

Lee explains his actions when arrested

\$2,000 repayment for loan: Inspector

A SENIOR police inspector told the Victoria District Court yesterday that \$2,000 a Crown witness gave him was not a bribe for not taking action, but repayment of part of a loan.

Lee Chiu-yin, 31, also testified that his intention at pulling out his duty revolver when ICAC officers tried to arrest him was to hand it over to them.

Lee, with Detective Sergeant Leung Kin, 46, and Detective Constable Lam Ping-on, 26, are accused of soliciting \$10,000 from Chow Kam-wah on October 4 last year in exchange for not acting against him on a charge of obtaining property by deception.

Lee and Leung are also accused of accepting \$2,000 from Chow on October 5 last year for not taking action against him on that charge.

Lee said that on Christmas Day, 1977, through a friend nicknamed Chiuchow Chan, he came to know Chow.

In February last year, Chow through Chiuchow Chan asked him for a loan of \$5,000, but he had only \$3,000 he could spare, so he lent Chow that amount.

Later, he could not find either Chiuchow Chan or Chow for the return of the loan.

In October last year, a Mr Lau Chi-keung of a textile company made a report to the Hunghom Police Station, accusing Chow of deception.

On October 4, Chow was taken to the police station for inquiries. After reading a statement given by Chow, Lee said he concluded that the matter was of a civil nature.

Lee told the court that he then asked Lau to the police station, where he explained to both Chow and Lau that even if he proceeded with the case, it would be thrown out by the court.

And he asked them to settle the matter privately. As a result, they arranged to meet the following day at Chow's office at Kowloon City, where Chow would hand Lau an IOU note.

Chow and Lau requested his and his colleagues' presence at the meeting, Lee said.

The chief inspector explained that he went to Chow's office with Leung the next day to observe in case there was a fight.

When they arrived at Chow's office, Chow told him he had just had a telephone conversation with Lau.

Lee went on to testify that after having dealt with the matter, he asked Chow to return the \$3,000 loan.

MONEY

The chief inspector said he told Chow to bring the money to his Homantin home, but Chow said he did not know how to get there.

Then Lee said he suggested that Chow come to meet him at the Mandarin Theatre, where he and Leung would go for the 2.30 show.

They arranged to meet at a cooked food stall near the theatre.

Lee testified that Chow told him he would sell his car to him as repayment for the loan.

MEET

But next day when they met at the stall, Chow handed him \$2,000 as part of the repayment.

At that point, ambushing ICAC officers approached him. In a struggle that ensued, Lee said he tried to pull out his duty revolver to hand it over to the ICAC officers.

Hearing before Judge Jones continues.