

## GOP Dirty Tricks Charged in N.Y.

New York

State Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea, one of New York's most prominent Republicans, and five GOP associates were arrested and arraigned yesterday on charges of organizing and financing a "dirty tricks" election scheme against Democrats.

The six were charged with setting up a bogus political committee that officials said launched a secret mail campaign against Democrats in 12 Assembly races last year.

A two-count grand jury indictment said Duryea had "ultimate authority" in authorizing the scheme.

The defendants allegedly conspired to form a group called the "Action Committee of the Liberal Party" which mailed literature to registered voters urging a vote for the Liberal party candidate in Assembly districts where a close race was expected.

The indictment charged the intent was to influence voters who might tend to vote for a Democrat and thereby insure the election of the Republican candidate

in violation of the state election law.

Others named in the indictment were Duryea's chief lieutenant, Assembly majority leader John E. Kingston, Assemblyman Alfred A. Delli Bovi, and three members of Duryea's staff, Henry A. Mund Jr., I. Lynn Mueller and James Threatte.

All pleaded innocent at their arraignment and were released on their own recognizance. Preliminary motions in the case were set for January 15.

At a brief news conference before the arraignment, Duryea, 52, of Montauk, N.Y., said, "these charges are really nothing," and added that he is confident of exoneration.

"I do not intend to resign," the speaker said. He said he would be in the speaker's chair for the next session of the Assembly scheduled for January 9.

Duryea indicated he will base his defense on the unconstitutionality of the election law violations charged in the indictment.

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