

# Ouster of Clay Shaw Judge Recommended

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) —The Louisiana Judiciary Commission has said Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. should be removed from the bench because of alleged heavy drinking, absenteeism, gambling and consorting with underworld figures.

Haggerty presided over the trial of businessman Clay L. Shaw, who was cleared of conspiring to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. Haggerty subsequently was arrested Dec. 17 at a stag party in a motel. He was acquitted at a subsequent trial.

"The evidence shows that Judge Haggerty should be removed from office for willful misconduct related to his official duties and for willful and persistent failure to perform his duties," the commission's recommendation said Wednesday.

The commission said his conduct off the bench "is so seriously delinquent as to bring disgrace and discredit upon the judicial office and a loss of public respect and confidence in his ability to perform his official duties impartially and conscientiously."

The Louisiana Supreme Court may either accept or reject the commission's recommendation. Haggerty's attorney, Robert A. Zibilich, asked for a quick hearing by the high court.

"We believe that, absent of the gravest of circumstances, a judge could only be removed from office in the same manner that he acquired that office, that is to say, by a vote of the people," Zibilich said.

"We are naturally disappointed with the conclusion of the judiciary commission as well as its recommendations," Zibilich said, speaking for Haggerty. "We emphasize that this decision is not final but is merely a recommendation."

## Able to Bench

The commission had no quarrel with Haggerty's performance as a judge. It said Haggerty was regarded by the bench and the bar "as able and conscientious when actually on the bench."

The commission said Haggerty "spent from two to four afternoons and evenings a week drinking in the public bar" of the motel where the stag party was held. There he "consorted not only with several members of the

criminal bar practicing law before him, but also with Victor Manuel Soto, a bookie with a criminal record."

The recommendation said Soto openly conducted an illegal gambling operation in the bar and Haggerty "regularly and frequently, openly and publicly placed bets on horse races with his hand-book operator."