

Don't regret plea, Soule declares

9-25-73 5-1

Former Police Capt. Frederick A. Soule Sr. said today he did not regret pleading guilty to federal pinball bribery charges. "I think they had more evidence against me than they did against them," he said.

"I think the evidence was sufficient enough to convict me," said Soule, one of three co-defendants out of the original 10 who pleaded guilty and still faces sentencing in the pinball bribery case against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

Garrison, former pinball executives John Aruns Callery and Robert E. Nims, the owner of REN Enterprises, were acquitted yesterday. Four others were severed from the trial.

"They caught me with marked money in my pocket," Soule said. "That's why I didn't regret pleading guilty. Also, it costs a lot of money to defend yourself."

Soule said he was an "impartial witness." He claimed the government didn't promise him anything except immunity and no deal was made about sentencing. "I tried to be as impartial as possible in my testimony."

When he was still considering the possibility of going to trial, Soule said he planned to call about 40 police officers who had been under his command at one time or another.

He said he planned for them to testify that he had never given them in-

structions to do anything improper 'because I hadn't.' ¼

Soule said he always felt people in New Orleans wanted to gamble. They are apathetic toward gambling laws, he said. The gambling laws on the books breed corruption "for everybody down the line," the former police officer said.

Soule also said he thinks gambling payoffs are very rare today. "There was more of that in the old days," he said.

He said he knows what he did was improper and said he is "sorry about it." He said he is very happy for the DA's office "in general."