

Key Issues Remain Unanswered In Wake Of Tucker's Perjury Conviction

(continued from page 7)

Tucker connection through a tip from Jean Aqualino, Verner's former mistress. Ironically, Aqualino's tip was received on Nov. 21, the same day that Tucker offered his "unrestricted" cooperation to the Federal counterfeit recordings investigation.

In testimony that could figure significantly when the Goody trial begins later this year, Aqualino said that she accompanied Verner on "numerous" occasions to the Goody warehouse in Maspeth, Queens, and to an unnamed retailer in Framingham, Mass., and waited in a car while Verner unloaded "sealed cartons" of counterfeit eight-track tapes and cassettes. Aqualino testified that Verner had purchased the counterfeit eight-tracks from Tucker and the cassettes from B.C.F. Productions, a Boheima, N.Y. duplicator whose co-principal, George Scott, first introduced Verner (who was then using the alias "Murray Stein") to Tucker in June 1978.

Aqualino, who lived with Verner in a Long Island house that he had purchased with cash profits from his illegal dealings, said that she began to quarrel with Verner when she discovered that he had a wife and family in Toronto. She testified that Verner began to beat her prior to locking her out in the Spring of 1979, when he threatened to have her "taken care of" if she went to the authorities with what she knew about his illicit business operation (Verner, during his testimony, denied threatening to kill Aqualino).

Confided Perjury

Armed with Aqualino's information, Federal prosecutors began the Dec. 6

grand jury grilling of Tucker by asking him about Verner. During his trial testimony, Tucker professed to have been "stunned" by the questions about Verner although Assistant U.S. Attorney Max Sayah had shown him a sheet with topics to be covered by the grand jury listing Verner's name at the top, immediately prior to his grand jury appearance.

On Sept. 8, Henry Frost, Tucker's former attorney, testified that he got "quite mad" when Tucker confided his false testimony about Verner when they left the grand jury on Dec. 6. Frost said that he urged Tucker several times that day to "go right back" to the grand jury and recant his false testimony about Verner. This contradicted Tucker's previous testimony that Furst told him that he had "time" to recant. The trial jury of eight men and four women ultimately rejected defense attorney Richard Abrahamson's argument that Tucker's subsequent Jan 3 grand jury appearance for the purpose of recanting his testimony about Verner came under the purview of established "timeliness" provisions concerning recantation of grand jury testimony.

Prosecutor Jacobs convinced the jury that the Government's counterfeit probe had been "substantially" affected by Tucker's perjury and that the perjury has become known before Tucker's attempt to recant. The jury also rejected Tucker's claim that he had not discussed the Government's interest in Verner with Verner when he telephoned the Canadian immediately after his Dec. 6 grand jury appearance, or at the subsequent "Ronnie's

(continued on page 40)

THIS MUSIC OF BUSINESS — Further indications that subdistributors are the segment of the record business being hit hardest by the shrinking market are: Town Hall Records, Brooklyn's only one-stop, has declared Chapter 11, and Record Shack is huddling with creditors to restructure payments so it won't have to do the same. A sales source assessed that 18 of the 21 one-stops in the Metropolitan area are on hold. On a retail level, we hear that the Sam Goody chain is in the same boat. Is Pickwick trying to unload? ... Will Warner Bros. exercise an option in its contract with Sire and purchase the label outright? Sire president **Seymour Stein** has been seen meeting with Warner Bros. head **Mo Ostin** ... EMIA/Liberty will spend two million dollars for a mail order TV campaign (prime time) in support of its upcoming **Kenny Rogers** greatest hits package.



CRUISIN' WITH THE T-BIRDS — *Chrysalis recording group The Fabulous Thunderbirds recently performed to SRO audiences at Tramp's in New York. Pictured onstage are (l-r): Jimmie Vaughn, Mike Buck, Kim Wilson, and Keith Ferguson of the group.*

Zeppelin would tour the United States for "approximately one month starting the middle of October" ... **Al Green's** gospel album will come out on Word Records. Green chose the label, who'll sublease the album from Hi/Cream, over Savoy, who actually offered bigger bucks ... **The Brains** are recording their second LP in Atlanta; **Steve Lillywhite** is producing. **Manfred Mann** is covering one of its own recorded tunes, "Heart In The Street" ... **Ex-Little Feat** members **Paul Barrere, Richie Hayward** and **Kenny Gradney** have joined forces with veteran Midwest rocker "**Catfish**" **Hodge** to form **Chicken Legs** ... **The Bram Tchaikovsky** band has broken up, and **The Selector** has lost its keyboardist, **Desmond Brown** and bass player **Charley Anderson**. The group will record its next LP using "guests."

An enterprising Dallas DJ spliced **Mickey Gilley's** version of "True Love Ways" with the original by **Buddy Holly**. It worked so well that Epic is working on securing the rights to release it from the Holly estate ... **The Fabulous Thunderbirds** gig at Tramp's featured a one-gig opening act called **The French Ticklers**, consisting of **David Johansen, Sylvain Sylvain, and Eliot Murphy** performing on acoustic guitars. Though we continue to be unimpressed by Murphy's jive rich-kid-on-the-street lyrics, Johansen impressed us with a couple of soul bearing versions of "Flamingo Road" and "Whore With A Heart Of Gold."

MORE SHMOOZ — **Danny Amos** replaces the late **George Scott** as bass player for **The Raybeats** ... **Elton John's** band for this tour is called **Guided Muscle** ... The new **Harry Nilsson** album on U.K. Phonogram has yet to find an American taker ... **Boardwalk** is set to sign **KC and the Sunshine Band** ... **The Police** LP will be called "Zenyatta Modatta" ... **Rod Price** will leave **Foghat** after the current tour ... **The Main Ingredient's Tony Sylvester** has formed Triple Threat Productions with arranger **Wade Marcus**. They've signed a Euro-funk group called **Fantasia** and are scoring a movie called *The Adventures of Billy Moon*, about a half Jewish, half-Navajo Indian ex-roller derby champ on the lam. Sounds like must-viewing to us. Tony can be reached for production assignments at (212) 246-1237 ... Sorry to hear that **George Landry**, aka "Chief Jolly," of **The Wild Tchoupitoulas** died of lung cancer in New Orleans in August. We caught Landry's solo piano set of blues and viper jive tunes at Tipitina's last April and hope that the fat, unshaven dude with the bandana and tape recorder does the right thing with his tape of the performance ... The war between local rock stations WNEW and WPLJ escalates as both feature promotions based on the "Rocktober" theme ... Columbia salesmen are soliciting for the **Bruce Springsteen** 21-song double LP, "The River" ... Solid Smoke Records, the tasteful San Francisco indie that just shipped reissue LPs by doo-wop group **The Shepards** and rockers **Johnny and Dorsey Burnette** has set October release for "James Brown, Live At the Apollo," one of the greatest live records ever. They've retitled the circa '62 recording "James Brown, Live and Lowdown at the Apollo, Vol. 1."



LENORE'S BIRTHDAY BASH — *Polydor Records recently feted Lenore O'Malley with a birthday party at New York's Metropolitan Roller Rink. O'Malley's recording of "First Be A Woman" is a pop and dance-music chart hit. Pictured at the party are (l-r): Dick Kline, executive vice president of Polygram Records East; O'Malley; and Fred Haayen, president of Polygram Records.*

aaron fuchs

THE TRADITION CONTINUES... CONCORDE RECORDING CENTER

(Formerly ABC Recording Studios)

The definitive recording center for 24-track recording and video post-production needs.

With a staff that mixes friendly service with "state of the art" technology, the results are always a hit making combination.



CONCORDE RECORDING CENTER

Audio/Video Services

8255 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90048
Telephone (213) 658-5990

Warren Entner
Managing Director

Peggie Needleman
Studio Manager

...FOR SOUND ADVICE.

Kragen Gets Sundance For East Coast Office

NEW YORK — Sundance Music, a Brooklyn-based artist management and marketing company, has been acquired by Ken Kragen to serve as the East Coast base for Kragen & Co., a personal management and television production firm with headquarters in Los Angeles.

According to Kragen, Sundance principals **Jeb Hart** and **Bob Hinkle** will assist in the East Coast representation of Kragen management, including clients **Kenny Rogers, Kim Carnes, Dottie West** and

Gallagher. Kragen's organization will also represent Sundance management clients **Harry and Tom Chapin** and writer-performer **Billy Kirkland**.

The first major event for the Kragen-Sundance team is a Sept. 26 concert at Long Island's Nassau Coliseum, headlined by **Rogers, West** and **Gallagher**.

Kragen and Company's East Coast address is 8 Camden Plaza West, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. The telephone number is (212) 858-2544.