

# Judge Denies Raid Charges

T. P. N. 19/49  
Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. returned to work Thursday and denied charges resulting from a police vice-squad "stag show" raid in which he, his minute clerk and an attorney were arrested Wednesday night.

Three of the policemen who conducted the raid on a room of the DeVille Motel, 3800 Tulane Ave., were subpoenaed to appear in Judge Haggerty's section of court for unrelated vice cases, but no confrontation developed between them and the judge.

Detectives Frank Buras, Marion Seghers and Richard Huth were in the courtroom briefly, but left a short time later when their cases were continued.

Fourteen persons, including three women, were arrested when vice-squad officers entered the dimly lit motel room shortly after 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Police said that stag films

and live entertainment were being presented. There was no elaboration on the entertainment. An admission price of \$5 was charged for entering the room, police said.

Judge Haggerty was booked with assaulting three police officers, with soliciting for prostitution, and with conspiracy to commit obscenity.

His minute clerk, Michael Stuebben, 27, 202 S. Hennessey, and the attorney, Malcolm Mundy Jr., 37, 6344 Dorothea, were booked with conspiracy to commit obscenity.

Another of the arrested men, Victor M. Soto Jr., 926 E. William David Pkwy., was booked with four counts of gambling.

In an interview Thursday morning, Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso said he was not aware that Judge Haggerty was at the motel before the raid was launched.

"I did not know beforehand that Judge Haggerty

was there," Giarrusso said. "I was told by Sgt. (Robert N.) Frey that there might be officials present."

Giarrusso said he told Frey, vice-squad commander, to take action no matter what officials were there.

Giarrusso said he has known Haggerty for a number of years, and that he is a good judge. He described the motel incident as "unfortunate."

Meanwhile Thursday, it was reported that the affair at the DeVille was meant as a bachelor party for one of the arrested men who is planning to be married.

An attorney who asked that his name not be used said he was in the room when the party was getting underway about 7 p.m.

He said that persons attending the party each contributed \$5 voluntarily to defray the cost of liquor.

The attorney said he left

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after a short time and did not see stag films or women models mentioned by police.

In his denial of the police charges, Judge Haggerty also mentioned the bachelor party.

The denial was contained in a written statement signed by attorney Robert Zibilich and released Thursday afternoon.

Zibilich's statement follows:

"I have been authorized by Judge Haggerty to state unequivocally, that he is not guilty of any of the charges lodged against him by the New Orleans Police Department, and that he will be completely vindicated of these charges.

"The cannons of ethics prohibit any further comment or discussion on this matter.

"However, I can add that a 'before the wedding bachelor party' has long been a New Orleans tradition.

"If all men, no matter what their background or professional status, who ever attended such a farewell-to-bachelorhood party, were put in jail, the police blotter would read like a telephone directory.

"The judge certainly regrets that this police action might have brought embarrassment to the bench and to his

family."

Sgt. Frey, in response to inquiries, later attempted to refute the claim that the gathering was simply for a bachelor party.

#### 'ADMISSION FEE'

"My answer to that," Frey said, "is that they charged an admission fee. This wouldn't be done at a bachelor party."

"Also, an extra \$10 was requested for live entertainment. Also, after the entertainment, prostitution would take place for an additional fee."

Asked about the claim that the money consisted of contributions for liquor, Frey stated:

"We know better. We have evidence that this is not the case."

Frey said his officers were still preparing reports on the case, and that they would be submitted to the district attorney's office Friday or Monday.

The DA's office will review the reports to determine whether the proposed criminal charges are warranted. The DA's office has the power to file such charges.

The charges can also be referred to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury for action. The latter course will probably be followed, a source in the DA's office said.

#### NO FURTHER WORD

Frey declined to discuss the case further, but it became apparent from other police sources that there might have been an informant or an undercover officer in the room before the raid took place.

One source said that bets had been placed with Soto Tuesday and Thursday.

Another source said that a search warrant was obtained for Judge Haggerty's car, but that none was obtained for the motel room.

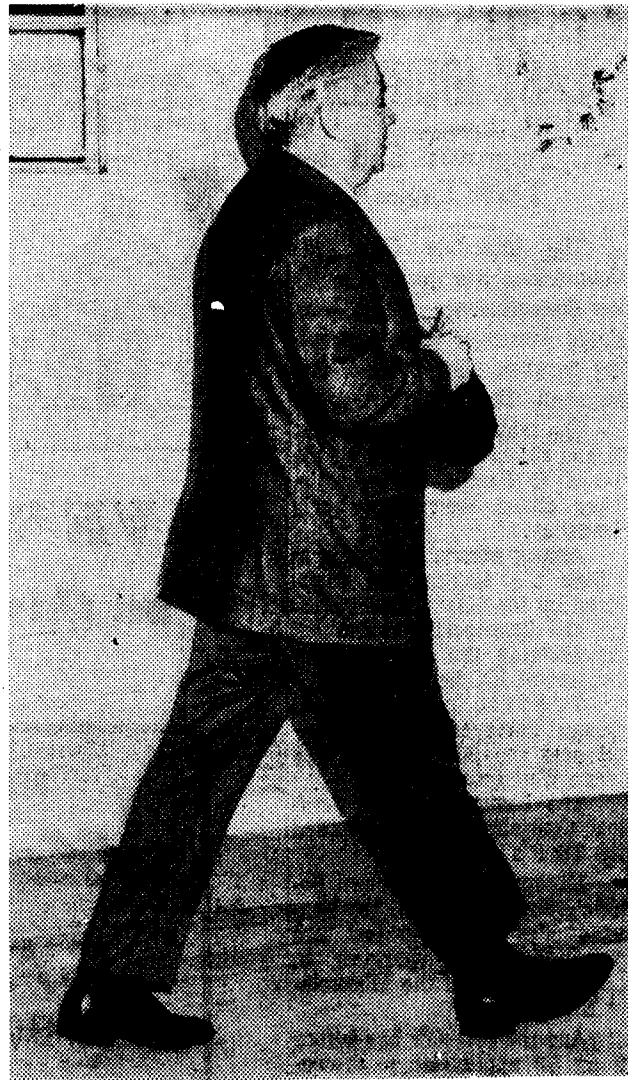
Nothing was taken from the judge's car, the source said. As for a search warrant for the room, he said, "we wouldn't need one if we had someone inside who could see what was going on."

The source declined to say whether police had an operative in the room.

Police Thursday declined to discuss the charge of soliciting for prostitutes on which Judge Haggerty was booked.

As Judge Haggerty sat on the bench in court a red bruise which he reportedly suffered during a struggle with police was visible on his forehead.

Police alleged that the judge attempted to walk out of the room as officers entered but was stopped. He became violent



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.  
**JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. walks toward his courtroom at the Criminal Courts Building Thursday after arriving in his automobile.**

and had to be restrained, police said.

Several attorneys asked for permission to approach the bench.

One, G. Wray Gill, said he told the judge that he was in sympathy with him and offered his services as an attorney.

Gill said the judge thanked him.

The senior Criminal District Court Judge, Bernard J. Bagert, said that the Louisiana Supreme Court is the final authority on any disciplinary action against Judge Haggerty.

#### SECOND IN SENIORITY

Judge Bagert authorized Judge Haggerty's release on his own recognizance Wednesday night. Judge Haggerty is the second in seniority on the court.

The first step in any disciplinary action against Judge Haggerty would have to be taken by the Judicial Administration Commission, a new body established by an amendment to the State Constitution.

This panel has the authority to instigate an investigation and

report its findings to the Supreme Court.

The following persons were also booked with conspiracy to commit obscenity as a result of the raid:

Albert Miller, 27, 7915 Cohn; Alceste Ory, 30, 1125 Phosphor, Metairie; Michael Carso, 50, 4422 Senator Toby, Jefferson Parish; Max Williams, 36, 1931 Farmington Pl.; Samuel Blanchard, 39, 519 Beach Blvd., Waveland, Miss.; Kenneth Reeves, 29, 3009 20th St., Apt. B; George Costello, 39, 2916 Haring Rd.; and Janelle Vincent, 21, Wanda Norman, 39, and Jean Clemens Shipp, 32, all of 8110 Breakwater Dr.

Judge Haggerty opened his section of court at the usual time Thursday, 10 a.m.

The judge had parked his car in the basement of the courts building, 2700 Tulane Ave., and was met by a Times-Picayune photographer.

He smiled and stopped until the picture was taken.

"Oh, well," he said, "the world's not coming to an end."