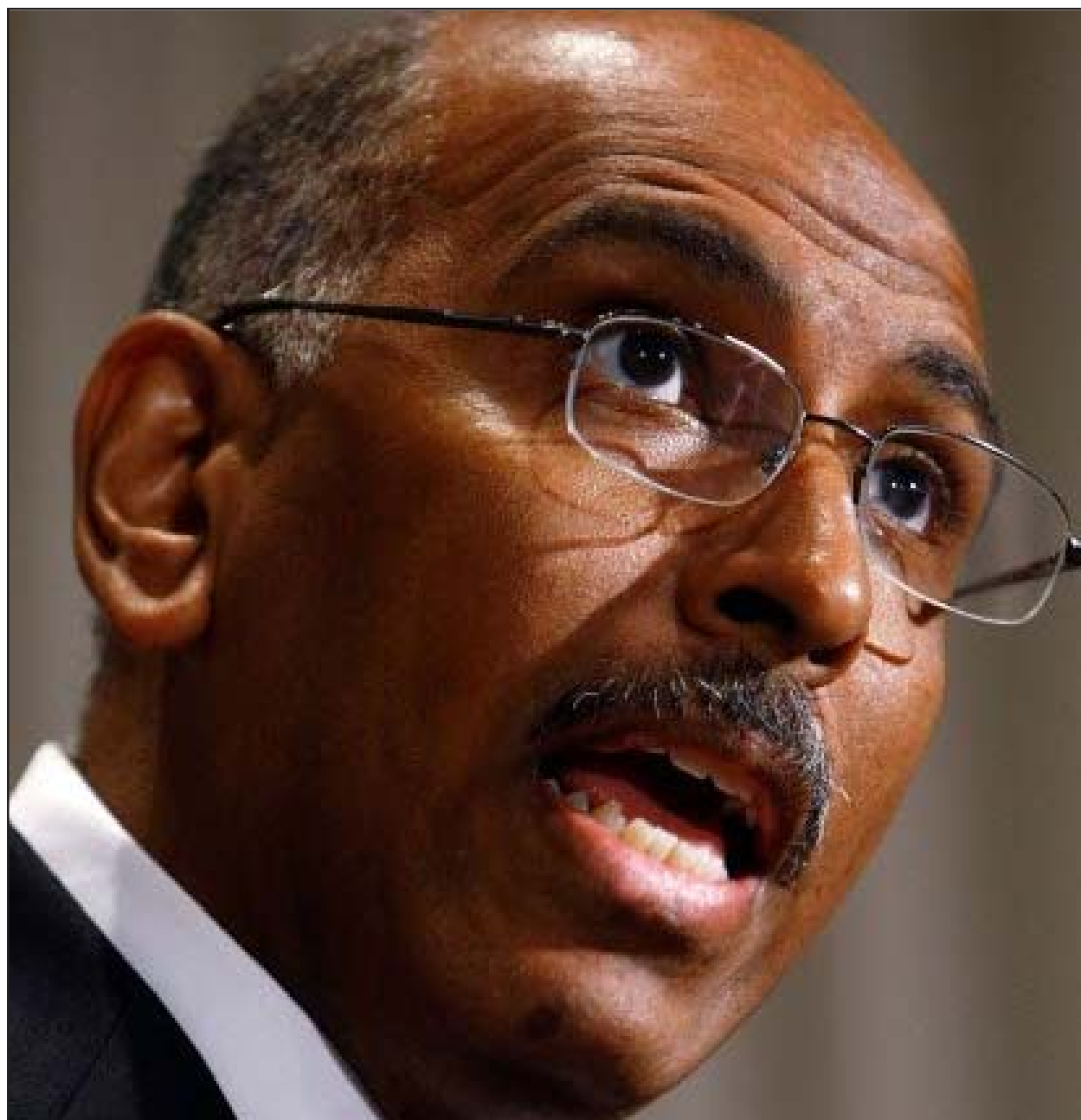




# BUSINESSMAN CONVICTED!

## Prince, Who Tried to Elude Arresting IRS Agents, Found Guilty on All Counts



### Steele Plea

Michael Steele, the beleaguered chairman of the Republican National Committee, made a plea to keep his job as he faced others vying for the post. (See the complete story on Page A2)

# He's Charged With Bankruptcy Fraud

## Federal Court Trial in Texas Is Nine Days

### Bank Fraud Indictment To Be Faced

By PAUL R. MARSH  
Special to the Chronicle

A high-flying businessman who boasted of having enterprises in Oklahoma and in Texas was convicted in a federal court a few weeks ago on all 15 counts of a federal indictment.

Clovis Lionel Prince, 60, an Oklahoma City resident, was tried in the federal district court in Sherman, Texas.

The trial on the bankruptcy fraud and perjury charges began on Dec. 1, and the jury returned the 15 guilty verdicts on Dec. 9.

An official of the Federal District Court of the Eastern District of Texas in Sherman said yesterday that Mr. Prince is expected to be sentenced in about three months.

He is now in the Federal Correctional Institution in Ft. Worth.

Mr. Prince may face even more federal charges, since the charges on which he was convicted last month stem from an indictment issued last March.

That indictment was preceded by a 2008 indictment against Mr. Prince charging bank fraud and fraudulent financial transactions related to bank fraud.



Clovis L. Prince, president of Prince & Associates, was convicted on all 15 counts of bankruptcy fraud and perjury by a federal district court in Sherman, Texas.

Counts One-Ten of the 15-count indictment filed last March 10 were for perjury, and Mr. Prince could be sentenced to terms of five years or less on each of the convictions, plus a fine on each conviction of not more than \$250,000.

Also, for each of those convictions, he could be given additional terms of not more than three years of supervised release.

Counts 11-15 of the indictment were for bankruptcy fraud violations.

For each of those convictions,

Mr. Prince could be given a prison term of not more than five years, a fine of \$250,000 or less and not more than three years of supervised release.

These are the specifics for each count of the indictment:

• **Count One:** On Dec. 2009, Mr. Prince perjured himself when he said in sworn testimony in Collin County, Texas, he was not a beneficiary of a trust;

• **Count Two:** On the same day, he perjured himself

(continued on page A9)

## Expunge Request Dropped

### Onetime Murder Suspect Wanted Records Erased Prater Termed The Original Request An 'Unusual' One

By JOHN W. SIMMS  
Special to the Chronicle



Tybream D. Rogers

The man charged with three deaths during a 1996 shootout has dropped his request to have records of his arrest expunged.

The 1999 trial of Tybream Demont Rogers, 35, was declared a mistrial after a defense attorney raised allegations of sexual misconduct by an Oklahoma City police officer.

Last March, Mr. Rogers filed a motion to have his role in the episode erased from his criminal records.

Aletia Haynes Timmons is Mr. Rogers' attorney.

Last week, she filed a motion to dismiss the expunge request, which had asked that her client's records regarding the three first-degree murder counts be erased.

(continued on page A9)

## Mother and Boyfriend Of Dead Child Jailed, But Mother Released

### Hill Faces First-Degree Murder Charges

By THOMAS E. SEWARD  
Special to the Chronicle

A mother and her boyfriend were arrested on murder complaints in November in connection with the death of a 1-year-old girl, but the mother has been released.

Malia Ransom, 1, died Nov. 21.

A spokesman for the state medical examiner's office said she died from internal injuries caused by blunt force trauma.

Cierra Mona Ransom, 24, her mother, and Omar Jamon Hill, 30, the mother's boyfriend, were arrested the day after the girl's death on complaints of first-degree murder and allowing or permitting child abuse, Capt. Patrick Stewart, a spokesman for the Oklahoma City Police Department, said shortly after the arrest.

Police were called to Integris Baptist Medical Center the day of the girl's death.

The medical examiner's office ruled the death a homicide.

Mr. Hill and Miss Ransom were initially being held without bail in the Oklahoma County Jail, but Miss Ransom has been released.

Three other children living in the home were taken into custody by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Capt. Stewart said.

Mr. Hill was formally



Omar J. Hill

charged with first-degree murder on Dec. 9, and his preliminary hearing was scheduled for today.

### Ersland Case

## Elliott Hearing Scheduled

By ROBERT E. BARNES  
Special to the Chronicle

Yet another hearing over whether to replace the judge in the high-profile pharmacist-murder case will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Jerome Jay Ersland, 59, is accused of first-degree murder for going too far when he shot a robber six times inside the Reliable Discount Pharmacy.

Several others (including an alleged robber and two adults who prosecutors believe directed the two teenagers involved in the case) have all been charged with first-degree murder.

Oklahoma County District Judge Ray C. Elliott has refused twice to step down from the case, and defense attorneys on Dec. 17 appealed to Judge Bill Graves, the chief judge for Oklahoma County on that date.

Judge Graves will hear arguments Friday.

More than likely, Judge Graves won't rule until later.

After that, attorneys can make their arguments one last time to the

Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals if Judge Graves does not order Judge Elliott off the case.

Defense attorneys allege Judge Elliott cannot be trusted to be fair to anyone because he is prejudiced against Hispanics, even though Mr. Ersland is white.

Prosecutors said defense attorneys really don't believe that and are trying to delay the case going to trial.

Judge Elliott was assigned the case after Judge Tammy Bass LeSure was asked by prosecutors to remove herself.

Prosecutors said they had evidence that Judge LeSure had given a list of three defense lawyers to her personal trainer, who was scheduled to appear in her courtroom on drug-related charges.

Judge LeSure told the personal trainer that she would not give him any prison time, prosecutors said, and that the three lawyers on the list "know how to roll" in her courtroom.

One of the lawyers on the list, prosecutors said, was a member of the defense team in the Ersland case.



Oklahoma County District Judge Ray C. Elliott will be the topic during a hearing set for Friday on whether he should be removed as the judge handling a high-profile murder case.

