

Government Wants to Deport NY Racket Leader

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal officials took denaturalization suit papers in hand today to make a new attempt to strip Thomas "Three-Finger Brown" Luchese, prime target in a state crime probe.

U. S. Atty. Frank J. Parker yesterday filed a petition in Brooklyn Federal Court asking that the Sicilian-born Luchese be stripped of his citizenship, a preliminary move to deportation action.

A U. S. marshal and two deputies later sought Luchese to serve him with the papers but he could not be located at his Queens home or his summer home at Lido Beach.

Meanwhile, the New York State Crime Commission continued its public hearings today (10 a.m. EST) into political-underworld relationships. The current inquiry sessions may wind up today or tomorrow.

The government brought its denaturalization action against Luchese on the grounds he obtained his American citizenship nine years ago in Newark, N. J., by illegal means.

In the government petition, it is

alleged that Luchese did not list five arrests, including two for homicide, when he sought naturalization. The petition says he listed only a 1922 conviction for car theft.

U. S. Marshal Eugene J. Smith of Brooklyn and his aides were expected to visit Luchese's business office today and to seek a reported third residence.

A wealthy garment manufacturer, Luchese is listed as secretary-treasurer of a midtown Manhattan dress firm.

Luchese, who will be 53 Dec. 1, has 60 days to file an answer to the government denaturalization suit after he is served with the papers.

The State Crime Commission decided yesterday not to call Luchese, contenting itself with putting on the public record testimony given by the ex-convict at a previous closed session.

His testimony was read last Friday after the commission was told Luchese took over for gambler Frank Costello when the latter started serving an 18-month sentence for contempt of the U. S. Senate Crime Committee.

Yesterday's crime commission hearings centered around nominations for judgeships by Tammany Hall, the Manhattan Democratic organization,

An attorney, Frank J. Duffley, Tammany District Leader William Connolly once offered him a \$10,000-a-year judgeship if Duffley put up between \$10,000 and \$25,000, Duffley said he declined. Connolly took the stand to deny the offer.

Benjamin Bernstein, another attorney, said he wanted a 1945 Municipal Court nomination and went to two Tammany district leaders, Angelo Simonetti and J. Raymond Jones, Bernstein said he was told he would have to put up \$18,200 for expenses, expenses he did not consider necessary in a

strongly Democratic district. Jones, taking the stand, replied that a primary fight was anticipated, and contended that any estimate given Bernstein was for expenses, not contributions. Jones, informed the election law limits such expenditures to \$3,300, said he did not know this.

Simonetti said he recalled the talk with Bernstein but could not remember any discussion of money.

The commission has no prosecution power, but will report to the state legislature and to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey.

Arctic Flight Route Planned

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Arild Viking, a new Douglas DC6B bearing the dragon insignia of the Scandinavian Airlines System is poised today for an inaugural polar flight from Los Angeles to Copenhagen via Thule Air Base, Greenland.

Thirty-five persons—including a 13-man flight staff—are scheduled to leave International Airport at 8:30 a.m., Pacific Standard Time. Ambassadors from Denmark and Norway—Henrik de Kauffman and Wilhelm M. de Morgenstern—headed the list of passenger dignitaries. Also aboard will be Col. Berni Balchen, Norwegian-born director of installations for the U. S. Air Force, and Frederick B. Lee, deputy civil aeronautics administrator.

The 24 1/2-hour flight, covering a minimum of 5,852 miles, will blaze a trail for a new route which SAS plans to install as soon as U. S. and Canadian government approval is received.

Two-hour stops are scheduled at Edmonton, Alta., and Thule.

Col. Balchen, Arctic veteran who did the exploratory work leading to the establishment of the Thule base, said he did "not foresee any particular difficulties" involved in the flight as long as the plane can be warmed at heated hangars at Edmonton and Thule.

The Air Force has flown more than 60,000 hours in the Arctic area without mishap, Balchen said.

English Palace Reports Fire

LONDON (AP)—Fire last night damaged several Tudor apartments in the Clock Court of historic Hampton Court Palace—favorite residence of the much-married Henry VIII.

The burned-out area included spots supposedly haunted by the ghosts of two of Henry's six wives, Jane Seymour and Catherine Howard, in the rambling 16th-century building.

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