fourth consecutive day, the reports said.

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