

# DETROIT POLICE TARGET OF FEDERAL INQUIRY

## Grand Jury Will Take Up Charges of Corruption in Connection With Bootlegging.

DETROIT, April 17 (AP).—Federal interest in official corruption resulting from the activities of Detroit River rum runners reached a climax today with announcement that a Federal grand jury would investigate charges of police connivance in liquor smuggling and the conviction in Federal Court of a customs agent on a bribery charge.

The grand jury will begin investigation tomorrow morning of statements by seven patrolmen that police Captain Joseph A. Burkheiser aided rum runners in smuggling liquor across the Detroit River from Canada and even detailed police boat crews to prevent interference by Federal officers.

Among those summoned to appear tomorrow is William P. Rutledge, Police Commissioner. He will be asked to lay before the grand jury testimony given by the accusing patrolmen and other evidence gathered in subsequent investigation.

Mr. Rutledge tonight was out of Detroit. He will be quoted by The Detroit Free Press tomorrow as having said in Lansing this afternoon that "some of the men just got some liquor for friends and brought it across. We probably will discipline them." He had not been informed at that time of the decision to institute a Federal investigation.

The border customs patrol inspector convicted of having accepted bribes from rum-runners is La Marr H. Smith. He was the ninth of twenty indicted inspectors either to plead guilty or be convicted of similar charges. Judge Charles C. Simons gave the maximum sentence, two years in the Federal Penitentiary

at Leavenworth, Kan., and a fine of \$5,000.

Gregory H. Frederick, Assistant United States District Attorney, said the scope of the Federal investigation might be enlarged to include the entire Detroit police department.