

Testimony might not earn Lunetta fans or prosecutors conviction

Page 1C

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Neal Harrington, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, testified Friday that he had no idea where the money went.

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When port businessman Neal Harrington's lawyer Kendall Coffey got his chance to ask questions, he asked Foreman to leave the witness stand and show jurors by means of large color photographs how the port has grown from a tiny operation with no gantry cranes in 1982 to what the defense contends is a world class seaport. Foreman spoke with obvious pride about his role in the transformation, and bolstered the defense's contention that while Lunetta might not have followed all the rules, he acted in the interest of building a great port.

Foreman readily assented when Coffey asked, "Would you agree that without that cost and sacrifice.... we couldn't have gone to one of the greatest ports in America?"

Lawyers for Lunetta and Harrington agreed. Kendall Coffey, who represents Harrington, told the judge that his client should never have been charged because money used for political contributions contested by the government came from Harrington's own company, not from Fiscal.

And for Kendall Coffey, who represents Harrington, Foreman acknowledged that credits given to crane users by Lunetta were justified because a huge construction project had been a massive inconvenience for port tenants.

Coffey pointed out that Harrington was named in only one of 10 counts of the indictment. He said the only money that Harrington's Continental Stevedoring & Terminals had spent was money it earned moving containers over the years.

The Miami Herald

Port-trial judge's focus: To whom did the money belong?

By DAVID LYONS

News Staff Writer

A federal judge Friday closely questioned lawyers in the Port of Miami-Dade corruption trial about the ownership of gassy crane money collected by Fiscal Operations.

During an afternoon-long session, defense lawyers argued their clients — former superior director Carmine Lunetta, Fiscal President Carlos Grigory and Miami shipping agent Neal Harrington — should be acquitted because prosecutors failed to prove that any public money had been stolen. The government has

rested its case after six weeks of testimony.

In a 10-count indictment, a grand jury charged that the men embezzled an estimated \$1.3 million for personal and political use.

After sending the jury home for the day, U.S. District Judge Donald Middlebrooks told Assistant U.S. Attorney Anita Gray that the government produced "sufficient evidence" to show the jury misused money. But he said the "crux of this case is for the ownership" issue.

Gray said the port's ability to set rates, does not create to create rates and

owning Fiscal's budget all pointed to Harrington's own company, not from Fiscal.

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The Miami Herald

Port trial focuses on campaign funding

By DAVID LYONS

News Staff Writer

James Foreman, a gaffing consultant of former Port of Miami Director Carmine Lunetta, told the witness stand Monday that he had no idea where the money went.

But when defense lawyers took their turn to question him, a familiar pattern emerged on cross-examination. The jury received a long reminder that questionable port expenditures were "routine" at most, that routine fees paid to gassy crane operators by Fiscal Operations contributed to disburse the questionable

with case file is unhelpful.

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The Miami Herald

Port boss never stole, defense says

By DAVID LYONS

News Staff Writer

On Day One of tedious jury selection in the Port of Miami-Dade corruption trial, there was this departure from the norm.



Lunetta, Grigory, Harrington

The presiding federal judge, Donald Middlebrooks, allowed the lawyers a few minutes to get about 90 jury candidates a peek at their faces.

Miami lawyer Donald Berman, who represents former port director Carmine Lunetta, said that Lunetta never stole any money.

Foreman is one of a number of port marking "consultants" whose activities came under the microscope in the indictment. The charges in a 10-count indictment are charged to several defendants, including Foreman, who could go on the Fiscal payroll with an annual \$16,000 salary approved by Lunetta. Foreman's

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