

December 12, 1998

A Publisher Extra Newspaper

The Boston Globe

Parole board member admits using slurs; perjury investigation sought

By Patricia Nealon GLOBE STAFF | A member of the state parole board, appointed two years ago amid controversy that focused in part on his use of derogatory language, has admitted in federal court that he used racial slurs and could face perjury charges because jurors apparently doubted his claims that he meant no harm. Terence McArdle, a Parole Board member and the former head of the New England office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, acknowledged during testimony in a discrimination suit brought by two ATF agents that he used derogatory words for African Americans and Hispanics but denied doing so in a "discriminatory manner." - His testimony so troubled jurors that they asked the judge after the trial was over to note their distaste in the court record, which he did. But US District Judge William G. Young also took the unusual step of forwarding his two-page memo to the US attorney's office for an investigation into possible perjury charges against McArdle. They are quite simply appalled at the vicious racial and ethnic slurs repeatedly uttered by Terence McArdle while special agent in charge of the Boston office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms," Young wrote. "They do not credit his innocuous explanations of such conduct," Young added. "Such conduct makes a mockery of any pretense by McArdle to the

even-handed enforcement of the law and renders him unfit to hold that high office." In a recent telephone interview, McArdle said he was "really dumbfounded" by the jurors' reaction and repeated his claim that he had "never used a discriminatory term against any person in a harmful manner." According to a transcript of McArdle's testimony, he acknowledged using a derogatory word for African-Americans, saying, "Since the OJ trial everybody has used it. I've never used it in a discrimination or ethnic slur." Asked by attorney Andrew Botti if he had ever used a derogatory term for Hispanics, McArdle replied, "Yes, I have. But never in a discriminatory manner and never in a hurtful manner." Botti represented ATF agents Monty J. Monteiro and Henry J. Moniz Jr. The jury found against them but their attorneys are seeking a new trial. The jury found they had not been discriminated against based on age or national origin. Marcia Praver, of Holliston, who served on the jury, said she and her fellow jurors, a panel of 11 whites and one black, conveyed their distaste to Young in a meeting. McArdle headed the Boston office of the ATF from 1983 until his retirement in late 1995. He was named to the state parole board by then-Governor William F. Weld in the spring of 1996.