

DA'S COLLECTION MOVE ATTACKED

T-P 7-3-69
**Petition Alleges Methods
Are Questionable**

A bail bonding company has petitioned Criminal District Court to stop the District Attorney's Office from attempting to collect \$34,500 in bond forfeitures.

Filed on behalf of the United Bonding Co. Inc., the petition alleged that the district attorney's office has used faulty records and questionable methods in moving for some of 32 forfeitures.

Attorney Anthony D'Antonio, who filed the petition Thursday, said this is true in 18 cases. However, some other bonds should be forfeited, he admitted.

D'Antonio's petition asked that the office be temporarily restrained from collecting these forfeitures.

The petition was allotted to Judge Frank J. Shea, who is on vacation.

The document cited cases in which the district attorney's office moved to forfeit bonds while defendants were actually in custody.

FINE SET ASIDE

In five cases criminal court judges set aside forfeiture pro-

ceedings, it was alleged.

In eight other cases, a former assistant district attorney, Gerald Aurillo, used "highly questionable" procedures, the petition said.

Aurillo issued trial notices to defendants and the bonding company but not to witnesses in certain cases, the petition contended.

If a defendant appeared, his case would be dismissed. If he did not show up, his bond was forfeited, it was alleged.

Another bail bonding company, Maryland National Insurance Co., has charged in Federal District Court that the district attorney's office did not begin proceedings against it until its forfeitures exceeded \$1 million.

Maryland National is attempting to halt attempts by the district attorney's office to collect \$620,000 in forfeitures.

TWO INDICTED

Two attorneys, Milton Masinter and Thomas Toranto, were indicted on charges of corrupt influencing in the Maryland National case Thursday.

They were accused of accepting or offering to accept a total of \$12,500 last year with the intention of influencing former first assistant District Attorney Charles R. Ward in the matter.

Ward resigned recently to run for the office of district attorney.

The case of Masinter and Toranto was allotted to Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr.