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DA OFFICE TIE-IN TO RAID DENIED

Haggerty Case Not Yet Sent from Police

First assistant district attorney James L. Alcock said Saturday that the district attorney's office has not received a report yet from the police department concerning the arrest Wednesday night of Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty, but he added, "This is nothing unusual."

Alcock, in charge of the office with District Attorney Jim Garrison recovering from an operation, vigorously denied reports around the city that the district attorney's office was instrumental in the raid.

"We (district attorney's office) didn't know anything about it until we saw it on television," said Alcock. "It is absolutely amazing that people are speculating the district attorney's office is behind the raid."

Alcock noted that Judge Haggerty, who presided over the Clay L. Shaw conspiracy trial, which the district attorney's office lost, turned down two directed verdicts requested by Shaw defense attorneys.

It often takes about a week for the district attorney's office to receive reports from the police, said Alcock.

Alcock said once the reports on the arrests of Judge Haggerty and a number of other people at the de Ville Hotel are filed, the district attorney's office will make a determination on whether it will accept the charges or refer the facts to the Orleans Parish grand jury, which meets Tuesday this week.

"I can only go by what I have seen in the news media," said Alcock, "but the charges are basically those of misdemeanors and such charges usually don't go before the grand jury. But it won't take us long to make that decision once we get the report."

Alcock said he will consult with Garrison after the reports are filed.