

Panther Raid Case Is Assigned To New Circuit Judge in Illinois

By SETH S. KING

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Aug. 31—The case of Edward V. Hanrahan, Cook County's chief prosecutor, and 13 other law enforcement officers, was assigned today to another Cook County Circuit Judge and entered a new phase in its disputed movement toward a trial.

Chief Criminal Judge Joseph A. Power, former law partner of Mayor Daley, followed normal procedures this morning in assigning the case to Judge Philip Romiti. The case has been before Judge Power pending today's action.

Judge Romiti, who apparently had no advance warning that he would be assigned the case, set Friday as the date for receiving all motions and pleadings.

"All I know about this matter at this time is what I read in the newspapers," he said.

Judge Romiti indicated that he would set a later date for hearings in open court on motions to quash the indictments against the 14 officials.

Judge Power had suppressed an indictment against the 14 officials. He later appointed a special investigator to inquire into the conduct of a special prosecutor, Barnabas F. Sears, before the special grand jury that Judge Power had empaneled to investigate the case.

Mr. Hanrahan, a political protégé of the Mayor's, was accused in the indictment with one of Mr. Hanrahan's assistants and 12 Chicago policemen. They were charged with conspiring to obstruct justice in the case of two Black Panther leaders killed by policemen on Dec. 4, 1969.

Judge Power is the adminis-

trative officer of the Criminal Court. After indictments are handed up by grand juries. It has been the practice for him to assign all cases to other Cook County judges handling criminal matters.

Indictment Not Recognized

When Mr. Hanrahan and the 13 other defendants were arraigned before Judge Power this morning they refused to plead not guilty or guilty.

"Your honor. I do not recognize this as a valid indictment," I make no plea at this time and I intend to take appropriate action to support my position." Mr. Hanrahan was defending himself.

After the case was moved to Judge Romiti's court, the battery of attorneys representing the defendants announced that they were filing motions to quash the indictment. These motions, they said, would contend that Mr. Sears and his assistants had improperly influenced the grand jury in securing the indictment.

Judge Power later indicated he would deny a motion by Mr. Sears to continue the special grand jury until October. He ruled that the grand jurors could now be questioned by defense attorneys and called as witnesses on motion hearings.

With out objection by Mr. Sears, the judge also opened previously sealed "no bills" from the special grand jury. These stated that there was insufficient evidence to charge the policemen in the Panther-raiding party with murder or manslaughter.