



Federal Judge Dismisses Shipping Case Indictments

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge has thrown out indictments against former Democratic Rep. Joseph E. Casey of Massachusetts and four associates on charges of conspiring to defraud the government in multimillion dollar post World War II surplus ship deals. Judge Luther W. Youngdahl harked back to the Shipping Act of 1916 in finding yesterday that Casey and his associates gained immunity from prosecution on this score when they testified two years ago before a federal grand jury. Judge Youngdahl held that a rarely cited immunity clause in the law bars prosecution of persons who testify before grand juries during investigations of alleged violations of the Shipping Act. The only crime not covered by the immunity blanket is perjury.

pointed out that matters covered by the grand juries which indicted the former congressman and his associates were "closely related to possible violations . . . of the Shipping Act."

Cleared with Casey were Robert W. Dudley, Casey's brother-in-law; Joseph H. Rosenbaum, Dudley's law partner; Harold O. Becker of New York and Nicholas Cokkinis, a Greek shipping official.

Two indictments were returned against Casey in April 1953. The other four persons were named in single indictments.

The alleged conspiracy to defraud the government grew out of the purchase and later transfer of some 18 million dollars worth of surplus government-built vessels. The government charged the

ships were transferred illegally to alien control without consent of the Maritime Commission or its successor agency, the Maritime Administration.

Judge Youngdahl refused to dismiss indictments against Julius C. Holmes, former U.S. minister in London, and E. Stanley Klein of New York. Both had been named with Casey in one of the cases. The judge did, however, eliminate several counts against them.

In a somewhat related development, the Justice Department yesterday announced settlement of claims against five surplus tankers seized from firms with which Newbold Morris was connected. Morris for a brief time was a Truman administration figure.

ernment will net about 1½ million dollars in cash and all litigation will be dropped. At the same time, four of the tankers will be returned to Morris' China International Foundation, a tax free charitable corporation which is to run them under control of American citizens only. A fifth tanker has been sold under court order.

Under settlement terms, the gov-

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