

Churches Lose '\$5 Million'

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ABILENE, TEX.

Fifteen churches of Christ are among 22 churches which allegedly have been bilked of nearly \$5 million in a bond swindle, a federal grand jury indictment said here.

Thirteen persons have been charged on counts of mail fraud, securities fraud, and conspiracy. A charge of interstate transportation of bonds obtained by fraud also was placed against nine of the men.

The indictment followed at least eight months of investigation by the Securities Exchange Commission and federal postal inspectors, according to Asst. U.S. Atty. Robert Travis of Fort Worth. The alleged illegal acts were said to have occurred in 1965.

Travis said the 22 churches from Texas to New York and Michigan issued building bonds, expecting to be paid in return by insurance company premiums. Construction work was to be done by the Paden Co. of Cleburne, Tex., owned by Glenn V. Paden Sr., one of those indicted.

Bonds totaling \$5,154,900 were issued. Travis said the churches received very little cash for their bonds and that only about \$180,000 in construction work.

The churches of Christ were: Ecourse, Mich.; Saginaw Valley, Bridgeport, Mich.; East Side, Cleburne, Tex.; Vaughn, Wood River, Ill.; Everman, Tex.; West End, Wellston, Mo.; Reynolds Street, Rochester, N.Y.; Soddy, Tenn.; Holland, Mich.; McGregor, Fort Myers, Fla.; Walnut Ave., Canton, Ohio; West Park, Sterling, Ill.; South Haven, Mich.; South Side, Dallas, Tex.; and Laurel Street, San Antonio, Tex.

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