

Bar owners name sources

PINBALL RAIDS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story was gathered and compiled by States-Item staffers Ed Lepoma, Ray Lincoln, Lanny Thomas and Bill Rainey.

Several barroom owners testified today they received advance warnings when police were making raids on illegal pinball machine gambling establishments.

The prosecution laid the foundation for its pinball bribery case against

District Atty. Jim Garrison and two pinball figures with a succession of bar owners and employes as witnesses.

By the time the trial recessed for lunch, 10 of them—all given immunity from prosecution stemming from their testimony—had told the U.S. District Court jury they paid off winners on gambling type pinball machines in their establishments.

ON TRIAL with Garrison are coin machine distributors John Aruns

Galley and Robert Nims.

The first bar owner to testify was Alphonse "Curley" Gagliano, who said he has operated bars in New Orleans for the past 20 years. He testified at the start of the third day of the trial before Judge Herbert W. Christenberry and a jury of nine men and three women.

Gagliano, who operates Curley's Lounge Corner at 500 Carondelet St., said the warnings came from employes of a firm that owned pinball machines in his bars. He said they would put out the word that "the heat was on."

Gagliano said that in each of his barrooms there were two Bally-type pinball machines. He said those at 500 Carondelet were owned by New Orleans Novelty and those at two other bars by Lucky Coin Co., now REN Enterprises Inc., headed by Nims.

GAGLIANO TESTIFIED that he paid off on games won by pinball players in his bars. He said the cash payments were made by him and by his employes.

He said he shared with the machine firms the profits from the pinball machines and estimated his share of the profit was \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year.

TIPPED

OFF

Gallinghouse asked Gagliano, "Have you ever received a warning from Nims or anyone with Lucky Coin?"

"No," replied Gagliano.

Q. Were you warned by a man named Jimmy?

A. Yes. He would tell me don't pay off. The heat is out.

Q. Did anyone warn you from New Orleans Novelty Co?

A. Vincent Anzelmo (a New Orleans Novelty employe) let me know when the things were a little hot. He called and said, 'Be careful. The heat's out.' Gagliano said he has been arrested "maybe half a dozen times" in the

past 20 years for pinball payoffs.

LOUIS LACOUR, a Nims attorney,

Turn to A-9, Column 1

Continued from Page 1

asked Gagliano under cross examination if Nims ever encouraged him to make payoffs. "No," said Gagliano.

Other barroom owners and employees who testified to the government were:

—Emile Rufin, part-owner of Ye Olde College Inn, 3016 S. Carrollton, who said he has had two to five pinball machines in his business and that the machines were owned by New Orleans Novelty.

He said he and his employees frequently paid customers for accumulated games at the rate of 5 cents for each game cashed in. He said his payoff averaged \$30 to \$40 a week and his weekly profits \$75 to \$100. Under cross-examination he said his liquor license once was suspended for three days, but he believes it was before Garrison took office.

—Lloyd English Jr., a partner in Mandich Restaurant and Bar, who said he had one to three Bally machines in his business for "as long as I can remember," until 1971.

He said he paid off customers familiar to him. He said he split the profits with New Orleans Novelty down the middle and averaged \$100 to \$200 in weekly profits.

—R. E. Hutcheson, a bartender at 620 Iberville, who said he made frequent payoffs on pinball machines but never to strangers. "If you don't know them, they could take you for a ride," he said.

Upon cross-examination he said he was asked if he took these precautions because he didn't want to be arrested. "No, I was scared," he replied. He said he was never told he wouldn't be arrested for making cash payoffs.

—Frank Macagont, operator of the Oriignal Brown Derby, Louisiana and Freret, who said "someone" would call him from time to time and warn him to be careful whom he paid off for pinball games.

—John Bordes Sr., owner of a Metairie Road barroom, who said he worked as a collector for New Orleans Novelty for 30 years. He said he would go to 60 or 70 locations each week, check the money in the coin machines, and divide the profits. He said he collected \$100 to \$1,000 or more a day, depending on the number of machines he checked and the locations.

During cross-examination of Bordes, Garrison attorney Louis Merhige attempted to establish that gambling was a way of life for most New Orleansians, but Christenberry cut off that line of questioning.

—Clay Roberts, operator of a bar at 3100 Calhoun St., who said as many as four machines owned by New Orleans Novelty were in his bar between 1948 and 1971. He said he made payoffs in cash and merchandise. He said he received "quite a few" telephone calls from Harby Marks, a defendant whose case has been severed, telling him to "be careful, the police were out."

—Thomas Magsino, operator of Brothers' Lounge, 6208 Elysian Fields Ave., who said he had as many as three machines owned by TAC Amusement in his bar and that he made cash payoffs. He said a bartender was arrested in 1970 and legal fees were paid by TAC Amusement.

—Bertrand Klern, owner of Liuzza's Restaurant and Bar, 3636 Bienville Ave., who testified he "always" made cash payoffs on machines owned by TAC. He said he was arrested once, in 1961 or 1962.

—Sam Maggio, owner of two bars in which he said he had machines owned by TAC and New Orleans Novelty. He said employees of the two companies sometimes would warn him to be careful. He said those instructions meant "that police were out checking the machines."

Garrison, Callery and Boasberg were among 10 persons indicted in the case on a charge of conspiracy to obstruct law enforcement by giving and taking bribes to protect illegal pinball machine gambling.

Three persons have pleaded guilty and four were granted separate trials. The guilty pleas were entered by former police Capt. Frederick A. Soule Sr. and pinball figures John Elms Jr. and Louis M. Boasberg. Former police Sgt. Robert N. Frey and pinball figures Lawrence A. Lagarde, John Elmo Pierce and Marks had their cases severed.