

# Man Held on Warrant Charging Misuse of Mails by Threats

## Clothes Presser Said to Have Demanded \$2000 from Biddle Street Merchant.

Joseph Kordan, 39 years old, 1109 Biddle street, a clothes presser employed by the Zahtz & Schneider Garment Company, 704 Washington avenue, is being held on a federal warrant charging misuse of the mails in connection with threatening letters and telephonic communications which have been received by David Burkowitz of 1204 Biddle street since December 8 last.

Burkowitz conducts a china store at the Biddle street address.

Several days ago Burkowitz told the police of the Carr Street Station that he had received numerous threatening letters, demanding the payment of \$2000. Four of these letters were given to Lieut. Joseph Gerk by Burkowitz. They are dated December 8, 15, 22 and January 9, respectively.

### \$1000 Demanded.

The last letter suggests that Burkowitz make a payment of \$1000 instead of the original amount demanded. The body of the letter explains that the "committee" which investigated Burkowitz's finances had learned that he would be unable to pay \$2000. The telephone messages, which Burkowitz also reported to the police, have been received since the receipt of the last letters.

Yesterday afternoon, after Lieut. Gerk had ordered the telephone company to place the telephone instrument in Burkowitz' store under observation, a call for Burkowitz was traced to the garment company, where a number of employes told the police that Kordan had been using the telephone.

### Phone Message Traced.

This message, demanded that Burkowitz carry a package containing \$1000 to an address on Fourteenth and O'Fallon streets. The sender of the message suggested that Burkowitz arrive at the appointed place at 10 o'clock last night.

The trip to the garment company and Kordan's arrest followed. At the Carr Street Station, Kordan admitted telephoning to Burkowitz, but denied sending him any letters. The letters, which threaten Burkowitz with death in the event that he refused to pay their demands, are being investigated further by secret service men. Kordan will be held for further investigation.