

U. of C. pharmacist arrested for sale of stolen morphine

By Leon Pitt

An undetermined quantity of morphine was discovered missing from the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics dispensary before a night pharmacist employed there was arrested for selling the narcotic to undercover police agents, a hospital spokesman said Tuesday.

When the pharmacist, Ray J. Bean, 39, of 647 W. Deming Pl., was arrested Monday, the spokesman said, hospital officials were preparing to report the loss of the drugs to Federal and local authorities. Large quantities of other drugs from the dispensary were found in Bean's apartment, the police said.

Bean, who was charged with selling a controlled substance (morphine) and hypodermic needles and syringes, was released on \$1,500 bond Tuesday. A hearing was scheduled for Feb. 15.

The morphine was found to be missing last Saturday by hospital officials taking a routine inventory of stocks in the dispensary at the University's Albert Merritt Billings Hospital. Drugs for 11 hospitals, including Billings, Chicago Ly-

ing-In, and the Wyler Children's Hospital are distributed from the dispensary.

Hospital officials then ordered an audit to confirm that the inventory was correct. The audit delayed the initial report to authorities, the spokesman said.

Bean, one of 62 persons employed at the dispensary, was the sole pharmacist on the 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift three days a week, the spokesman said.

The inventory was accelerated Tuesday after police officers raided Bean's North Side apartment Monday night and seized a huge supply of prescription drugs, many of them still packed in boxes labeled "University of Chicago Medical Clinics," the spokesman said.

Bean, who is single and had worked in the dispensary for 5½ years, had not been suspected of stealing the drugs prior to his arrest, the spokesman added.

Deputy Police Supt. Mitchell Ware, who valued the drugs confiscated in Bean's apartment at about \$1.5 million, called the raid "possibly the biggest ever in Chicago."

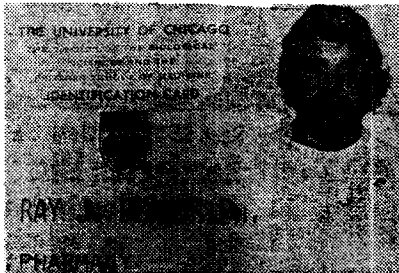
Besides the drugs, most of

them barbiturates and amphetamines, the police confiscated 15 guns, including six pistols, a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun, five rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition, Ware said.

Two squadrols were needed to haul away the pills, weapons, needles and syringes, Ware said.

Bean was arrested after allegedly selling 100 disposable syringes containing morphine sulphate to two undercover agents of the C-5 police unit for \$1,000, Ware said.

Drugs were found on the front seat of Bean's car, parked near a tavern at 31 W. Division, after Bean completed



University of Chicago identification card of pharmacist Ray J. Bean.



Cache of drugs found in the North Side apartment of Ray J. Bean is examined by Deputy Police Supt. Mitchell Ware. Confiscated weapons are on table. (Sun-Times Photo by Duane Hall)

the deal with the agents inside the tavern. The police raided Bean's apartment because he had bragged to the undercover policemen that he had many more drugs in his apartment. Police were checking to see if the confiscated guns were registered.

BEAN