"Happy Am I" Preacher Denies RFC Assistance

By ALICE DUNNIGAN

WASHINGTON, March 21 (ANP)—Elder Solomon Lightfoot Michaux, Washington's "Happy Am I" minister, denied that he ever received special help from George E. Allen, former Reconstruction Finance Corporation head, in securing an RFC loan.

Elder Michaux, who is pastor of the Radio Church of God, is one of many persons under fire by a Senate banking subcommittee for securing RFC loans through "influence peddling." The noted minister will have to answer the committee on how he secured a $5,500,000 loan from the RFC when a government agency designed to help businesses finance new projects, to build a giant housing project known as Mayfair Mansions.

It is being said that Allen, a former district commissioner, used his influence to help Elder Michaux.

Allen rendered invaluable service in aiding him set up the housing project, Elder Michaux said, but he received no pay and asked none. The defense attorney, however, himself, was serving as president of the housing corporation without pay.

The Rev. Elder Michaux described his acquaintance and relations with Allen, often dubbed a "White House jester" and an "extraordinare, came to the Library of Congress to tell his own story so that History might get it right from the source. From miles of tape recordings Alan Lomax has reconstructed Morton's complex personality, and also the exotic island culture in which he grew up. In its humane, and its characters—gambler, medicine doctors, pool hall sharks, and confidence man—Mister Jelly Roll shows how simple the folklore of the Southern Negro and Southern white. It illustrates their differences, too.

There is much here about New Orleans whorehouses, pool halls, race riots, nightclubs, the music business, and jazz. Voodoo wizards in Louisiana, however, show the persistence of sorcery since its Salem days. We learn of the half-Creoles with their family caste Creoles with their family traditions. We learn of the half-Creoles with their family traditions.

Jelly Roll Morton, jazz pianist in the 1920's, said Allen served on the board of directors. It was first started with a loan of $2,478,000 from the Irving Trust Company of New York under a Federal Housing administration guarantee.

The trust company foreclosed its mortgage on the 594-unit apartment when prices skyrocketed above original estimates and the firm could not keep up payments.

MAYFAIR MANSIONS project was reorganized in 1944 and completed in 1946. In those days Allen used to take special interest in cases of persons who could not be handled by social workers. Because of his aid, Elder Michaux was elected an honorary deacon of his church.

When housing conditions for Negroes became critical, Elder Michaux went to Allen for help. In 1942 when the Mayfair Gardens, Inc., was first organized, Allen came in as a member of the board of directors. It was first started with a loan of $2,478,000 from the Irving Trust Company of New York under a Federal Housing administration guarantee.

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