

Rotary Head Here, Silent On Decree

The head of the world's 344,000 Rotarians arrived in Miami Tuesday night, but without comment on the organization's recent No. 1 problem—the Pope Plus XII decree forbidding Catholic priests to join or attend Rotary meetings.

"I don't think I have anything to add to what I've already said," commented Arthur Lagueux, a Quebec, Canada, investment corporation president.

Shortly after the Vatican ban was announced early last month, the Rotary International president emphasized in a statement that Rotary is not a secret organization, has no vows nor secrets, has no connection with Masonry or other organizations and does not seek to supplant or interfere with any charitable or religious organization.

A Vatican spokesman interpreting the anti-Rotary decree had indicated it might be aimed primarily at some European or Latin American clubs which "have closely supported masonry or have opposed the influence of the church."

Lagueux will be here until Friday, when he will take off again on a big-circle tour that will take him to Havana, Mexico City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Winnipeg before he returns to Quebec. He came here from St. Petersburg, and previously had paid an official call at Savannah, with his message of "friendship and service."

He said here that Rotary still is "expanding all over the world," with 7,205 clubs in 83 countries.

Lagueux will address a combined meeting of some 800 Rotarians and their wives at 12:15 p.m. Thursday at the Steak House, 2362 Collins ave., Miami Beach. Rotarians from all 48 states and several foreign countries are expected to attend, according to local Rotarians.