

After demonstrating several of the inconsistencies between the tape transcripts and Cruz' testimony, Walker requested the the tapes be admitted as part of the Court record. Early in the case, the government had decided not to use the tapes in the courtroom, and on Tuesday prosecutor Donald M. Reno immediately objected to Walker's request. However, Judge Carroll did not say whether he would allow the 91 tapes to be made available to the jury.

Before Walker's cross-examination, Stephen Cooper, counsel for Jim Corbett, continued the line of inquiry he began during proceedings last Friday. Cooper directed the jury's attention to statements Cruz falsely attributed to defendants during testimony. In two instances, prosecutor Reno admitted to the jury that the defendants had never actually said things that Cruz claimed they had.

Cooper also attacked the government's case against his client, defendant Jim Corbett, which is almost solely based on Corbett's alleged efforts to aid Juana Beatrice Alvarez. Cooper pointed out that Cruz never saw Juana at Corbett's house and never heard statements to the effect that she was staying with the Corbett's.

Up to now, the government's efforts to locate Juana to call her to testify against Corbett have been fruitless. Without her testimony, the government's case against Corbett is significantly weaker and depends mostly on testimony by Cruz.

Cross-examination of Cruz will end Wednesday, making room for additional direct examination by prosecutor Reno. Following Cruz' testimony, the government is expected to call other witnesses to testify including several refugees and unindicted Sanctuary workers.

In other Sanctuary related action, the city of Seattle, Washington declared itself a Sanctuary City Monday in a unanimous vote by its eight-member city council. That declaration makes a total of 12 major U.S. cities that have acted in support of sanctuary for refugees from Central America.

Also on Monday, a civil suit was filed in U.S. District Court by four Arizona churches and two major denominational boards charging that the right to free exercise of religion was violated by illegal infiltrations of the churches during the Sanctuary investigation.

Named as defendants in the suit are the Immigration and Naturalization Service, particular employees of the INS, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the United States of America. The suit asks for no monetary compensation beyond legal fees, and does not assert that churches are above the law, but does ask that future investigations be conducted according to law and constitutional safeguards.

Wednesday

The first refugee from Central America took the stand Wednesday to testify in the Sanctuary trial. Alejandro and Leticia Rodriguez, two Salvadorans in sanctuary at the Downtown University Presbyterian