Ex-Krishna Members Convicted

Three of four former members of the Hare Krishna religious sect were convicted of narcotics smuggling charges Monday by a Los Angeles federal jury.

Laguna Beach resident Joe Davis, 30, the alleged leader of a ring that smuggled millions of dollars worth of hashish oil, was found guilty on nine counts.

Also convicted were Douglas Snyder, 26, three counts and Lawrence Montgomery, 30, one count.

Montgomery was acquitted on one count and Jack Carreras, 32, was acquitted of three counts.

The three men, all of whom once were associated with the Laguna Beach temple of the sect, are to join four other codefendants for sentencing Feb. 25 before U. S. District Judge A. Andrew Hauk,

Those four - Roy Richard, 30; Joseph Fedorowski, 28; Robert Carreras, 36, and Patrick Kenealy, 30 — entered guilty pleas in the case.

Still at large in connection with the smuggling case are Robert Shea, 40, Dean Green-berg, 28, Gary Roberts, 29.

The 11 men were named in federal indictments handed down after a two-year investigation by the Internal Revenue Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

That investigation was touched off by the slaying of a Fountain Valley man in a conspiracy allegedly launched by Davis, Richard, Fedorowski and business associates not named in the drug smuggling indict-

Richard was granted immunity from prosecution in the murder conspiracy case. Davis pleaded guilty to kidnap conspiracy and served six months in county jail, Fedorowski is still awaiting trial in the conspiracy case.

Federal prosecutor Eric Doberteen said the smuggling ring was led by Davis who sent couriers posing as businessmen between Pakistan and the United States carrying hashish oil in

(See KRISHNA, Page A2)

Costa Mesa, CA (Orange County) Laguna South Coast Daily Pilot (Cir. D. 2,900)

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typewriter cases.

Investigators testified the oil was obtained from suppliers in Pakistan who would only deliver it if the courier presented a

photograph of Davis.

Doberteen presented evidence during the two-week trial that various front companies were established to launder the proceeds from sale of the hash oil and to give members of the group seemingly legitimate sources of income.

Jury deliberations began Friday and concluded Monday

evening.

All but one of the 11 indictees were one time members of Hare Krishna temples in Los Angeles or Laguna Beach although temple officials said they had been excommunicated at the time of the indictments.

Costa Mesa, CA (Orange County) Newport Beach Daily Pilot (Cir. D. 12,000)

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