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**JUST A 'BACHELOR PARTY'**

# Shaw Judge Defends Presence at Motel

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NEW ORLEANS — Judge Edward A. Haggerty held court as usual Thursday and explained that vice and assault charges against him stemmed from a routine "before-the-wedding bachelor party," and said that the "canons of ethics" prohibited further comment.

The flamboyant, gray-haired judge, who earlier this year presided over Clay Shaw's conspiracy trial, struggled with vice squad detectives Wednesday night when they raided a motel room here and arrested him and 13 others, including three women.

The judge suffered a skinned head when several vice squad members pounced on him, threw him to the floor and handcuffed his hands behind his back. The detectives said Haggerty tried to flee through the door when they entered the room and the struggle ensued when they stopped him.

## Four Charges

News men had been tipped off about the raid in advance and New Orleans residents watched it and the Haggerty struggle with police in living color on television Thursday. Haggerty, 56, was wearing a dark blue suit, blue shirt, red tie and cuff links.

The judge of New Orleans District Court was charged with conspiring to commit obscenity, soliciting for prostitution, simple battery on police

and resisting arrest.

Earlier this year he received international attention as the judge who presided over the trial at which Shaw was acquitted of a conspiracy charge brought by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The charges against the judge will be referred to Garrison's office for action.

Police said they had received information that the room, at the DeVille Motel on Tulane Ave., had been rented for staging an obscene show. Persons entering the room were charged \$5 to watch "stag films," and then later "live entertainment."

## Figure Quoted

A policeman told a newsman that the prostitution charge was lodged against Haggerty because he told the men attending the party that the women's services were available for \$100.

The New Orleans States-Item quoted "a young attorney who asked to remain anonymous" as saying that the party had begun about 7 p.m. and that he understood it to be a bachelor party for one of the arrested men, who will be married in about a

month. The room was raided two hours later.

The attorney was quoted as saying the \$5 "admission charge" was paid "to defray the cost of the booze and the room."

Judge Haggerty, who is not noted for punctuality on the bench, arrived at his court on schedule at 10

a.m. Thursday, wearing what the States-Item called a "pained expression."

## Picture Taken

Confronted by a States-Item photographer he smiled faintly, hesitated until the picture could be taken, and sighed, "Oh well, the world's not coming to an end."

Another defendant in the case, Victor M. Soto, 39, was charged with conspiring to commit obscenity, resisting arrest, and two counts of assault on police officers. He also was booked on four charges of gambling, which police said stemmed from earlier undercover work.

The other defendants were charged with "conspiring to commit obscenity." The women were 21, 32 and 39 years of age, and the men ranged in age from 27 to 50.

Haggerty declined to comment personally on the case, but released a prepared statement through his attorney, Robert Zibilich.

## Innocence Claimed

"I have been authorized by Judge Haggerty to state unequivocally that he is not guilty of any of the charges . . . and that he will be completely vindicated of these charges," Zibilich said.

The attorney said that while the canons of ethics prohibited further comment, "I can add that a before-the-wedding bachelor party has long been a New Orleans tradition.

"If all men, no matter what their backgrounds or professional status, who ever attended such a farewell-to-the-bachelorhood party were put in jail, the police blotter would read like a telephone directory.

"The judge certainly regrets that this police action might have brought embarrassment to the bench and to his family."