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U. S. JURY INDICTS 13 IN BETTING RING

Charges. Illegal Telephone Hook-Ups Across Country

WASHINGTON, June 27 (AP) —A Federal grand jury indicted thirteen men today on charges of being involved in a nation-wide track betting system.

Linking twenty cities by telephone, the system stretched from New York to Los Angeles, and from Chicago to New Orleans, the Justice Department said.

The men were charged with concealing the system by using illegal long-distance phone hook-ups, thus cheating the Government on taxes and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company on toll charges.

The hook-ups were said to have been maintained for years. The indictments, returned in New Orleans, listed calls from Nov. 1, 1952, to July 31, 1959.

The men were accused of having paid phone company employees to fix switchboards so that betting calls could go through the system free.

Unofficial sources said the thirteen included some of the biggest names in "lay-off" gambling operations.

New Yorker Included

The indictments named the following:

Benjamin Lassoff, 53 years old; his brother, Robert Lassoff, 41, and Myron Deckelbaum, 57, of Cincinnati.

Gilbert L. Beckley, 49, of Surfside, and Alfred Mones, 57, of Miami Beach, Fla.

Sam di Piazza, 35, and Louis E. Bagneris, 60, of Arabi, La., a suburb of New Orleans; Eugene A. Nolan, 31, of Baton Rouge, and Charles A. Perez, 44; Harold Brouphy, 52, and Anthony Glorioso, 46, of New Orleans.

Alfred Reyn, 52, of New York.

Peter J. Martino, 37, of Biloxi, Miss.

District Judge Herbert W. Christenberry of New Orleans issued bench warrants for the thirteen and set bond at \$25,000 each.

Reyn was arrested in New York and released under \$2,000 bail pending a hearing in Federal court July 6. He said he was an art dealer. A Federal attorney in New York said Reyn had told him he was arrested seven years ago in New Orleans on gambling charges, but the case was dismissed.

The Lassoff brothers and Deckelbaum surrendered in Newport, Ky. They were sent to jail in default of bonds pending a hearing July 6.

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said illegal calls had been made between ten cities: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Miami, Biloxi and Newport, which is just outside Cincinnati.

Supervised by Kennedy

The gambling indictments were the first of that kind made under the supervision of Mr. Kennedy, who had announced a crackdown on organized crime and racketeering. Mr. Kennedy said it involved bookmaking and lay-off betting.

A bookmaker is the agent who takes the illegal bet. Often, when he feels he has collected more bets than he can cover, he places some with larger operators. This is known as lay-off betting.

Large-scale betting operations use phone hook-ups to lay off bets with different gamblers throughout the country.

The jury did not name the A. T. & T. employees who allegedly had been paid off by gamblers to fix the hook-ups. But the indictment described as co-conspirators, not defendants, "certain telephone company repairmen and other persons whose names are to the grand jury unknown.

Four men were named as co-conspirators—Albert E. Bagneris and Vincent J. Caminita of New Orleans, and Simon Klayman and Frank Marino of Cincinnati.

The indictment had twenty counts. The maximum penalty could be \$11,000 in fines and ten years in jail for each indictment.