

U.S. 'sins' lost case --Boasberg

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U.S. Atty. Gerald J. Gallinghouse "lost his case in Washington, Maryland, Vietnam, and to the high cost of living."

"The reaction among all people to the transgressions of the government," said Louis M. Boasberg, "had an effect on the case here. The jury had to be affected."

Boasberg is one of three original co-defendants in the federal pinball bribery case against Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison who pleaded guilty and still face sentencing.

Garrison, former pinball executive John Aruns Callery and Robert E. Nims, the owner of REN Enterprises, were acquitted yesterday.

FOUR OTHER co-defendants were severed from the trial, which concluded yesterday. Gallinghouse said today no decision has been made on whether to continue with prosecution of the four. "We will review the situation," he said.

Gallinghouse also said his office has nothing more to say about what punishment will be given to Boasberg, the owner of New Orleans Novelty Co., former Police Capt. Frederick Soule Sr. and John Elms Jr., a partner in TAC Amusement, who all pleaded guilty.

Federal Dist. Judge Herbert W. Christenberry, Gallinghouse said, "has the exclusive prerogative to sentence" the men who filed guilty pleas.

"I'm happy for the defendants," Boasberg said. "I don't know how it will affect us. If I could read Judge Christenberry's mind . . . I just don't know. I'm hoping."

"I THOUGHT Gallinghouse did a real fine job," Boasberg said. "I'm sincere in my opinion that he worked awfully hard. Let's have a little sympathy for the losers. He did a tremendous job."

The four defendants whose cases were severed are Lawrence Lagarde Sr., Elms' partner; Harby Marks Jr., an employe of Boasberg; former Po-

lice Vice Squad Commander Robert Frey and John Elmo Pierce, the owner of the Pierce Amusement Co.

All ten men, arrested and charged on June 30, 1971, were indicted on a charge of conspiracy to obstruct law enforcement by giving or accepting bribes to protect illegal pinball gambling.

The three who pleaded guilty and the

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four whose cases were severed testified for the government during the trial.

Gallinghouse said today that the \$63,000 produced on the witness stand

by Soule is under the jurisdiction of the Internal Revenue Service.

He said the IRS soon would issue a statement about the money.

Soule testified that \$50,000 of the money was for pinball bribes and the remainder for illegal activities.