

Woman indicted as drug mill queen

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A Detroit woman, who law enforcement officials say masterminded a nationwide drug ring, was indicted Thursday in U.S. District Court on drug trafficking charges along with 22 other people.

The woman, Nellie Bell Kassim, 42, is named in the indictment as the organizer of a ring of doctors, pharmacists and drug users who ran what investigators called a "prescription mill." The ring's activities, investigators said, also included selling drugs in Washington, D.C., and New York.

TWO DOCTORS, five phar-

macies, seven pharmacists or drugstore owners and 13 persons identified as "employe conspirators" were charged with conspiracy with intent to deliver drugs. In addition, Kassim was charged with "engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise" since January 1979. The latter charge carries a sentence of 10 years to life upon conviction.

Leonard Gilman, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, handled the arraign-



Kassim

ment of Kassim and asked U.S. District Magistrate Lynn Hoee to set a \$100,000 bond for Kassim. Gilman said Kassim was as much a risk as convicted heroin dealer George Casey, who was sentenced Thursday to 10 years in prison. Casey was re-captured after he disappeared after his guilty plea on the same criminal enterprise charge Kassim is now charged with. A Detroit bondsman who guaranteed Casey's \$500,000 bond is appealing an order to forfeit the bond to U.S. District Court.

"The drugs that are alleged (in the Kassim indictment) are as serious as the distribution of heroin in the city of Detroit."

Gilman said, adding that the medical clinics operated by Kassim were "no more than 'script mills.'"

HOEE SET a \$15,000 surety bond for Kassim, who later put up 10 percent and was released. Kassim was arrested in a Southfield home Wednesday night by federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents.

The two doctors charged in the 12-page indictment are Alan Devore Fields, D.O., and Ryan Krebs, M.D. Krebs is also awaiting trial on related federal drug charges.

Krebs, 28, who federal in-

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