

Cincinnati Enquirer Sept. 23, 1952

CHARGE FILED

By Grand Jury

Against Priest In Case
Of 15-Year-Old Girl

Morals Count Returned In
Federal Court — Thirteen
Others Also Indicted

A Federal grand jury at Covington yesterday returned 10 true bills against 14 persons including the former assistant pastor of a Newport Catholic church.

The jury referred 16 cases involving the failure to pay Federal "floor" taxes for whisky and liquor in local cafes to the next grand jury. Three other cases were ignored as the fall term of U. S. District Court opened with Judge Mac Swinford presiding.

Indicted was the Rev. Reuben Thomas Moscovitz, 40, former assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Church, Newport. The priest was charged with "persuading a girl under 18 years of age to go into interstate commerce to engage in prostitution, debauchery and other immoral practices."

When Father Moscovitz failed to appear in court after his case was called, Israel Aron, Covington attorney, asked that he be permitted to call Harry Abrams, Cincinnati, former assistant U. S. District Attorney, who he said was representing the priest.

TO PREPARE ORDER

A short time later Mr. Abrams appeared in court and made a motion that before the priest was arraigned formally he be given a psychiatric examination.

Judge Swinford gave the attorney until 9 a. m. today to prepare a written order of his motion. District Attorney Claude P. Stephens said that as long as Mr. Abrams followed the proper statutory proceedings he would not oppose the request.

Father Moscovitz is said to be in an institution for the mentally ill. Msgr. G. H. Geisen, Chancellor of the Covington Diocese, conferred with the District Attorney yesterday prior to the grand jury report, court attendants reported.

The girl in question is 15 years old and was sent the money for an airplane ticket between the Kenton County Airport in Boone County to Washington, D. C., the district attorney's office said. The clergyman now is free under \$1,000 bond. The bond was signed by Vance Schwartz, Box 377, Werk Road, Cincinnati.

OTHERS ARE INDICTED

Others indicted included: Elsie Belcher, 28, Pardee, Va., charged with forging a U. S. Treasury check for \$60; Harvey W. Harris, and Melvin Wright, alias William Wright, both Cincinnati Negroes, illegally acquiring marijuana; Arnold Taekett, 21, alias Arnold Stewart, Jackhorn, Ky., and Victor Fleming, Pike County, Ky., both charged on two counts with defrauding and forging a signature on a money order.

Graham Layne, 22, Pikeville, Ky., stealing letters from an authorized depository for mail.

Otha Goodwin, 38, Fleming County, Ky., selling property upon which an agency of the U. S. held a mortgage.

David S. Lewis, 31, Court Hotel, Cincinnati, S. W. Willis, 106 E. McMicken and Delmas Smith, 1809 Vine St., both of Cincinnati, and Donald E. Staats, 34, no address, all charged with stealing automobiles in interstate commerce in violation of the Dyer Act.

Raymond C. Smithers and Clifford Smithers, Toledo, Ohio, possession of untaxed whiskey.