

SHRINERS WIN OVER MASONS

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THURGOOD MARSHALL



RAYMOND E. JACKSON



ROBERT MING

Shrine Independent, Master Says, Rogan Edict Voided

The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order, Nobels of the Mystic Shrine, was declared a "separate and distinct" organization from the Prince Hall Masons in a 35-page report by Daniel D. Carmell, special master in chancery, to the U. S. District Court in Chicago Friday.

The court battle between the two fraternal bodies began April 1 when Raymond E. Jackson, imperial potentate of the Shrine, and Paul E. X. Brown, of Atlanta, asked the court to issue an injunction restraining all Illinois Masons from obeying an edict issued by Dr. F. Curtis Rogan, grand master of the Illinois Prince Hall Masons.

The suit also asked \$50,000 damages from Dr. Rogan and the Illinois Grand Lodge.

The edict, issued last Dec. 23 by Dr. Rogan, restrained all master Masons from participating in Shrine activities except to pay dues and keep up property.

Carmell, in his report recommended that:

1. A decree be entered finding the "edict" to be void and of no effect;
2. An injunction be issued as asked in the Shrine complaint, enjoining the enforcement of the order;
3. The court retain jurisdiction for the purpose of assessing damages if payments to the Shrine from the various temples are not made because of the issuance of the edict;
4. Masonic grand master has no authority over any member of the Shrine;
5. The Shrine is a separate and distinct organization from the Masons.
6. The only act complained about in the edict was performed by the imperial potentate and the grand master cannot penalize individual masons for acts of the potentate.

The findings of a master in chancery are not final and must be acted upon by the court. However, his recommendations are usually accepted.

The fight over jurisdiction saw two of the country's top attorneys opposing each other. Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the NAACP, led the Masons' legal force. Marshall engineered the NAACP fight which resulted in the U. S. Supreme Court decision

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outlawing segregation in public schools.

Leading the winning legal force was William Robert Ming, jr., leading Chicago attorney and member of the staff of the University of Chicago Law School. Ming was assisted by Attys. Loring B. Moore, George Leighton, Levi H. Morris and William H. McClaskey.

Amos T. Hall and Benjamin G. Clanton rounded out the legal staff for the defense.

Dr. Rogan testified during the hearings which began April 21 that he issued his controversial edict last December in a move to preserve peace and harmony.

He also accused Dr. Jackson of coming into the Chicago area and "ordering" various members of Arabic Temple to be elected to Shrine offices.

James A. Greene, of Chicago, former counsel for the Illinois Prince Hall Masons, quit his post May 26 over the law suit.

The case was referred to Carmell April 15 by Judge Walter J. La Buy. Carmell spent 11 days taking testimony from several witnesses. He spent more than 100 hours examining pleadings, reading the transcript of the evidence and examining the authorities cited before preparing the report.

He recommended that each side be assessed one-half of the costs of the hearing.

Dr. Rogan, whose action touched off the court fight, took over leadership of the Illinois Grand Lodge last fall following the death of Ashby B. Carter. He is a dentist and graduate of Meharry Dental College. He resides in Decatur, Ill.