

KENT-SCOTT GETS TANGLED ON THE STAND

Frame-up Witness Has Memory Lapses When Pressed for Details

LOS ANGELES — Denying a defense request for the dismissal of charges against Tom S. Johnson, CIO official and circulation manager of the Industrial Unionist, at a preliminary hearing before the Beverly Hills City Court, Judge Charles Griffin set the date of the trial for Wednesday, January 5, in Superior Court.

The dismissal request came after an hour and a half of cross-examination by Defense Attorney Al Wirin of the state's "star" witness, Arthur Kent, self-confessed "Robin Hood."

Repeated questioning of the witness by Wirin disclosed that Kent knew practically nothing of the whereabouts of Johnson, nor the way he earned a living.

Kent, speaking with a slight German "r" accent, told of having met Johnson and of having discussed the possibilities of robbing Mrs. H. F. Wilson's home.

Intimacy Without Knowledge

Prior to Kent's appearance on the stand, Mrs. Wilson had testified that she had never seen Johnson before. Yet, according to Kent's testimony, Johnson had information as to when the family would not be home and other intimate details about the condition of the home.

According to Kent, Johnson acted as lookout while he made the robbery. A jewel box, containing rings, earrings, and a gold watch was taken.

Kent revealed that he knew nothing of Johnson's whereabouts or where he worked. He also did not know that Johnson was a CIO official and connected with the Industrial Unionist.

Can't Remember

At the same time, Kent maintained that he talked with Johnson several times in hotel lobbies after telephone appointments.

Under the fire of questions from Wirin, Kent was unable to recollect any telephone numbers, although he said he "had a whole slew of them."

He also failed to remember any definite dates, and conversations that he had with Johnson.