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BULLETIN

FOUR MAJOR CHICAGO DENTAL LABORATORIES INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES OF VIOLATING MAIL ORDER DENTURE LAW; THREE OTHERS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Sept. 20.--The owners of four major dental laboratories in Chicago were indicted today on federal charges of violating the Traynor Act which prohibits the mailing of dentures made in violation of state dental practice laws. The indictments were returned in the U.S. District Court here. At the same time, the U.S. Attorney's office announced that three more dental laboratories are under investigation for possible violations of the mail order denture law.

The indictments, the first to be obtained under the law since 1944, contain 25 counts against the laboratories, accusing them of using the mails to send dentures made from impressions taken by unqualified persons. The Traynor Act was passed by Congress in 1942 at the request of the American Dental Association. It provides that violations on each of several counts are punishable by a maximum of one year in prison or a \$1,000 fine or both.

"It is obvious that the federal law, as well as the state laws, were enacted because of overwhelming evidence that improperly constructed dentures are in fact injurious to the health of the individuals who use them, whether these individuals realize it or not," it was pointed out by U.S. Attorney Robert Tiecken.

The laboratories named in the indictments are:

1. Clinical Dental Laboratories, whose owners, Lester and Edythe Patterson, are charged with being in the mail order denture business about 20 years and sending plates into Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Colorado. They use four mail order drops, Maxilume Company, Your Name Cigarettes, Transveneer Sales Company and Clinical Dental Laboratories.
2. Allied Dental Reliner Company, whose owners, Lester and Eli Sutker, are charged with sending dentures to Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Oklahoma and Florida. The indictment says their magazine advertisements use the statement, "No impression needed," suggesting that new dentures will be returned by some revolutionary new duplicating process. Rather, inquiries usually bring a tube of wax for making impressions, the charge says.
3. Chicago Dental Plate Laboratory, whose owner, Molly A. May, is charged with mailing dentures to Illinois and Ohio and being in the denture mail order business since 1946. Persons who respond to advertisements are sent plastic liners for impressions from old dentures.
4. Tru-Grip Dental Laboratory, whose owners, Mary Clyde and her son, Belden, are charged with mailing dentures to Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Virginia, New Jersey and New Mexico.