

PROBE FUND DRIVE FOR VETS' VOLUME

Police Investigate Campaign of Military Group

BY BILL TODD

An investigation into fund-raising practices of Moses Cleaveland Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart was launched yesterday as the result of complaints registered with the police and the Cleveland Better Business Bureau.

Dr. M. A. O'Brien, commander of the chapter, was quoted by a detective from the investigation bureau as saying he was in charge of a campaign to raise \$5,000 to publish a 10th anniversary book.

The book, he said, will be for veterans and will be filled with information that will help in their dealings with veteran and government organizations. He stressed the fact that 45 pages would be devoted to parliamentary law.

Doctors Complain

When asked why that information was necessary for the welfare of a veteran, Dr. O'Brien explained that it was important for an ex-soldier to know how to conduct himself at meetings.

According to the detective, Dr. O'Brien said he would deduct \$2,000 for his expenses, including telephone calls.

Dr. O'Brien said last night that he had talked to C. A. Wing of the Better Business Bureau three or four times about the fund-raising plans, but that the bureau never approved anything, anyway.

Many of the complaints, according to Wing, were from doctors who had been called by phone, but had refused to contribute through a telephone conversation. When they asked for a personal call they said they received, through the mail, a bill for \$5 instead.

Dr. O'Brien said checks were to be made out to him instead of Moses Cleaveland Chapter because it had been decided that was the best way to handle the funds.

He said the chapter was not incorporated, nor did it have a headquarters. He said meetings were held once each month "some place."

Douglas G. Oviatt, past commander of Clarence R. Edwards Chapter of the order, said that not having a regular headquarters and regular meetings was contrary to the rules of the national organization.

Call Appeal "Confusing"

Requests for budgetary data regarding the fund raising have been ignored by Dr. O'Brien, according to the Better Business Bureau and the solicitations committee of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce has been advised by officials of the state and national offices of the order that neither the project nor the appeal has the approval of their organizations.

The Chamber also said that in some instances the appeal had been presented in a manner that had confused contributors as to whether the request was coming from the organization itself or from individual "comrades of the Purple Heart."

A tag sale conducted under the auspices of the Moses Cleaveland Chapter last September hit a snag when it was revealed that the solicitors were professionals and not members of the order.

At that time the state and national organizations said the chapter did not have their sanction for the tag sale. According to Clarence W. Kinsey, state adjutant, the national organization was on record opposing that method of raising funds.