

DATA ON HAGGERTY RAID TO JUDICIARY

Report Delivered Before Trial of Orleans Judge ^{9-P} 1/30/70

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana is in possession of the police report on the Dec. 17 raid on the de Ville Motel, 3800 Tulane ave., which resulted in the arrest of Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. and 16 other persons.

Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso said that the District Attorney's Office sent a copy of the report to the commission.

First assistant DA James L. Alcock confirmed that he delivered the copy at the commission's request.

This was done "considerably before" Judge Haggerty was tried on charges of soliciting for prostitutes, obscenity, and resisting arresting officers.

His fellow judge, Matthew S. Braniff, found Haggerty innocent of the charges Monday night.

Alcock said the Commission requested the report of police, but that police referred the Commission to the DA's office.

The Commission has the power of subpoena and can initiate investigations which can lead to removal proceedings against judges.

The Commission refers its findings to the Louisiana Supreme Court for consideration.

Robert Lecorgne is judicial administrator.

Giarrusso made the revelation in response to questions following a news conference.

At the news conference, Giarrusso:

—Reiterated his objections to a statement by Judge Braniff in connection with a claim of police brutality made by Tyrone Huntley, 18, a Negro.

AIRS DENIAL

—Denied that police beat Huntley after the youth reportedly attacked a patrolman.

—Cited a report by the coroner's office which indicated that Huntley lost no teeth Tuesday, the day Huntley claimed that police kicked his teeth out.

Huntley, 3827 Jeannette, two other youths, and a woman and a girl were arrested after the youths allegedly beat and kicked Ptn. Larry Lesslie, white, and stole his revolver at

Huntley's home Tuesday afternoon.

Lesslie was treated at Charity Hospital for severe bruises and abrasions. However, police said that Huntley complained of no injuries and that no obvious ones were noticed.

When he appeared before Judge Braniff Wednesday, Huntley claimed that police kicked his teeth out.

Judge Braniff was quoted as saying, "Less than 48 hours ago I saw a film in which a judge of this court was brutalized by police. If this can happen to a judge, God knows what can happen to a black man."

Judge Braniff was apparently referring to news film presented at the trial which showed police subduing Judge Haggerty after he reportedly attacked police during the motel raid.

Giarrusso Thursday said that Huntley received no other injuries than those suffered when he and the other youths allegedly ganged up on Lesslie.

TAKING PARTS

Lesslie who was alone, was investigating a complaint that someone was stripping a car of parts at Jeannette and Eagle near Huntley's home.

"He (Huntley) might have had a lacerated lip. He should have had that," Giarrusso asserted.

He said that policemen have a right to defend themselves: "they're not out there to be punched by anyone, and if they are punched, they better do something about it."

The coroner's report, which described Huntley as "well developed" and "well nourished," listed the following "evidence of trauma":

"1. The right upper incisor is missing. There is no damage to the gum. (According to the subject, the missing tooth is a removable bridge.)

"2. The upper one-third of the right lower incisor is chipped off. The edges of the tooth are sharp and the center is tender.

"3. There is a three-eighths inch laceration on the inner medial surface of the right upper lip with surrounding contusion.

"4. There is contusion and swelling of the mid-portion of

the inner surface of the lower lip.

"5. There are one-inch superficial circumferentially oriented lacerations over the medial surfaces of both wrists."

Dr. Thomas J. Conklin, an assistant coroner, was listed as the examining physician.

Giarrusso said he had no objections to anyone making a complaint against an officer. "My exception was to remarks I felt were really not in character for a committing magistrate," the function Judge Braniff was discharging when he made the statement concerning brutality.

Giarrusso said the remark was "really in poor taste for a member of the judiciary to make. I've said it before, I'll say it again, and I'll say it to him," Giarrusso stated.

He said that one factor in a current crime wave is a lack of respect for law enforcement officers.

"We are doing everything we can to maintain respect. One thing is to treat blacks and whites fairly and impartially. Statements of this kind do not assist us."

Giarrusso said he hoped the incident will not result in animosity between police and the judiciary.

He said he felt no bitterness or animosity toward Judge Haggerty or Judge Braniff.

OFTEN AT ODDS

Giarrusso received support for his stand against Judge Braniff's statement from the Patrolman's Association of New Orleans, a police group which has often been at odds with the superintendent.

Det. Louis Jeffries, first chairman, said PANO sent a telegram containing the following message to Giarrusso Thursday morning:

"The entire board and membership of the Patrolman's Association of New Orleans would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and offer our undivided support to you over your swift reply in regards to the statement made by Judge Braniff concerning an alleged incident of police brutality on a citizen of our community.

"We of PANO noted that in your reply you defended the de-

partment and its men to the utmost. We feel that this type of leadership displayed by you in this issue is much needed at this time to boost the morale of the entire department.

"We would also like to state that Judge Braniff's statement is damaging in a sense, but we feel that the public cannot be fooled in what appears to be a mud throwing contest."

The telegram was signed by Jeffries, Ptn. Irvin Magri Jr., chairman, and Ptn. Vincent Bruno, second co-chairman.