TO:Interested MediaFROM:BUD CUMMINS, United States AttorneyDATE:April 7, 2004CONTACT:Bud Cummins, 501-340-2650

<u>LITTLE ROCK, AR</u> – U. S. Attorney Bud Cummins announced that Ronald E. Robinson, of Little Rock, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Little Rock, charging him with four counts of income tax evasion. Robinson, a self-employed masonry and contractor faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$1 million if convicted on all counts.

According to the indictment, from approximately September 1998 to the present, Robinson has attempted to defeat the payment of a large portion of a federal tax debt he owes for calendar years 1995 and 1996 by discontinuing the filing of tax returns, and in addition, Robinson attempted to conceal the nature and location of his assets and income through numerous cash transactions, including approximately \$400,000 in Mississippi casino transactions in 1999; made false statements to agents of the Internal Revenue Service; and placed property in the name of a nominee, including luxury automobiles, a boat and real estate.

Additionally, Robinson was charged with income tax evasion pertaining to his 1997, 1998 and 1999 federal income tax returns. According to the indictment, Robinson failed to file income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service as required by law and continued to conceal his income and assets during this period of time. The indictment alleges approximate gross income for the three years totaling \$1,787,958.25.

This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation.

*Note:* An indictment is a form of accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Press Release U.S. Attorney's Office 04/27/2004 Page 1 of 1