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FORMER JEFFERSON CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FRAUDULENT INCOME TAX RETURNS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former Jefferson City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to filing fraudulent income tax returns.

Sam G. Hall, 69, of St. Genevieve, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning.

Hall, who is retired, owned and operated a newspaper route business during the time frame of the violations. Hall Distributing Company distributed the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and the *Jefferson City News Tribune* from 1988 through 1998.

By pleading guilty, **Hall** admitted that he filed a fraudulent federal income tax return for the year 1997. In the return, **Hall** listed his taxable income as being \$4,297, and failed to include additional gross income receipts in the amount of approximately \$104,420. The failure to report the additional income receipts resulted in additional taxable income of approximately \$59,063.

Hall also admitted that he failed to include similar additional income in his 1994, 1995 and 1996 tax returns in the amounts of \$60,360, \$66,506 and \$65,522, respectively.

The total amount of tax loss for the four-year period was approximately \$82,051, Graves said.

Hall was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 10, 2003, in Jefferson City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Hall** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to three years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$250,000 fine. His sentence will be

determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. The case was investigated by Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow