

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1988

Swaggart Trailed To Motel

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Jimmy Swaggart was followed to a motel by men who let air out of his tires and photographed him as he tried to put a spare tire on backwards, visited a woman reputed to be a prostitute and was confronted by a rival evangelist, a church leader says.

The church leader, James Hammill of Memphis, Tenn., a member of the general council of the Assemblies of God, described the pictures in an interview Tuesday with WBRZ-TV of Baton Rouge.

Hammill said he expected the council to strengthen the punishment that Swaggart gets after his admission of what Swaggart called "moral failures."

The Assemblies of God is the nation's largest Pentecostal denomination. The Louisiana district council has recommended a three-month suspension and counseling for Swaggart, a television evangelist.

"The constitution and bylaws require at least a year's cessation of active ministry," Hammill said.

The executive presbytery of the Assemblies of God, based in Springfield, Mo., will make the final decision in Swaggart's case. The Rev. Everett Stenhouse, the denomination's general secretary, said the group was tentatively scheduled to meet today.

The Rev. Glen Cole of Sacramento, Calif., one of 13 members of the presbytery, said Swaggart confessed last week to having an obsession with pornography.

Hammill described the photographs that led Swaggart to confess publicly on Sunday. Hammill said that the Rev. Marvin Gorman of New Orleans had been directly involved in the picture-taking.

Last year, Gorman sued Swaggart for \$90 million, charging him with unjustly accusing Gorman of having repeatedly committed adultery. Gorman admitted a single "immoral act" with a woman.

ABC News reported last week that Gorman had given the pictures to the denomination's leader. Hammill said the pictures show "a motel ... the number of this particular room and a woman accused of being a prostitute admitting several different men into the room, and eventually Jimmy Swaggart going into the room and later coming out of the room.

"And she came out a few moments behind him, and (Swaggart) had a flat tire on his car," Hammill said. "These men who made the pictures had let the air out of his tires.

"When he went into the room, they called Rev. Gorman, and he came down and Jimmy Swaggart was changing his tire, and there's pictures of he and Gorman talking to one another, just pictures, no sound," Hammill said.

Swaggart struggled with the tire and "he put the wheel on backwards," Hammill said.

Swaggart was unavailable for comment; church executives wouldn't say where he was.

An attorney for Gorman, Hunter W. Lundy, confirmed that he had hired a private investigator, Reed Scott Bailey, in connection with the suit against Swaggart.

Bailey and another investigator visited a strip of motels on Airline Highway, between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, to investigate Swaggart, a motel resident said.

The woman, who identified herself as Peggy Carrier, 39, was quoted by the New Orleans Times-Picayune as saying that Swaggart on several occasions had visited two Airline Highway motels, where he would park his Lincoln Town Car in the back.