

By Joseph R. Tybor
Associated Press

CHICAGO, Feb. 3—State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan and 13 codefendants pleaded innocent today to charges of obstructing justice in the aftermath of a police raid in which two Black Panthers were killed.

The pleas for Hanrahan, his assistant, Richard Jalovec, and 12 policemen were entered before Judge Philip Romiti of Circuit Court who on Wednesday rejected a defense plea that the indictment be dismissed as invalid.

Earlier today Judge Joseph Sam Perry of U.S. District Court ruled Hanrahan could not be held liable in a \$16 million damage suit brought by relatives and friends of the Panthers shot to death in the raid.

Judge Perry ruled the official and governmental status of their positions made Hanrahan and his assistants immune to such litigation.

Hanrahan entered his plea after Judge Romiti denied a motion to declare unconstitutional the statutes under which the defendants were charged.

In denying the motion, the judge said it could be submitted at a later date.

"I will enter a plea of not guilty, reasserting my claim that it (the document) is not valid . . . I am entering my plea on the understanding that the court will reconsider memoranda in support of my earlier motion," Hanrahan said.

About a dozen members of the Black Panther Party led by Illinois leader Bobby Rush sat in the courtroom.

They chuckled as Hanrahan insisted his constitutional rights were being denied by Judge Romiti's Wednesday ruling.

Hanrahan maintained in his motion that Romiti's decision rendered the obstruction of justice and conspiracy statutes unconstitutional.

Hanrahan said since the indictment charges no substantive crime it violates the due process and equal protection guarantees of the Constitution.

Romiti set March 1 for the defense to file pre-trial motions with prosecution replies due March 2, six days after the Illinois primary election.

Hanrahan was dropped by the Democrats as the regular organization's candidate for state's attorney but he is running an independent race against Raymond Berg, a former judge who was slated in his place, and Donald Page Moore, a former Justice Department lawyer.

Hanrahan was considered one of the most powerful Democrats in Chicago before he was indicted by a special grand jury last August. The special jury reportedly voted the indictment in April but its publication was held up by a series of legal battles between the special prosecutor, Barna-

bas F. Sears, and Judge Joseph Power, chief of the criminal division of Circuit Court.

The Illinois Supreme Court had to make three rulings before the indictments were made public.

After the case was assigned to Judge Romiti Hanrahan asked and was granted a motion to allow him to interrogate the grand jurors to determine if they were prejudiced by publicity or alleged undue pressure by Sears.

The Illinois Supreme Court barred Judge Romiti from conducting such a hearing. The court also ruled on Jan. 14 against a Hanrahan motion to quash the indictments.

THE WASHINGTON POST Friday, Feb. 4, 1972 A 3

Hanrahan, 13 Others Plead Innocent in Police Raid Case