

S-1 9/7/69

Charge Lawyer In G-Man Ruse

A U.S. Justice Department attorney was arrested here early today and booked with impersonating a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent after police said he sought to get free drinks by passing himself off as an FBI man.

Arrested was Joseph J. Tafe, 30, of 919 Burgundy, Apt. 4, whom Justice Department officials in Washington confirmed is an attorney in the criminal division assigned to New Orleans.

Tafe was booked additionally with disturbing the peace by using obscene language and appearing drunk in public.

Police said Tafe attended the grand opening of the Royal Sonesta Hotel here last Thursday, identifying himself as an FBI agent and telling hotel employe Ken Guirdanella, 31, he didn't have to pay because of his G-man status.

Hotel officials notified the FBI office, which asked them to let them know if the man showed up again.

About 12:30 a. m. today, Guirdanella saw Tafe again at the hotel and called police. Police said Tafe told them they would be called before the grand jury if they arrested him and would get five years in prison.

Police said Tafe is in charge of organized crime investigations for the Justice Department. Department officials would make no comment on the arrest.