

**United States Court of Appeals  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

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No. 99-2428

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United States of America,

Appellee,

v.

Ernest Carl Crank,

Appellant.

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Appeal from the United States  
District Court for the Southern  
District of Iowa.

[UNPUBLISHED]

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Submitted: March 1, 2001

Filed: March 6, 2001

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Before LOKEN, FAGG, and BEAM, Circuit Judges.

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PER CURIAM.

A jury found Ernest Carl Crank guilty of one count of conspiring to distribute cocaine and cocaine base, four counts of distributing cocaine base, and one count of distributing cocaine, all in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846. The district court sentenced Crank to concurrent prison terms of 245 months on each of the conspiracy and cocaine-base-distribution counts, and 240 months on the cocaine-distribution count, to be followed by concurrent supervised release terms totaling five years. For reversal, Crank challenges the sufficiency of the evidence to support his conviction, and the drug-quantity attribution for sentencing purposes.

At trial, the government introduced two witnesses who testified Crank furnished them with the cocaine and cocaine base they sold on five specific occasions to undercover agents, and Crank furnished them with cocaine and cocaine base for resale regularly during most of 1996. This evidence, as corroborated by the testimony of several law enforcement officials, was sufficient to support Crank's conspiracy and distribution convictions. See United States v. Robinson, 217 F.3d 560, 564 (8th Cir.), cert. denied, 121 S. Ct. 497 (2000); United States v. Moore, 212 F.3d 441, 444-45 (8th Cir. 2000).

Turning to Crank's sentence, we conclude the district court's decision to hold Crank accountable for 1.4 kilograms of cocaine base for sentencing purposes, after cautiously taking into consideration one of the witness's tendency to exaggerate, was not clearly erroneous. See United States v. Padilla-Pena, 129 F.3d 457, 467 (8th Cir. 1997) (reviewing court is particularly hesitant to find clear error in district court's drug-quantity findings where those findings are based on determinations of witness credibility), cert. denied, 524 U.S. 905, 906 (1998). Nevertheless, we must vacate the 245-month prison terms imposed on the conspiracy and cocaine-base-distribution convictions and remand for reconsideration in light of recent Supreme Court directives. See Apprendi v. New Jersey, 120 S. Ct. 2348, 2362-63 (2000) (other than fact of prior conviction, any fact that increases penalty beyond prescribed statutory maximum must be submitted to jury and proved beyond reasonable doubt). Where, as here, the quantity of drugs was not alleged in the indictment or submitted to the jury, Crank could not be sentenced above the twenty-year statutory maximum prison term he faced, without reference to drug quantity, for his involvement with these schedule II controlled substances. See 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(C) (authorizing maximum twenty-year prison term for first-time felony schedule II controlled substance offenders, and minimum three-year supervised release term); United States v. Nicholson, 231 F.3d 445, 452-55 (8th Cir. 2000), petition for cert. filed, (Jan. 29, 2001) (No. 00-8376).

Accordingly, we affirm Crank's convictions, and the sentence imposed on his cocaine-distribution conviction. We vacate the sentences imposed on Crank's five convictions related to cocaine base, all of which resulted in prison terms exceeding the twenty-year statutory maximum, and remand for resentencing consistent with this opinion. The government's uncontested motion to supplement the record on appeal is granted.

A true copy.

Attest:

CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, EIGHTH CIRCUIT.