

Shrine-Mason Legal Fight Costs \$25,000

The cost of the Shrine-Mason court ran into possibly \$25,000, it was revealed at a secrecy shrouded meeting of Prince Hall Masonic grand masters representing 13 or 14 jurisdictions, held at the Masonic temple in Chicago last Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

However, it was learned that one of the top items on the agenda at the meeting was the discussion of ways and means of raising money to help pay costs of financing defense of legal action which was brought against Dr. F. Curtis Rogan, grand master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons, and the Illinois Grand Lodge.

The suit was filed April 1, on behalf of Dr. Raymond E. Jackson, imperial potentate of the Shrine, and Paul E. X. Brown, of Atlanta.

They asked for an injunction, which was granted last week by Judge Walter LaBuy, restraining all Illinois masons from obeying an edict issued last December 23, by Dr. Rogan.

It forbade master masons from participating in Shrine activities, except to collect dues and keep up property.

EACH PAY COSTS

Judge LeBuy assessed each side 50 per cent of the cost of the litigation. Fees awarded Daniel Carmell, special master in chancery, who took testimony in the case, were said to have totaled \$7,500. It is speculated other fees ran the total court costs past the \$10,000 mark.

Attorney fees apparently ran into the thousands also. The Masons retained Thurgood Marshall brilliant New York lawyer, along with Atty. Amos T. Hall of Tulsa, Okla., and Benjamin G. Clanton of Chicago.

The winning Shriners were ably represented by Atty. W. Robert

Ming a member of the staff of the University of Chicago law school, and Atty. Levi Morris, Shrine lawyer.

Conservative estimates place the entire costs of the litigation at more than \$25,000.