

# Police Agent Cited in Pay Fraud

GENEVA, N.Y., July 31 (UPI)—“Tommy the Traveler,” who as a sheriff’s undercover agent was involved in campus turmoil at Hobart College, was arrested today for allegedly defrauding the state of unemployment pay benefits.

The city court affidavits said Tommy, whose real name is Thomas Tongyai, filed false information on 10 different occasions and “defrauded the state of \$650” in unemployment benefits.

Tongyai, 26, began collecting the money in mid-January and continued to do so until mid-May, receiving a total of \$1,105, Louis Sitkin of the State Division of Employment said.

In City Court earlier this week, Sheriff Ray O. Morrow testified that Tongyai had worked for him from March 9 until July 1. The Sheriff testified at Tongyai’s trial on a harassment charge brought by a Hobart student. The charge was dismissed.

The sheriff has come under considerable criticism for hiring Tongyai to investigate narcotics traffic on the Hobart campus. An abortive drug raid on the campus June 5 led to a confrontation between students and police that ended when officers released three students who had been arrested.

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller later ordered a special grand jury investigation.

The new arrest of Tongyai came less than 24 hours after UPI reported a state investigation that concerned an 11-week period this spring when he was paid \$835 under the code name of “Maxwell Smart” for his work as a special deputy.

A UPI investigation of pay vouchers in county records showed a Maxwell Smart, Post Office address, Geneva, received \$75 per week for “labor in accordance with oral agreement” from March 8 until May 23. The voucher for the April 5 week was for \$85.

From May 30 to June 12, Tongyai, as a special deputy, received regular pay of \$221.49 before taxes.