

19 Indicted In Mantle Club Racket Probe

T-H
Fraternal Aims (1941)

Called Cover for

Swindle by Officers

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 6 (U.P.).

The Allegheny county grand jury climaxed a rackets probe tonight by indicting 19 officers of the Mantle Club, a national organization with headquarters in Wilmington, Del.

The indictments were handed up to Judge Henry Ellenbogen. The officers were accused of using the club for their own personal profit.

Ku Kluxers Indicted

The jurors previously had indicted five members of the Ku Klux Klan, including Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott, of Atlanta, Ga., on charges of conspiracy and illegal solicitation of funds in connection with an attempt to revive the Klan here.

H. B. Monjar, national president of the Mantle Club, was among those indicted on charges of violating the Pennsylvania securities act; conspiracy to violate the act; fraudulent conversion; conspiracy to cheat and defraud, and failure to register under the Pennsylvania loans act.

Others Named

Others named in the presentment on one or more charges, were A. J. Cook, E. T. Elkin, C. O. Drew, all national officers; Francis P. Myers, F. R. Doerr, C. D. Kuester, E. W. Cooper, S. A. Kelsey, and M. E. Mikesell, all local officers; E. F. Willard, J. J. Fitzpatrick, B. F. Moore, W. C. Martin, J. E. Lindh, L. B. Cruser, C. W. Candlin, Melvin Apgar, and Lenox G. Brogan.

Judge Ellenbogen fixed bond at \$25,000 for Monjar; \$15,000 for Cook; \$10,000 each for Brogan and Myers, and \$5,000 each for the 15 others.

The grand jury charged that the "whole setup appears to be a gigantic money-making swindle," and that the club's fraternalistic aims were merely a "cover" for the "true purpose" of its officers—"to make huge and unconscionable profits for themselves."

Fraud Charged

It was alleged that club members were defrauded through the sale of gold-braided costumes by a Wilmington firm allegedly controlled by the national board of governors; through purchase and sale of a monthly magazine and books from a Wilmington publishing house allegedly controlled by national officers, and through personal loans by members to Monjar.

Loans to Monjar amounted to \$300,000 in two years, the grand jury alleged. It was charged that the \$20 initiation fees and \$2 monthly dues went to the national officers; that the club headquarters had \$394,152 invested in uniforms as of October 31, 1941 and had paid the Key Publishing Co., of Wilmington, \$137,724 for back issues of a monthly magazine published by the organization.