



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Grand Rapids, Michigan – October 18, 2004** – United States Attorney Margaret M. Chiara and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced that, on September 23, 2004, a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment against Richard Crew, age 53, of Durand, Michigan, and Stewart David Barron, age 53, currently incarcerated at the State of Michigan Thumb Correctional Facility. The indictment charges one count of conspiracy to commit arson and one count of arson of a commercial building during 2001. The building destroyed by the arson in 2001 was the business known as Nelson's Speed Shop of Greenville, Michigan. The indictment alleges that the arson of the building caused a financial loss in excess of \$2,500,000.

Count 1, the conspiracy count, carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, a special assessment of \$100, a term of supervised release, and restitution.

Count 2, the arson count, carries a maximum penalty of not less than seven years and not more than forty (40) years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, a special assessment of \$100, a term of supervised release and restitution.

"The crime of arson is one of the most difficult types of cases to solve," Goddard said. "But this was solved the old-fashioned way – through good police instincts and a thorough

investigation by ATF agents and investigators of the Michigan State Police."

Ms. Chiara praised the investigative work of ATF. Assistant United States Attorney Michael A. MacDonald is prosecuting the case for the United States.

The charges in an indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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