

JUDGE MITCHELL IS KEPT ON CASE

T.P. 7-4-69
Offered to Recuse Self in
Bail Bond Suit

Federal court records show that Federal District Judge Lansing L. Mitchell offered to recuse himself in a case brought by Maryland National Insurance Co. seeking to enjoin the seizure of its assets.

Judge Mitchell was formerly a partner in the law firm of Deutsch, Kerrigan and Stiles and the suit was filed by Ralph L. Kaskell, a member of that firm.

The record shows that Judge Mitchell conducted a conference after the suit was filed and, with all counsel present, offered to recuse himself. Attorneys for District Attorney Jim Garrison and all other defendants agreed that Judge Mitchell should hear the case.

In the suit Maryland is seeking an injunction prohibiting the seizure of its \$70,000 deposit with the state insurance commissioner. It is also attacking the constitutionality of the bail bond provisions of the state insurance laws.

Kaskell has charged that bond forfeitures in criminal district court amounted to \$1,040,000 by the end of 1968 and that the district attorney's office failed to take action to collect the money.

He contends that the forfeitures resulted from stolen powers of attorneys and Maryland National was not aware of this fact.