

LA., THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 18, 1969

U.S. ATTORNEY ARRESTED HERE

Allegedly Impersonated
FBI Agent

A U.S. Justice Department attorney was arrested early Wednesday on charges of impersonating a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and public intimidation of police.

He is Joseph J. Tafe, 30, 919 Burgundy, Apt. 4, who, according to police, is in charge of an organized crime investigation.

Justice Department officials in Washington confirmed that Tafe is an attorney in the criminal division assigned to New Orleans, but would not comment further on the arrest.

Police said that Tafe attended the grand opening of the Royal Sonesta Hotel Thursday night and Friday morning.

Tafe identified himself as an FBI agent and said that he was entitled to enter free of charge, police said.

Police said Tafe entered the Mystic Den lounge in the hotel and refused to pay for several drinks, saying that he was entitled to free drinks because he was an FBI agent.

Ken Guirdanella, 31, and F. L. Folse, of the hotel's security department, said that Tafe identified himself to them as an FBI agent.

Tafe finally paid for one drink at the management's insistence, police said.

Police said that a real FBI agent inquired about Tafe at the hotel Tuesday, and told Guirdanella to notify authorities if Tafe appeared again.

Guirdanella saw Tafe in

front of the hotel about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday and called police.

Tafe allegedly told the officers who arrived that they would have to appear before the grand jury and that they would be sentenced to five years if they arrested him.