

U.S. Seeks End Of Miami Union Linked To Klan

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By HENRY CAVENDISH

The federal government moved today to break up a Miami union local linked with the Ku Klux Klan and with dissemination of hate literature.

An action based on charges filed by Local 549, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, was named at the United Southern Employees Association and its affiliate, Miami Local No. 1, Electrical Employees of Florida.

NOT LEGITIMATE

Concluding a four-day hearing before National Labor Relations Board Trial Examiner Albert P. Wheatley, government attorneys asked that the Miami local be dissolved by the federal agency.

Basis of the request was the contention that the local is not a legitimate union because it is sponsored and controlled by employers in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

The government attorneys said that the national office of the local is in quarters in Salisbury, N.C., and is straggled from operations of other employer-dominated locals of the five other southern states in which it operates.

The Miami local was involved in the hearings which began after two expulsions of the Klan membership card of William A. Somerset, an official of the national IBEW and treasurer of the Florida local.

ISSUED THIS YEAR

The 1960 card No. 1001 was issued by Marvin N. ... of the Ku Klux Klan ... Mike ... in the office of ... Michael ... the card ... accused him ... charge of aggravated assault.

Summoned as a government witness, Somerset attested the po-

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iristic nature of the USEA but declined to testify as a witness. NLRB Attorney Martin Sacks said a federal court order would be sought, compelling the union officials to answer questions in response to the subpoena.

The hate literature angle was brought in with the introduction — despite opposition by Somerset, who appeared as his own counsel — of a leaflet quoting excerpts and reproducing a picture printed in the Pittsburgh Courier, a Negro newspaper.

The material recorded Mayor Robert King's attendance at an "Equal Opportunity Day" dinner here last November. The accompanying text contained a paragraph on the "Benedict Arnold and Khrushchev methods" being used by public officials in efforts to "break down the barriers of segregation."

LOW PRINTED

William McCall, a former USEA organizer here, testified he transcribed the text at Somerset's dictation and took it to Fort Lauderdale where more than 400 copies were printed.