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For Immediate Release
May 29, 2002

**STOCKTON MAN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS
IN FALSE TAX RETURN SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced that HENRY MAURICE HUNTER, 30, of Stockton, California, was sentenced today by U.S. Chief District Court Judge William B. Shubb in Sacramento to three years in prison in connection with a fraudulent tax return scheme. HUNTER was also ordered to pay restitution, and ordered to serve a three-year term of supervised release following his prison sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal criminal system, and HUNTER will be required by law to serve at least 85% of the prison time imposed.

HUNTER pled guilty to filing false claims against the United States on April 3, 2002. As part of his guilty plea, HUNTER admitted that during the period of January through April of 2001, he obtained false Forms W-2 on behalf of himself and others, which were submitted to the Internal Revenue Service in order to obtain fraudulent tax refunds. The Forms W-2 HUNTER procured, listed the claimant's correct name, but contained false information about the claimant's employer and the amount of income earned. These false Forms W-2 reflected a sufficient amount of withheld income to entitle the claimant to the Earned Income Credit, a subsidy for low income families, and resulted in an average fraudulent refund of approximately \$4,300. In total, HUNTER was responsible for the submission of fraudulent returns to the IRS seeking in excess of \$270,000 in refunds. HUNTER admitted as part of his plea that in exchange for acquiring these false Forms W-2, he received, or expected to receive, a percentage of the fraudulent returns ultimately obtained.

HUNTER is the second defendant this year to plead guilty to being part of a fraudulent tax return scheme. On April 22, 2002, ANTHONY SILLEMON, 35, of Modesto, California, plead guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to filing false claims against the United States. As part of his guilty plea, SILLEMON admitted that during the period of January through April of 2000, and January through April of 2001, he prepared false Forms W-2 on behalf of himself and others, which were submitted to the Internal Revenue Service in order to obtain fraudulent tax refunds in the form of the Earned Income Credit. In total, SILLEMON was responsible for the submission of fraudulent returns to the IRS seeking in excess of \$171,000 in refunds. Sentencing for SILLEMON is set before Judge Damrell for July 8, 2002 at 9:00 a.m., where he faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles and was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A copy of this press release may be found on the United States Attorney Office's website at: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/text_version/text_pressindex.htm.

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