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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

April 20, 2017

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD, JR.
THE BLACK VAULT
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1363403-000
Subject: HEIMLICH, HENRY JUDAH

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

In response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to the FBI, enclosed are processed documents responsive to your request.

Material consisting of eight pages has been reviewed pursuant to Title 5, U.S. Code § 552, and this material is being released to you in its entirety with no excisions being made by the FBI.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

A search of the FBI Headquarters electronic surveillance indices has been conducted, and no responsive record which indicates that Henry Heimlich has ever been the target of electronic surveillance was located.

Records (105-WF-19994 and 105-HQ-53656), which may be responsive to your FOIA request, were destroyed on an unknown date. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under the supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 12, Sub-chapter B, Part 1228. The FBI Records Retention Plan and Disposition Schedules have been approved by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and are monitored by NARA.

For your additional information, a record that may be responsive to your FOIA request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). You may desire to direct a request to NARA, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file numbers 105-HQ-55659 and 105-HQ-55652.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city, and state.)

Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Michigan

3A

Date: 10/28/82

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: NELLIE BELL KASSIM

Character: FAG - DHHS;
or NARCOTICS MATTER

Classification: 209A-302

Submitting Office: Detroit

2 cleared in drug mill case

By TIM BELKNAP

Free Press Staff Writer

A federal judge dismissed charges Wednesday against two of the eight people charged with conspiring with Nellie Bell Kassim in what the government claims was one of the country's biggest prescription drug rings.

Meanwhile, in the opening of defense testimony in the three-week-old trial, the key defendant claimed he was in Cincinnati, visiting the inventor of the Heimlich maneuver for victims of choking, the same weekend Kassim testified he was writing phony prescriptions in her behalf in Detroit.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor dismissed conspiracy charges against Curtis Hicks of Detroit and Sam Fields Jr. of Flint after their attorneys argued that the government, which rested its case Tuesday, had not provided enough evidence to support the charges.

Hicks and Fields were alleged to be low-level employees of Kassim at several of her Detroit clinics that the government claims were no more than prescription mills for junkies and drug dealers.

IN WEDNESDAY'S testimony, Dr. Ryan Krebs, 29, of Milan, supplied evidence contradicting testimony from Kassim, who became the government's key witness after accepting a maximum 10-year prison sentence in return for her cooperation.

Krebs produced airline tickets supporting his testimony that he flew from Detroit to Cincinnati Dec. 11, 1981, and returned two days later. Krebs said he stayed with Dr. Henry Heimlich, the plastic surgeon who developed the Heimlich lifesaving technique used on choking victims.

Kassim had earlier testified that during that weekend she had seen Krebs in Detroit signing prescriptions on her behalf. Kassim testified that Krebs was one of several doctors who wrote prescriptions, mostly for the painkillers Preludin and Talwin, without seeing the patients who purportedly needed them. The prescriptions were either sold or used to obtain several million dollars worth of pills that were peddled in Detroit and Washington, D.C., testimony indicated.

KREBS DESCRIBED himself as the product of a top-flight education at Stanford University and the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical School. He said he started working part-time at Kassim's RNA Medical Clinic on Greenfield after answering a newspaper ad in 1979, the same year he began his medical residency at the University of Michigan.

Krebs denied that he had deviated from accepted medical practices while working at RNA and later at another Kassim clinic on Jefferson Avenue, where he said he signed an average of six Preludin prescriptions a day "with a lot of variations on either side of that number."

Krebs said that other employees of Kassim forged prescriptions in his name, a claim that was supported by government witnesses. He said that on one occasion he reported a forged prescription to a federal Drug Enforcement Administration agent.

In addition to Krebs, defendants are Shirley Bradley Danner, Maggie Curly, Linda Ricks and John Zellner, all identified as employees of Kassim, and Bernard Levine, a pharmacist.

209A-302-818

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT - DETROIT	

FBI/DOJ

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
 Detroit Free Press
 Detroit, Michigan
 Date: 3A & 15A
 Edition: 10/29/82

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: NELLIE BELL KASSIM

Character: FAG - DHHS;
 or NARCOTICS MATTER
 Classification: 209A-302
 Submitting Office: Detroit

Famed doctor testifies in drug case

By TIM BELKNAP
 Free Press Staff Writer

A famous chest surgeon testified Wednesday that Dr. Ryan Krebs, charged with conspiring with Nellie Bell Kassim to operate a multimillion-dollar drug ring, was a "marvelous young man" who he would still welcome to accept a prestigious research post.

Dr. Henry Heimlich, inventor of the Heimlich maneuver credited with saving the lives of many choking victims, testified in federal court Thursday that Krebs, 29, is "like my son — he's absolutely honest, and I can't conceive of him straying... I can't accept any of the things that I've heard charged against him."

PROSECUTORS SAY Krebs, one of six alleged co-conspirators on trial, wrote prescriptions that were used to get pills sold to junkies and dope dealers in Detroit and Washington, D.C.

They say Krebs opened the Jefferson Medical Clinic at 12874 E. Jefferson with Kassim in October 1981 and worked at other clinics owned by Kassim. Witnesses have described the clinics as prescription mills where customers — who at best were given

cursory medical examinations — were given written orders for drugs and where bouncers were needed to keep order among unruly junkies.

Krebs was working part-time for Kassim while in his medical residency at the University of Michigan. Kassim, who became a government witness as part of a plea-bargaining deal, described Krebs as an initially naive doctor who, once he realized the scope of the operation, wanted to be a part of it and "make a million dollars" as fast as possible.

Heimlich, 62, said he first met Krebs 10 years ago through Heimlich's son, who was a classmate of Krebs' at Stanford University. Heimlich said he'd followed Krebs' education and "was impressed with his intelligence and decency."

Heimlich said Krebs visited the Heimlich family in Cincinnati between Dec. 11 and 13, 1981. Kassim had testified earlier that she had seen Krebs writing prescriptions for her in Detroit that weekend.

Heimlich said during that weekend he offered Krebs a job as

See DRUG SUSPECT, Page 15A

209A-302

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - DETROIT	

819 ✓

FBI/DOJ

Drug suspect called a 'marvelous man'

Dr. Henry **DRUG SUSPECT**, from Page 3A

Heimlich
said

Krebs is
"absolute

ly honest
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against
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associate director of the Heimlich Institute at Xavier University, "where he would have directed research and medical work."

But Heimlich said he learned Krebs was interested in a similar post at the Scripps Clinic in California, which Heimlich said is one of the finest clinics in the country.

Krebs also attended matches at a Davis Cup tennis tournament in Cincinnati that weekend, Heimlich said.

UNDER QUESTIONING from Krebs' attorney — aimed at establishing the chest surgeon as a credible character witness — Heimlich said he had established several medical procedures and devices along with the Heimlich maneuver, including a chest tube he used to save the life of a Chinese guerilla while serving behind Japanese lines in Inner Mongolia in World War II. The device was later used to save the lives of hundreds of wounded soldiers in Vietnam, Heimlich said.

Heimlich said he had won military decorations, honorary doctorates, humanitarian awards and an Emmy Award for "Dr. Henry's Emergency Lessons for People," an educational television program.

Heimlich's testimony is expected to continue today before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor.

Other defendants in the case are Shirley Bradley Danter, Maggie Curry, Linda Ricks and John Zellner — all identified as employees of Kassim's — and Bernard Levine, a pharmacist. Two other people were ordered acquitted Wednesday by Diggs-Taylor. The trial is in its fourth week.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Michigan

Page 3A

Edition: 11/23/82

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Title: NELLIE BELL KASSIM
ET AL,FAG - DHHS;
Character: NARCOTICS MATTERS
or

Classification: 209A-302

Submitting Office: Detroit

Four guilty, 2 acquitted in prescription mill case

By TIM BELKNAP
Free Press Staff Writer

A federal jury convicted four people Monday of conspiring in the prescription drug empire of Nellie Bell Kassim, but two of her lower-level employees were acquitted.

Found guilty after more than two weeks of deliberations were Dr. Ryan A. Krebs, 29, of Milan; pharmacist Bernard Levine, 33, of West Bloomfield; Shirley Bradley Danner, 46, of Detroit, and Linda Ricks, 35, of Detroit. They face maximum sentences of five years in prison and \$15,000 fines.

Acquitted of conspiracy in the two-month trial were Maggie Curry, 29, and John (Jersey Bull) Zellner, 53, both of Detroit.

TEN OTHERS have pleaded guilty to conspiracy or related charges, including Kassim, who agreed to a 10-year prison sentence in return for co-operating with federal prosecutors Ellen Dennis and James McCarthy.

Kassim, 42, of Southfield, was the key witness in the trial. Others on the

Witnesses ran the social spectrum from a world-famous doctor to a cobbler.

witness stand ran the social spectrum from a world-famous doctor, Dr. Henry Heimlich, who was a character witness for Krebs, to a cobbler, Leroy Bonham, who said he served as a gigolo to Kassim and her two sisters.

The sisters also figured in the trial, but by their absence. Testimony disputed by Kassim indicated that she had one of the sisters, Mozell Barber, 32, murdered by a contract killer in Detroit in March 1981 because Barber was suspected of informing. Authorities say they are still investigating the murder.

The other sister, Nancy Lee McGinnis, 31, who was last reported living in Mississippi, was scheduled to be a defense witness who would refute some

See KASSIM, Page 4A

209A-302-835

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FBI/DOJ

Four guilty, 2 acquitted of conspiracy in drug ring

KASSIM, from Page 3A

of Kassim's testimony. However, she "disappeared" in mid-trial, the jury was told by Ken Robinson, Krebs' attorney.

A PLUMP, often smiling woman, Kassim grew up in New York City and moved to Detroit a dozen years ago. The former nurse testified that her criminal career started with welfare fraud and flim-flam schemes and evolved into a pharmaceutical drug ring that channeled hundreds of thousands of pills from several clinics to drug dealers and junkies in Detroit, Washington, New York and North Carolina.

Kassim said she started her drug empire in 1979 with a group of overweight women she sent to doctors to obtain prescriptions for stimulants.

In March 1980, she said, she and her friend and former attorney, Robert Cohn, opened a diet clinic at 3800 Woodward that soon attracted hundreds of junkies. Cohn has not been indicted, but has said federal prosecutors have told him he is a target of an investigation.

KASSIM SAID she and Cohn opened several more clinics in downtown Detroit and on the east side. Pills shipped to Washington, on Greyhound buses, netted a fortune of several million dollars for Kassim, who once pulled \$23,000 from a paper bag to pay for a new Lincoln, testimony indicated.

Heimlich — author, television personality and inventor of the Heimlich maneuver designed to save the lives of choking victims — testified that in the decade he had known Krebs, he had found him to be "absolutely honest... a marvelous young man," and a brilliant medical student. Heimlich said he had met the doctor through Heimlich's son, Krebs' classmate at Stanford University.

Kassim, however, depicted Krebs as an initially naive young intern who, once he learned the scope of the drug operation, wanted to be part of it and "make a million dollars" as fast as possible.

The government claimed pharmacist Levine aided the flow of drugs from legitimate pharmaceutical manufacturers to junkies on the street. Danner and Hicks were employees in Kassim's clinics.

Kassim's testimony tended to exonerate her lower-level employees in the clinic. U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor dismissed charges against two, Curtis Hicks and Sam Fields Jr., while the trial was in progress.

Diggs-Taylor declared a mistrial for another defendant, pharmacist Stanley Iczovitz, early in the trial when a government witness gave prejudicial testimony the witness previously had been instructed not to give.

Iczovitz, 46, of Birmingham, and John Parker, 50, of Detroit, who became ill just before the trial, will be tried on conspiracy counts later, prosecutors said.



PETER J. PITCHESS, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Office of the Sheriff
Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

LOCAL & STATE

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Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
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Tech. Servs. _____
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Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

April 18, 1978

William Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Webster:

I recently sent you some material on the Heimlich Maneuver, which was one of the programs discussed at the Major Cities Chief Administrators' Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. During the discussion of this program, a question was brought up regarding the permission of Dr. Heimlich to use his name in presentations. The enclosed letter from Dr. Heimlich is self-explanatory.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Pitchess
PETER J. PITCHESS
SHERIFF

(Signature)

REC-125
FBI

DE-51 62-446213-321

ack 5/5/78
C. J. King

ENCLOSURE

70 JUN 6 1978
98

MAY 16 1978

Dear Sheriff
Salutation
Mailing List
(Change) Noted
5/15/78 Ram

CORRESPONDENCE



Xavier University • Victory Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45207 • (513) 531-1053

HENRY J. HEIMLICH, M.D.

Professor of
Advanced Clinical Sciences

April 4, 1978

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess
County of Los Angeles
Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Sheriff Pitchess:

I wish to congratulate you and your Department on your program of teaching the Heimlich Maneuver.

This letter authorizes you to use my name and the designation "~~The Heimlich Maneuver~~" in your presentations. It is understood that the procedure will be taught in conjunction with the teaching materials I have authorized. These include the motion picture "~~How to Save a Choking Victim: The Heimlich Maneuver~~" and publications produced by Edumed, Inc., P. O. Box 52, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. You may also wish to utilize the slide/tape educational presentation produced by Edumed.

You will undoubtedly have the gratification of hearing of lives saved as a result of your teaching program. In order to assist us in our continuing scientific evaluation of the Heimlich Maneuver, will you please duplicate the enclosed scientific form and have it filled out by anyone involved in the treatment of a choking victim.

If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,


Henry J. Heimlich, M.D.

kc
encl

cc: Dr. Peter B. Gruenberg, M.D.
433 N. Camden Drive, Suite 136
Beverly Hills, California 90210

ENCLOSURE

102-46213-321

RECEIVED

SHERIFF

DRAFT 7-2-76

HEIMLICH, M. D.
UNIVERSITY
HALL
WINDY HAWKWAY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45207

Date of Rescue _____

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind report on the Heimlich Maneuver. I wonder if I might impose further and ask that you answer as many of the following questions as you are able. We are trying to keep our documented records as complete as possible.

Location of Rescue: Home _____ Restaurant _____ Institution _____ Other (Describe) _____

	Yes	No
Symptoms: Could the victim speak?	_____	_____
-breathe?	_____	_____
Did he turn blue?	_____	_____
Other color?	_____	_____
Please describe appearance:	_____	_____
Respiratory movements?	_____	_____
Conscious _____ Unconscious _____	Conscious to unconscious _____	
Please describe appearance _____		

Technique of performing the Heimlich Maneuver: Was the victim sitting? _____
standing? _____ lying? _____

How many times was the maneuver applied? _____

Object causing choking? _____ If possible, draw approximate size and shape.

Other methods used: (Please list in order of being used -- #1 = first)
(Describe)

_____ finger-in-throat _____
_____ back slap _____
_____ upside down _____
_____ mouth to mouth _____
_____ other _____

Was object forcefully expelled or removed from mouth? (Describe) _____

Any aftereffects of Heimlich Maneuver (describe) _____

	Yes	No
Drowning	_____	_____
Self Application	_____	_____

Victim	Rescuer
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
Age: _____	Age: _____
Occupation: _____	Occupation: _____
Did victim realize what was happening? _____	Please describe briefly thoughts and experience. _____

Where did rescuer learn of Maneuver? Company Bulletin _____ Newspaper _____ Magazine _____
Medical Journal _____ Pamphlet _____ Other (describe) _____
Name of Publication: _____

This information will be used for research purposes.

Signature _____ 2 _____ Number _____

ENCLOSURE: you.

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