Broussard Is Indicted In Charolais Probes

A federal grand jury in Waco, Tex., has indicted Lafayette cattleman Alphe A. Broussard on a charge of smuggling cattle from Mexico to the United States.

The jury yesterday returned an indictment against Broussard: Antonio Enrique (Henri) Gilly, Alpine, Mexico, and William L. Babb, El Paso, Tex. The indictment charges the three with fraudulently importing 80 head of Charolais cattle into Texas between January and April, 1953.

Broussard was arrested in June, 1953, and the cattle were placed under quarantine on the De la Salle Normal school grounds outside Lafayette. The Lafayette man was released on $5,000 bond, and bond was set at $10,000 for the other two.

The herd of the rare, white French breed of cattle has been valued at $1,080,000 by the U.S. government.

Last month Broussard told the Advertiser that “I did not smuggle those cattle. I knew about the plans to bring them into this country, but I objected. The cattle were sold to me by Mr. Gilly to be delivered at my ranch in Vermilion parish.”

Broussard’s attorney said the date and place for the trial has not been set. “That’s up to the district attorney,” the lawyer explained.

The indictment used the word “smuggle” twice, but the formal charge was “fraudulently importing.” The three were also charged with “buying, selling and receiving” the cattle.

Broussard and his attorney returned last night from Waco. Babb, a rancher in the Texas area, is expected to be arrested soon. Gilly is in Mexico, and plans for his arrest are not known.

The indictment charged the sale and transfer of 13 head of the cattle on Jan. 25, 10 head on Feb. 1, nine head on Feb. 13, eight head on March 19, six head on March 22, six head on April 6, six head on April 9 and 11 head on April 24, all in Travis county, Tex., and 11 head on April 25 in nearby Bastrop county.

The indictment also charges that Broussard and Gilly in November and December, 1952, agreed to pay Babb $270 a head to smuggle the cattle from Mexico.

El Paso customs agent Grady Avant was credited by the jurors with doing a major share of the work that led to the indictment of the three men.

Avant said he heard about some cattle smuggling and made a “sight seeing” trip into Mexico. He said he traced the cattle from Mexico to Langtry, Tex., through Austin and on to Vermilion parish in Louisiana.