

S. C. M. P.

12/7/1977

\$4,000 bribes, says hawker

A fruit hawker said in Victoria District Court yesterday that he collected money from gambling and dangerous drugs stalls and handed \$4,000 a month to Police Superintendent John Simon Wilson.

The hawker, Wong Ping, also testified that he handed money to Sergeants Lo Lai-choi, Leung Ka-lung and Lui Sui-kee on instructions from a civilian named Wan Leung.

The trial of Wilson, the three sergeants, another sergeant named Hon Fai and Wan Leung on charges of conspiring to accept sums of money from the public and conspiring to obstruct the course of justice opened yesterday.

The hearing continues today before Judge Bewley.

Wong Ping said he was a former policeman. At the beginning of 1974 Wan took him to squatter areas in Tsun Wan and Shatin.

They went to gambling and dangerous drugs stalls and collected money from the operators. He knew some of the stalls were selling dangerous drugs because Wan told him so.

They collected between \$30 and \$50 from each stall. Wan asked him to do the collecting for him every week in future, Wong said.

Between March and April, 1974, he collected \$9,000. He took \$1,500 for himself, then handed \$3,000 to Lo Lai-choi who told him Wilson's share was \$4,000.

Wong said he then took

In the courts

about \$4,000 to Wilson's house at Pipers Hill. Wilson was at home and gave him a glass of beer.

After that, Wong continued, he took about half the money he collected to Wilson's home on the first or second of every month.

Wilson was always there. He either handed the money to Wilson or left it on a table.

Wong said he always took \$1,500 from the money he collected every month and gave about \$3,000 to Lo.

After a few months Leung Ka-lung took over as barracks sergeant at Tsimshatsui, and Wong said he gave the money to him.

Later he gave it to Lui Sui-kee when he took over.

Sometimes the sergeants would go to his house and collect the money every week or two.

In January or February, 1975, there were a lot of police raids on the stalls and many stopped operating.

In February 1975, Wong said, he told Leung that 70 or 80 of the stalls had closed down and there would be no more money.

Leung said: "OK. It will save trouble."

Crown Counsel Gerard Edwards is prosecuting.

Mr Anthony Sedgwick appears for Wilson and Mr William Lane for the other five defendants.