

Myles Connor faces charges in two courts

By William F. Doherty
Globe Staff

Hobbling on crutches and guarded by more than a dozen lawmen, Myles J. Connor made appearances yesterday in Suffolk Superior Court and US District Court to answer to charges of bank theft and accessory to murder.

The red-haired one-time rock and roll entertainer had his left leg encased in a cast. His lawyer said he had been accidentally shot by an arrow in the backyard of his Milton home last May.

In Suffolk Superior Court, Judge Robert V. Mulkern ordered Connor held without bail after he denied that he was an accessory in the fatal shooting of Boston Patrolman Donald Brown during a 1975 robbery at a Roslindale shopping center.

Later in US District Court, Judge Rya W. Zobel set bail at \$500,000 after Connor pleaded innocent to charges he was involved in the theft of \$116,000 from the East Milton branch of the Norfolk Trust Co. in January 1975.

Keeping a close eye on Connor in the courtrooms were federal marshals, FBI agents, Boston police, and Correction Department security officials.

Connor was returned to Walpole state prison where he is awaiting a hearing on alleged parole violations. He has been under close scrutiny at Walpole since earlier this month when FBI agents and state troopers were sent there following a report that he planned to escape.

His lawyer, Martin K. Leppo, denied yesterday that Connor has been a police informant. "In the five years I have been representing Myles I have known no time that he has ever been an informer," Leppo said.

Allegations that Connor was an informer and as a result received special consideration have touched off an investigation by US Atty. Edward F. Harrington's office.

The investigation centers around the 1975 murder of two 18-year-old Jamaica Plain women and the manner in which the case was investigated by State Police and prosecuted by the office of Norfolk Dist. Atty. William D. Delahunt.

The reopening of the investigation has caused a split between two groups of law enforcement officials. One group including FBI agents and Boston police has refused to cooperate with the other group which includes certain State Police officials and Delahunt's office.

The focal point of the controversy is Thomas Sperrazza, 29, of Roslindale, who was convicted in Norfolk Superior Court of murdering the two women. He has also been indicted as a principal in the murder of Patrolman Brown.

Sperrazza has since decided to cooperate with the FBI and has been taken out of Walpole and transferred to a federal prison under a different name because officials feared his life would be in danger at Walpole.