

Jury begins deliberations in depot heist case

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Brink's defendant Father Patrick Moloney Nov. 19 proclaimed his innocence before about 30 people gathered for a memorial Mass at Corpus Christi Church, 864 E. Main St.

The priest has been staying at the Rochester church throughout the Brink's trial and was celebrating the Mass on behalf of two prominent Irish Americans, Michael Flannery, founder of Irish Northern Aid, who died Sept. 30, and Martin Higgins, a prominent leader of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, who died Aug. 20.

"I tell you before this altar of God that I am as innocent as the Lamb of God of any of the charges against me," asserted Father Moloney, a Melkite Catholic priest.

The jury of 11 women and one man Nov. 22 began deliberating the fate of Father Moloney and three co-defendants. No verdict had been reached as this issue went to press Tuesday.

Attorneys on both sides Nov. 21 made their closing arguments to the jury in a session that lasted nearly eight hours.

In addition to Father Moloney of New York City, two other N.Y.C. men, Samuel Ignatius Millar, an illegal Irish immigrant, and Charles McCormick, a former teacher and social worker, are also being tried for allegedly conspiring to possess money stolen in the Jan. 5, 1993, heist of the Brink's armored car depot on South Avenue.

Only the fourth defendant, Thomas F. O'Connor, is being charged with actually stealing \$7.4 million from the depot. O'Connor, a former Rochester police officer and ex-Brink's guard, has consistently maintained that he was abducted during the robbery and later re-



leased. The trial is taking place in U.S. District Court in the Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building, 100 State St.

Of the four defendants, O'Connor testified for three days; McCormick for two days. Millar declined to testify as did Father Moloney, who cited his

priestly duties as reason for not taking the stand.

"I'd risk being found guilty of this charge rather than break the seal of confession," the priest told the court on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Some of the most tense moments during the trial occurred the same day when

McCormick took the stand and was cross-examined by Assistant U.S. District Attorney Christopher A. Buscaglia.

A portion of the stolen money was found in McCormick's Manhattan apartment, which he had sublet to Father Moloney during the summer and fall of 1993.

McCormick, who became emotional at several points throughout his direct testimony, rarely looked at Buscaglia during aggressive cross-examination and became agitated when the prosecutor stood next to the witness stand and attempted to question him about statements he had made in a police affidavit.

"Is it necessary for Mr. Buscaglia to

approach me without a document to show me?" McCormick said to Judge David G. Larimer. "He upsets me."

The judge noted that Buscaglia was only trying to show McCormick the affidavit, but eventually the prosecutor did move away from the witness stand.

McCormick and Buscaglia also angrily exchanged words when the defendant accused an FBI agent of lying on the stand during testimony concerning interrogation of McCormick upon his arrest in November of 1993.

McCormick maintained that the agent never asked him whether he owned an apartment in Manhattan, and the agent made various other misstatements about his interrogation of the defendant.

"He was conveniently recollecting what was convenient to the prosecution," McCormick said.

When Buscaglia questioned why the defendant would attack the truthfulness of an FBI agent's statement, McCormick replied that he believed many members of the prosecution's team were pursuing the case for career-oriented reasons.

"So this is some sort of conspiracy among the investigators?" Buscaglia said.

"I'm just representing to the jury my perception of what is going on here," McCormick responded.

Prior to McCormick's testimony, his brother, Kevin, had told the court that Charles had stayed with him in Jamaica from mid-July to mid-August of 1993. He added that Charles had spent an additional two weeks in Jamaica earlier in the fall of that year.

McCormick's father, Charles, who also testified, stated that McCormick had lived with him and his wife in New Jersey when he sublet the apartment to Father Moloney. McCormick has consistently maintained that he had no connection with the stolen money found in his apartment.

Pastors protest embargo

The effort marked the fourth 'friendshipment' by a nationwide movement — Pastors for Peace — attempting to break the 32-year-old U.S. embargo of Cuba. The group is sending goods such as bicycles, crutches and other medical items to Cuba. The truck was successfully driven across the Canadian border along with a caravan of more than 60 other vehicles. More than 150 tons of supplies in all were loaded onto a freighter bound for Cuba Nov. 18.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Jim Mott loads school and medical supplies onto a truck Nov. 15 at Rochester's Downtown United Presbyterian Church.

Canandaiguan

Continued from page 3

their lives.

But she discovered in Bosnia that having such attitudes can "affect how you interact with the people. It's at cross purposes to what you are trying to accomplish."

"I think it made me much more attuned to the plight of other people, and the blame which we tend to place on them for their own fates," she added.

Moreover, O'Hanlon said, living and working with Bosnians helped her to realize how complex the situation is and the enormous pressures the people are living under.

"I lived in the situation for a long time, and I was put under the same restrictions they were," O'Hanlon said. "You never knew how other people are going to act toward you."

Still, O'Hanlon said, people generally treated her warmly.

"I think I felt closer to the locals than to many of the Americans I worked with

(in Bosnia)," O'Hanlon said. "They wanted to spend time with you, to talk, to drink coffee."

Indeed, O'Hanlon had originally agreed to spend three months working at the hospital, but the Bosnian people's friendliness helped convince her to stay another three months until the end of September. During those last three months, she supervised the effort to establish the emergency room.

Concern about the people and the fate of the emergency services she helped to create may return her to Bosnia, O'Hanlon said. She is currently back in California, trying to decide whether to look for a full-time job — perhaps even return to the hospital where she had worked — or to return to Bosnia next spring.

At the very least, she would like to return there on an annual basis.

"I want to see the people, and to see the progress of the whole endeavor," O'Hanlon said. "Hopefully, it is progress. I was deeply involved in its birth, and I want to be involved with its growth."

THE FOUNDERS CLUB
OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY OF ROCHESTER
p r e s e n t s



The Boys Choir of Harlem

HOLIDAY SHOW

Sunday, December 4, 1994 • 3:00 PM

Eastman Theatre • 64 Gibbs S. • Rochester, NY

Tickets • \$29.50 • \$24.50 • \$19.50

Special patron seating is also available

For tickets or further information, please contact
Founders Club Office (716) 288-4817

DiMaria Travel
1521 MONROE AVE. 271-0100

Mid-Winter Break, 7-Day
EASTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

With WHAM'S CHET WALKER
February 18-25, 1995
Featuring the S/S NORWAY
"One of the World's Legendary Cruise Ships"

- Roundtrip airfare from Rochester to Miami
- Roundtrip transfers
- Cruise accommodations
- All meals aboard the ship
- Fabulous entertainment
- Our private Cocktail Party

VERY LIMITED SPACE — CALL NOW!

HAWAII
(2 Week Deluxe Escorted Tour)
March 4-18

Rochester's most popular deluxe, escorted tour to Hawaii! We invite you to compare. Featuring our exclusive guide - Mr. Ed Kahale!

THIS IS ALWAYS A SELLOUT -
SPACE IS LIMITED
DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY!

