

# Chicago Prosecutor Faces Trial

CHICAGO, July 4 (UPI)—Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan goes on trial Wednesday on charges of conspiring to obstruct justice in the Chicago Black Panther case.

No decision has been made on whether it will be a jury or bench trial, but either way the political overtones and controversy surrounding the case promise to make it a lively one.

It has been 11 months since the indictment was returned in open court charging Hanrahan, an assistant and 12 Chicago policemen with conspiring to block prosecution of police who raided a Black Panther apartment on Chicago's West Side on Dec. 4, 1969.

Two Panther leaders, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, were killed by police gunfire

during the raid, and seven Panthers who survived were charged with attempted murder.

The crux of the charge against Hanrahan is that he presented "false and inflammatory" information to a grand jury in order to get the indictment against the Panthers. Charges against the surviving Panthers were later dropped for lack of evidence. A federal grand jury found that the police had fired 100 shots and the Panthers only one, although 19 illegal weapons were found in the apartment.

A Cook County grand jury was empaneled in December, 1970, to further investigate the case, and reportedly voted the indictment against Hanrahan and his co-defendants in April, 1971.

Once the charges were out

in the open, Hanrahan spent another 11 months trying to quash them, and still contends that the indictment is invalid.

The quick-tempered, 51-year-old prosecutor is running for re-election, having defeated two opponents in the Party's March 21 primary.

Mayor Richard J. Daley is backing Hanrahan, although he had dropped him and put a man up to run against him in the party primary when it became apparent last December that attempts to quash the Panther indictment were not going to succeed.

The trial, before Cook County Circuit Court Judge Philip Romiti, former dean of the DePaul Law School, was expected to last at least two months and may extend until the November elections.

Hanrahan's re-election is vital to the Daley organization,

since the office has wide investigative powers. Political experts believe those powers in the hands of a Republican, such as Hanrahan's opponent former FBI agent Bernard Carey, could prove uncomfortable for the Daley forces.