

Charged With Perjury For 1951 Divorce— *N.C. Klan Chief* *Arrested By SBI*

RALEIGH (AP) — J. Robert Jones, grand dragon of the North Carolina Ku Klux Klan, was arrested late Tuesday on charges of perjury arising from a divorce hearing in January, 1951.

Walter Anderson, director of the State Bureau of Investigation, said Jones was released under \$2,000 bond. A hearing is scheduled in Rowan County Court Jan. 23.

Anderson said a representative of the Greensboro Daily News called to the attention of the SBI the 1951 divorce proceedings.

"An investigation," Anderson said, "led to the arrest of Jones by SBI Agents Jack B. Richardson and Ray H. Garland."

The SBI director said records showed that Jones stated in his divorce complaint that he and Violet Sue Moorhead were married May 25, 1948 and separated on or about June 2, 1948.

"A divorce was granted," Anderson continued, "on ground that Mr. and Mrs. Jones lived separate and apart for more than two years preceding commencement of divorce action."

Under state law at that time, Anderson explained, a two-year separation was required before a divorce could be granted.

The SBI investigation, Anderson said, "disclosed that Jones married Violet Sue Moorhead on May 25, 1948, not 1949, in San Diego, Calif."

Anderson said, "They lived together as man and wife until October, 1949. At that time they separated and Mrs. Jones returned to San Diego."



J. ROBERT JONES

Recently, state law was changed to require only a one-year separation period.

But at the time of Jones' divorce the two-year period was mandatory.

Jones has been leader of the North Carolina Klan for the past several years. During the summer months he launched a drive to increase KKK membership throughout the state with numerous rallies in cornfields and cantrakes.

The grand dragon was called to Washington recently for hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He pleaded the Fifth Amendment to most questions asked by congressmen.