

Sheeran Target For Hired Gun?

By KEN LOCKERBY

Wilmington Teamsters boss Frank Sheeran called a press conference yesterday to say that the FBI had told him someone was out to kill him, but won't tell him who it is. He says that if there's any truth to it, he'd like to know.

Flanked by his lawyers and members of the executive board of Wilmington Teamsters Local 326, Sheeran intimated the FBI's warning was part of a "personal vendetta" involving the U.S. Department of Labor, the federal judiciary and the FBI strike force. Their aim, he said, "is to 'get' Frank Sheeran and put him out of the labor movement."

IT WAS THE second time in two years that Sheeran — who was ac-

quitted in 1979 of federal racketeering charges and now faces a new racketeering trial in federal court in Delaware — held a press conference to claim he was being railroaded by federal authorities.

Both press conferences preceded union balloting in which Sheeran was up for re-election as Local 326 president.

At yesterday's gathering in the Poor Richard Room of the Bellevue Stratford, Sheeran also charged the FBI had "offered me a deal," implying that it could protect him from the alleged hit man if he cooperated with the government. At a similar news conference in 1979, the 60-year-old Sheeran said the FBI thinks he knows something about the disappearance of former Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa, his one-time mentor.

HE CONSISTENTLY has claimed no knowledge of Hoffa's disappearance.

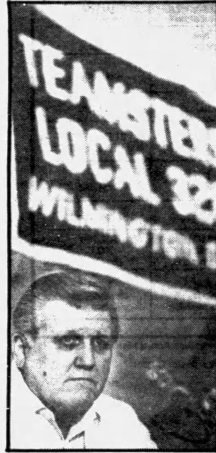
Yesterday, one of Sheeran's lawyers claimed the FBI might be about the death threat "to intimidate him for their own self-interest."

"It's preposterous to claim harassment," responded Ron Cole, special attorney with the Philadelphia Strike Force on Organized Crime. "I can assure you that nothing was asked for in return, the FBI merely did the responsible thing." If Sheeran "ended up meeting an untimely demise," Cole said, "the FBI would be attacked for not having warned him."

Cole said he didn't know where the information came from or who it involved. The FBI refused to comment on Sheeran's allegation.

Sheeran's lawyers, meanwhile, have filed court papers in Delaware to force the FBI to tell them the source of the information.

AT HIS 1979 press conference, Sheeran reserved his major criticisms for hit man-turned-informant Charles Allen, who had accused him of masterminding two murders, four attempted murders, embezzlement of union funds and various bombings and arsons. Sheeran was acquitted of those charges after a jury in Phila-



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Sheeran meets the press

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