

Judge Murphy Cleared On Bail Bond Charges

By David Reed

The Illinois Courts Commission Monday dismissed charges of misconduct against suspended Circuit Court Judge James E. Murphy.

The five-judge commission declared Murphy, who was charged with "conduct unbecoming a judicial officer" in writing 661 bail bonds in a 21-month period, "is competent and fit to continue his judicial duties."

The commission convened

the impeachment hearings against Murphy June 3 at the request of the executive committee of the Circuit Court and on order of the Illinois Supreme Court.

Murphy was charged not only with setting an excessive number of bonds but with setting bonds at all hours and at locations far removed from his courtroom or residence and with other irregularities.

Holiday Time Factor

The commission said in its six-page decision that no evidence was presented by Asst. Atty. Gen. Bernard Genis to show a connection between Murphy and organized crime.

The decision also emphasized that Murphy signed bonds when day, night and holiday bond courts were closed.

No Improper Motives

It also said that prior to the period in question, Aug. 1, 1965, through May 1, 1967, it was "the practice of the judges to sign bonds at police stations" and that during the period in question other judges besides Murphy signed bonds in that fashion.

Illinois Supreme Court Jus-

tice Roy I. Klingbiel, chairman of the commission, said in reading the decision there was "no evidence that Judge Murphy received any personal gain for himself or for others or that he acted with improper judicial motives."

"We are not persuaded that Murphy intentionally and arbitrarily refused to abide by the rules of the court if he violated any statute," the decision said.

"The most that can be said is that he was indiscreet and unwise and mistaken in judgment in setting bail at police stations in all parts of Chicago and at all times of the night to accommodate persons charged with crimes."

The decision added, however, that Murphy's conduct

"did arouse sufficient grounds for investigation" and that Chief Circuit Court Judge John S. Boyle's suspension of Murphy was proper.

Seen As Vindication

Murphy, who showed little emotion while the decision was being read, commented:

"I am very thankful to the commission and I am anxious to return to work."

Thomas P. Sullivan, who along with Albert E. Jenner Jr. defended Murphy, called the decision "a complete vindication of Judge Murphy."

Sullivan added that he contemplated no legal action:

"All that remains is the prompt return of Judge Murphy to his judicial duties."

Boyle indicated he would reassign Murphy Wednesday.



JUDGE JAMES E. MURPHY

Model Fails To Appear As Assailant; Charged

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — A charge of assault with intent to murder filed against football

had hoped to get into the movies herself.

Original Charges