

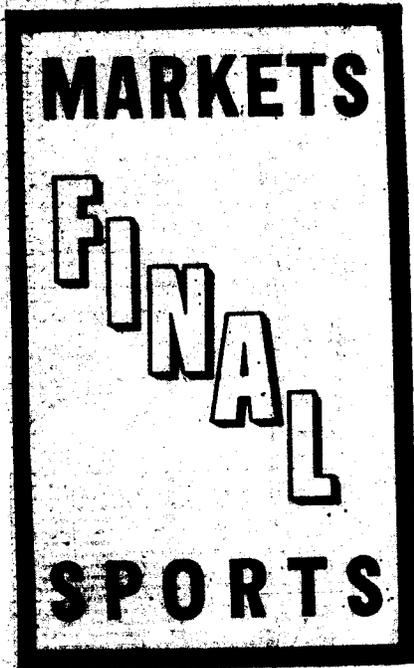
High Court Votes

HAGGERTY

6-1 for Removal

OUSTER

ORDERED



By JAMES HEARTY

The Louisiana Supreme Court in a 6-1 decision today ordered Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. removed from the bench for "willful and intentional" misconduct.

Judge Haggerty was arrested last Dec. 17 in a vice squad raid on a stag party at the DeVille Motor Hotel here. Obscenity charges against the New Orleans jurist were thrown out when Criminal District Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff ruled key evidence in the case to be inadmissible.

However, a state judiciary commission convened to investigate the matter and recommended Judge Haggerty's removal. Today's ruling by the Supreme Court upheld the commission's verdict.

Robert E. LeCorgne Jr., Louisiana judicial administrator who successfully prosecuted the Haggerty ouster case, said Judge Haggerty has 14 days

in which to seek a rehearing before the high court.

If he elects to request a rehearing and one is granted, the court will consider the question of a pension for Judge Haggerty. If the rehearing is denied, said LeCorgne, Haggerty's judgeship is vacated without a pension.

JUDGE HAGGERTY earlier attracted national attention as the trial judge in the 40-day trial of Clay Shaw, New Orleans businessman acquitted of conspiracy charges in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Casting their votes for Haggerty's removal were Judge H. W. Ayers of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal, sitting in for Associate Justice

Albert Tate, who served on the Judiciary Commission; Associate Justices E. Howard McCaleb, Walter B. Hamlin, Frank W. Summers, Joe D. Sanders and Mack E. Barham.

Dissenting was Chief Justice Joe B. Hamiter.

Writing the majority opinion was Judge Ayers of Shreveport, who held that Haggerty knew he was violating laws he had sworn to uphold when he participated in gambling and stag party activities and presumably was aware of the "consequences of his deliberate actions."

IN HIS majority opinion, Judge Ayers emphasized Haggerty's actions were willful and deliberate rather than "single or solitary instances."

THE STATES-ITEM

Monday, Nov. 23, 1970 New Orleans, La.

10 Cents

In his dissent, Chief Justice Hamiter wrote while "I do not approve or condone the alleged illegal or, perhaps, immoral conduct of Judge Haggerty," there was no evidence these activities had in any way affected Haggerty's handling of his Criminal District Court docket.

Hamiter said Haggerty's alleged offenses were a part of the judge's personal life and under the Louisiana Constitution were not grounds for dismissal from the bench.

Judge Haggerty, through his attorney, Robert Zibilich, maintained the alleged stag party was a "before-the-wedding bachelor party" and an old New Orleans tradition. Zibilich said if all men in the city who had attended such functions were placed on the police blotter, it would read "like a telephone directory."

Judge Haggerty left the Criminal



Judge Haggerty

Turn to Page 18, Column 1