

Hall Set Free After 63 Hours; Cursing Gunman Under Arrest

Richard O. (Dick) Hall's long ordeal at gunpoint finally ended last night when Anthony George (Tony) Kirtsis, 44, released his captive of 63 hours after making a dramatic appearance on television.

Kirtsis, who had been promised immunity from prosecution by the Marion County prosecutor's office, was taken into custody immediately by members of the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

Kirtsis was charged with kidnapping and was held under \$250,000 bond in Marion County Jail.

He was charged with inflicting injury in the commission of a felony armed robbery, obtaining a signature by threat, commission of a felony while armed (kidnaping), committing a crime of violence while armed and disorderly conduct (mental).

The release of Hall, 42-year-old real estate executive, came about 11:15 p.m. outside of Kirtsis' apartment in Crestwood Village on the city's Westside where Hall had been held, the shotgun

taped to his head, since Tuesday morning.

A WAITING ambulance rushed Hall immediately to Wishard Memorial Hospital for a complete medical checkup and treatment of any injuries he may have suffered.

Before the ambulance left, Hall said, "I'm fine, I'm fine. I want to go home and see my wife and family. I want to thank everyone. I'm fine."

Hall offered his brief remarks as medics were placing him on a stretcher behind Building No. 7, which has housed the press, about 100 yards from the third-floor apartment in which he was confined.

SHERIFF'S Maj. Bill Romeril gave this account of Kirtsis' surrender:

"We talked to him, we

him, and we talked to him, period. They (the lawyers) finally wrote out demands on a piece of paper. He looked at it, he read it, although I don't believe he knew what he was reading.

"He finally said, 'Okay, that's got it, unhook him (Hall).'"

THE NIGHT'S rapid developments began building shortly after Kirtsis' television appearance when he entered the police command post in Building 7 for further negotiations at 10:50 p.m. — 23 minutes after he began his dramatic tirade on television.

A throng of almost 100 reporters was moved about 25 yards from the building.

For the most part, the newsmen stood in silence, staring ahead as

though attempting to see through parked cars and trailers and walls into the room where the negotiations were being conducted.

Suddenly, at 11:08 p.m., a shot rang out. Reporters rushed forward but police held them back.

Then George Martz, a Marion County deputy prosecutor who had negotiated with Kirtsis two days for Hall's release, announced that Hall was free, unharmed, and the shot had been fired from Kirtsis' shotgun in a final gesture to prove it was loaded.

AT 11:14 P.M., Martz left the building and told reporters outside, "He's out, he's okay," referring to Hall.

Moments later a second shot was heard.

Martz told reporters both shots were fired by Kirtsis; presumably in final gesture of defiance to prove the weapon was loaded.

Kirtsis was taken away in a sheriff's car while Martz talked with reporters.

"I JUST talked to Dick Hall," Martz

added. "He's all right. He's a hell of a man."

Martz said Kirtsis took Hall into an apartment just off the lobby where negotiations were held. Shortly afterwards, Kirtsis released his hostage.

HALL ARRIVED at Wishard Memorial Hospital at 11:45 p.m. and was whisked immediately through a doorway.

Sitting up on his stretcher, Hall smiled at a hospital guard and said, "It's all right."

He appeared tired but composed.

Mrs. Hall arrived at the hospital about midnight accompanied by two friends and entered through a side door. She went immediately to the emergency room where her husband was being examined.

When word of Hall's escape circulated at the apartment complex, a crowd gathered outside and shouted and cheered at the end of what Martz called "the most incredible three-day ordeal any of these people ever spent."

Deputy prosecutors apologized to Kirtsis' brother, Jimmie, for breaking the

immunity agreement but Jimmie replied, "I'm relieved the whole thing is over."

Asked about his brother's arrest after the promise of immunity, Jimmie said, "I really don't think they had any other course of action. Do you?"

A high source in the prosecutor's office said the immunity agreement was

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The story about last night's apprehension was covered by R. Joseph Gelarden, Donald K. Thrasher, Patrick T. Morris, Robert K. Schneider, Jerome H. Juday and Robert J. LaMarche, and photographers Jerry W. Clark, Greg Griffol, Charles A. Berry and Jeffrey D. Atterberry. More than 20 persons handled the stories in the city room.

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