



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County Courthouse
11th and I Streets
Room 200, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353

JAMES C. BRAZELTON
District Attorney

(209) 525-5550

FAX: (209) 525-5545

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 6, 2002

Re: **Dekelaita sentencing**

For more information contact:

John J. Goold, Chief Deputy D.A.

(209) 525-5550

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Robert Allen Dekelaita, age 42, of Turlock, was sentenced to 38 years to life in state prison for the April 24th burglary of a Turlock home. A Stanislaus County Superior Court jury had previously convicted Dekelaita of 1st degree burglary on July 11th, 2002, and his sentencing was set for today in front of Superior Court Judge Roger Beauchesne.

This case arose out of events which occurred on April 24, 2002 when neighbors reported seeing Dekelaita knock on the door of a Turlock home. The residents were away for the day. Shortly afterwards, these same witnesses heard a loud crashing sound and saw Dekelaita leaving the area with bags of property taken from the home. When police arrived, Dekelaita discarded some of the property and fled from the officers.

Dekelaita's sentenced was based on his extensive criminal history, which included two prior serious felony convictions for residential burglary and also 5 prior prison commitments. It was the prior serious felony convictions for residential burglary that made Dekelaita eligible for sentencing under California's Three Strikes law. Deputy District Attorney Dawna Frenchie of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Unit

prosecuted the case through jury trial and also appeared at the sentencing hearing for the People.