

# Man involved in drug case fined, put on probation for two years

By JANET DAVENPORT

A 43-year-old Worthington man received a suspended two-year prison sentence and a fine yesterday for his part in a scheme that smuggled cocaine from the Bahamas to Western Massachusetts.

Jeffrey Hartmann of Bashen Hill Road was sentenced in U.S. District Court for conspiring to import cocaine from August 1986 to last January and helping import a kilogram or 2.2 pounds of cocaine Oct. 16.

He was placed on probation for two years and fined \$1,000 to be paid during the first year of probation, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Dina M. Chaitowitz.

As a condition of the probation, Hartmann must perform 100 hours of public service during the first year of probation. He was also fined \$150.

\* \* \*

The charges on which Hartmann, a married father of two, was convicted carried maximum penalties of 60 years in prison and fines totalling \$2.25 million.

He is of one of four known players in the importation scheme, Chaitowitz said.

Hartmann had agreed to testify against two others before they were convicted in the case. His testimony was not needed, however, because pilot Robert Silvain, 43, of South Hadley, and Wilson Cartwright of Freeport, the Bahamas, pleaded guilty and were sen-

tenced last month, she said.

A fourth suspect is still in the Bahamas, she said.

Hartmann had also attempted to dissuade an agent working undercover for the Drug Enforcement Administration from becoming involved with Silvain's operation, according to Wilson.

"Mr. Hartmann was somewhat a victim," he said.

He got caught in a "web" and became frightened and intimidated by Silvain, Wilson said.

Hartmann said he became involved with Silvain during a frustrating period of his life.

His father died in 1985, he had lost his business and he was having problems selling his house.

"Basically, I got involved because of truck driving," he said.

Silvain was the co-signer for the truck he drove and began threa-

tening to take it "from under him," he said.

He also said that Silvain made threats against his family on several occasions.

"When I told him I was changing jobs, he went into a fit of rage," Hartmann said.

"I never came across a person like this in my life," he said.

U.S. District Judge Frank H. Freedman said that the offense itself was "a nasty one," but there were unusual circumstances.

He told Hartmann in sentencing him that he was giving him the benefit of the doubt.

"It's a rare day for me to tell someone they're going to walk out" of this courtroom without a serving a prison term for drug charges, he said.

"If I ever see you again, it will be a bad day," Freedman said.

**SALE CLEARANCE SALE**

**SAVE 20%-50%**

**NOW THROUGH SAT. JULY 30th**

**ALL LAWN FOODS OR WEED & FEEDS 25%**

