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# Deeb's lawyers try to prove financial security

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CLEBURNE — Defense attorneys for capital murder defendant Muneer Mohammad Deeb attempted to prove Friday that the Jordanian national was financially secure and did not resort to soliciting murder to collect on an insurance policy.

Court-appointed attorneys Dick McCall and Jack Holcomb called eight witnesses including five who testified that Deeb was financially sound.

Deeb, 25, is on trial in the death of Waxahachie teen-ager Jill Montgomery, one of three teens found slain near Lake Waco in July 1982.

Prosecution witnesses testified that Deeb purchased a \$20,000 accidental death policy on Gayle Kelly Reyes three weeks before Miss Montgomery, Raylene Rice and Kenneth Franks were stabbed to death.

Deeb's former business partner testified last week that Deeb offered to pay convicted murderer David Wayne Spence \$5,000 if he would kill Mrs. Reyes, who is said to have resembled Miss Montgomery and was close friends with Franks.

Reviewing Deeb's bank records from the last four years, Ina Jekel of American Bank of Waco testified that Deeb's bank balance on January 1981 was \$9,000.

But during cross-examination from District Attorney Vic Feazell, Ms. Jekel revealed that Deeb's balance a month later was \$130, and \$9.86 in July 1982. In June 1982, she said his balance reflected a deficit of \$1.53.

Jeffrey Sanders of First Federal Savings and Loan said that Deeb deposited \$2,000 in an account in February 1983, but said Deeb's balance was \$12.23 in June 1982.

Nancy Joyce Alipeti, manager of the

Northwest Apartments, said Deeb rented an apartment for Mrs. Reyes in June 1982 after Mrs. Reyes left the Methodist Home. Mrs. Reyes stayed there for two days, and evidence has indicated that Spence and his girlfriend Christine Juhl moved into the same apartment on July 25.

Under cross-examination, Ms. Alipeti said that Deeb's \$225 check for rent in July 1982 came back stamped "insufficient funds."

In other testimony, Waco attorney Dale Williams said that he represented Deeb in a workman's compensation case in March 1982 after Deeb injured his back while working at Datapoint in Waco.

Williams said he negotiated a settlement of \$1,875 for Deeb on June 17, 1982, five days before Deeb purchased the accidental death policy on Mrs. Reyes and made himself the beneficiary.

In testimony outside the presence of the jury of seven men and five women, Waco attorney Russ Hunt, who represented Spence last summer in his capital murder trial, testified that Spence would not agree to testify in Deeb's case.

Hunt, who steadfastly maintains that Spence is innocent in the lake murders, recently visited Spence at the Texas prison system's Death Row and said that Spence would invoke his constitutional right to remain silent if subpoenaed by defense attorneys.

Spence, 25, was sentenced to death in Miss Montgomery's death in July by a Waco jury.

Deeb, 29, is expected to take the witness stand Monday or Tuesday, and court officials are predicting that the jury could begin deliberations by Wednesday.