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FORMER SHREVEPORT STOCKBROKER SENTENCED FOR INTERNET DEATH THREATS

Threats were made to Canadian Minister of Finance

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . LLOYD DEWITT TILLER, JR., 61, of Shreveport, La., will spend 41 months in prison for sending e-mail death threats to a Canadian government official, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today. TILLER was also ordered to pay \$80,000 in restitution to reimburse the Canadian government for extra security measures resulting from the threats and trial related expenses. The sentence was handed down in federal court in Shreveport by U. S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr.

Last September, TILLER was convicted by a jury of two counts of sending a threatening interstate communication. Tiller sent the threatening e-mails from his home computer to James M. Flaherty, the Canadian Minister of Finance and a Member of Parliament. The first threat was sent on November 13, 2006, in which TILLER threatened to cut Minister Flaherty's throat, exclaiming: "You can't hide... I will find YOU." The second threat was sent on January 18, 2007, and again threatened to kill Minister Flaherty: "When I get my hands on you I swear to God on a Bible it is NOT going to [be] funny. You need to be

HUNG.” TILLER also threatened to hang Minister Flaherty’s minor children.

TILLER, a former stockbroker, sent the death threats after an announcement of a proposed change to the tax treatment of Canadian income trusts caused the value of publicly traded shares in these trusts to dramatically decline, resulting in a financial loss to Tiller and many of his clients.

Trial testimony showed that TILLER had engaged in this conduct before: in 1997 TILLER sent an e-mail suggesting that someone should plant a bomb beneath the vehicle of a financial columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. TILLER was not prosecuted for that incident but was warned by an FBI agent that it is a crime to send threats over the internet.

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: “When someone makes a death threat against a public official or their family members, federal law enforcement will aggressively investigate and take such threats seriously. Death threats directed to public officials and their families are not protected speech. In this case, Mr. Tiller will pay a heavy price for the threats he made against Minister Flaherty and his children. When one utters a death threat of the sort in this case, it will not be excused by the defendant’s stupidity, anger, or frustration.”

This case was investigated by the United States Department of State Diplomatic Security Service and the Shreveport Police Department, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert W. Gillespie, Jr. and Robin S. McCoy.

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