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News Release

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Spicer man indicted for tax evasion

A 70-year-old Spicer man who was recently indicted on two counts of tax evasion made his initial appearance in federal court yesterday.

Robert Goris was charged April 15 for allegedly evading \$740,000 in income taxes for the tax years 2002 and 2003. His indictment alleges that in 2002 Goris received \$3.5 million in total income and in 2003 he received \$200,000 in total income. Goris appeared in court April 21 before U.S. Magistrate Arthur Boylan in St. Paul.

The indictment alleges that on his 2002 tax return, Goris allegedly reported his total tax to be \$0 and claimed a \$15,000 refund when he knew his total tax was substantially in excess of \$0 and he wasn't entitled to a refund. It also alleges that on his 2003 tax return, Goris reported his total tax to be \$5,635 when he knew his total tax was substantially in excess of that amount.

The indictment alleges that Goris developed schemes to evade his taxes, such as creating companies that were purportedly owned by trusts he controlled. Goris arranged for portions of his income to be paid to one company, and from there he allegedly transferred it to his trusts. From the trust bank accounts, Goris spent the money on himself and did not report this income on his 2002 or 2003 tax returns.

If convicted, Goris faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison on each tax evasion count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. Cheever.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.