



Most of the principals and spectators who have crowded a Marion county circuit court room for three days of a trial over alleged secret society activities in Salem high school are shown here, as the final day of testimony opened Thursday. Several students and parents had been subpoenaed and were present but were not called to testify, in order to avoid duplication of testimony and to shorten the trial, brought by 18 students expelled last fall. (Statesman photo.)

(Story also on page 1.)
 Considerable discussion of the Salem high school boys' club alleged by officials to have been a secret society was carried on by parents with neighbors and friends, it was stated Thursday as testimony ended in Marion county circuit court.

Mrs. W. R. Howard, parent of a member, said she had talked to several persons to try to learn if Alpha Beta Chi was of the type prohibited by law. She said she talked to parents of other members instead of going to school authorities because she felt it parents' concern to learn first if the club was all right for the boys.

Also called to the stand briefly by plaintiffs' counsel were Mrs. Reeves Coates, a parent; V. H. Switzer, uncle of the Willamette university student who aided in organizing ABC as a branch of his Portland chapter; and Lloyd Reinhold, friend of a parent.

Denies "Frantic Search"
 Mrs. Ralph Moody said she first learned of the group from a neighbor boy who was a member. She continued that she conferred with parents about it and consulted school regulations. She said she was trying to secure a local man as sponsor for the club but in cross-examination denied that it was a "frantic search," since she didn't know the boys had been called into the principal's office a few days earlier on the matter.

Too Many Activities
 At the October 10 meeting many parents discussed the situation with the board, according to testimony, which held that all were given a chance to speak and none was shut off. Bennett said he told the group that parents' knowledge of an organization did not make it acceptable under the law.

Didn't Withdraw
 Chairman Scott testified that

Carleton reported to the board on the club September 29 but was directed to continue investigating. After two directors and two officials interviewed most of the boys October 12 and reported "no question in their minds" as to a secret society setup, he said Carleton was directed to give the boys a chance to withdraw from school voluntarily. When they didn't, the expulsion letters were sent the following day.

Flesher said he first talked to a member of the club September 19, was told of its officers and activities, told Jim Kroepin, president "it didn't look good to me" and should go no further. He said Kroepin was cooperative and did not withhold any information sought. Flesher said he had already secured names of club members from other students. He added that ABC was discouraged because it showed characteristics of groups which had given trouble before.

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