

Written by Administrator
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By The Associated Press (CP) – 45 minutes ago

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — A man accused of driving an armed bandit to a casino that was robbed of \$33,000 in chips pleaded not guilty Tuesday as police kept searching for the gunman.

Police said Edward Land was an accomplice to the Feb. 24 heist at

the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino — the second casino holdup in Las Vegas since December.

Police have said Land acknowledged driving a buddy to the Rio and watching him don a wig and fake moustache before leaving his car.

But a lawyer for Land said he had no knowledge a robbery was in the works.

"He had a robbery dumped in his lap," attorney Louis Schneider said after a hearing in Las Vegas Justice Court.

Land, 41, and taxi driver Hiroyuki Yamaguchi, 61, were arrested on suspicion of aiding the bandit, identified by police as 45-year-old Steven Gao.

Yamaguchi did not enter a plea at Tuesday's arraignment.

Judge Deborah Lippis increased bail for each man to \$125,000 and set another hearing for March 15. Both defendants have been charged with burglary, robbery and conspiracy.

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Las Vegas man arrested in Rio casino chip heist enters not guilty plea; bail ... - The Canadian Press

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