

# Hanrahan's Career Is Rolling

By William Chapman  
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO—Standing in front of the Democratic precinct captains assembled in Southside Chicago's black Fourth Ward, State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan seemed to pluck all the right chords.

The captains responded with murmurs of understanding as he recited the list of casual tragedies that mar their neighborhood: An elderly woman killed in a \$3 armed robbery . . . a 16-year-old kid shot to death because he didn't belong to the right street gang.

"There was this 14-year-old boy in a fight with a gang of bigger boys," Hanrahan went on. "Now, whenever I was a kid you went home and got your brother and you hoped that the other kid didn't have a big brother bigger than your big brother."

## Got Own Gun

"But this kid went home and got his gun—got HIS gun. And he went out and fired a few shots and one of them killed a 78-year-old man, who was just passing by. That man could have been your grandfather or your father."

The black precinct captains responded with moans of sympathy. "The enemy is crime," Hanrahan declared. "And it doesn't have any color."

Foor the embattled Hanrahan, who has survived more perils than Pauline this year, the appeal for black understanding and support is the final hurdle in his remarkable race for re-election.

He is widely popular in Chicago's white ethnic neighborhoods and the close-in Cook County suburbs, where the fear of black crime is great. But in the black wards, which Democrats usually carry easily, his name is frequently jeered.

He is so unpopular in Rep. Ralph Metcalfe's Third Ward, for example, that Metcalfe has told precinct captains to cut Hanrahan by pulling his lever up after voting a straight Democratic ticket in other contests.

"The police in this city

are always abusing the blacks," asserts Metcalfe, normally a mild-mannered party loyalist. "But Hanrahan never prosecutes the police. They all look to him as their protector."

## His Lone Hazard

The potential black defection is the one hazard Hanrahan faces in what otherwise is the miracle comeback of Illinois politics this year.

A flamboyant prosecutor who made his name by promising to fight black street gangs, Hanrahan was dumped from the Democratic slate this year by Mayor Richard J. Daley after he was indicted on a charge of obstructing justice in the investigation of the raid that killed two Black Panthers nearly three years ago.

He has been declared unqualified for state's attorney by the Chicago Bar Association. All four city newspapers oppose him editorially. His opponent is a 37-year-old former FBI agent who came within 10,000 votes of defeating another popular Democrat for sheriff two years ago.

But by last week, Hanrahan seemed to have emerged on top. He had humiliated Daley by trouncing the mayor's candidate in the Democratic primary last March. And on Wednesday, he was acquitted in the Panther case without even having to present his defense.

## Daley Support Him

Now Daley supports him fervently, conscious that losing the state's attorney's office, with its vast investigative powers, could mean disaster for his administration.

Winning re-election is all Hanrahan needs to assure a successful future. The idol of most white ward committeemen and precinct captains, Hanrahan can easily have the mayoralty nomination and control of the county organization as soon as Daley retires.

The last obstacle is his opponent, Bernard Carey, a popular Republican who knows how to hit as hard as Hanrahan does on the law and order issue.



EDWARD HANRAHAN  
... apparently on top

Last week, Carey produced evidence that five men charged with felonies ranging from rape to murder had been freed because of bungling in the state's attorney's office. Three of them were released because Hanrahan didn't get them to trial within the required 120 days. Hanrahan did not deny the charge, but promised to change procedures in his office to prevent a recurrence.

With many suburban white Republicans switching to Hanrahan, however, Carey admits he is the underdog. Even before Hanrahan was acquitted, Carey acknowledged wearily in an interview that the indictment probably had helped the incumbent.

"It keeps his name in the papers constantly," Carey said. "Secondly, he's appealing to the idea that he's a martyr. He claims that everyone's picking on him—the bar association, the newspaper, even the judges.

"They've got good reason to pick on him. He's been the worst state's attorney in history. Crime is up 130 per cent in the suburbs—those are FBI statistics. But a lot of people think he's the 'Great White Hope.'"

Hanrahan also benefits, in the eyes of Carey's advisers, from the latest sensational crime issue in Chicago—the "De Mau Mau case." Ten young black men were arrested and charged in the killing of nine whites in what appeared to be a series

of random murders, most of them in Chicago's suburbs.

Law enforcement forces leaked information accusing the 10 blacks of killing the whites for racial reasons. The accused were said to be members of a gang called "De Mau Mau," which had been started by black servicemen in Vietnam.

## Memories Revived

The arrests seemed to have revived memories of Hanrahan's reputation as the enemy of black gangs. Before the arrests, Republican canvassers had found Carey running a respectable race against Hanrahan in the city's Northwest wards. After the arrests, a new survey found Carey winning only one out of three votes in those wards.

Carey accuses Hanrahan—or whoever is releasing the arrests information out of court—of trying to increase tensions and help the incumbent politically.

"They are trying to raise the level of fear," he charges. "Like they say that the De Mau Mau gang was wearing Army jackets. How many people in this county do you think wear old Army jackets? Maybe two million."

Carey's campaign strategists believe that a large suburban turnout for President Nixon could reverse the tide of Republican defections and give him a slim margin over Hanrahan.

## Unpleasant for Many

For many of his aides who are anti-Daley Democrats and Independents and who dislike Mr. Nixon, relying on the President's coattails is an unusual and unpleasant thought. As one of them expressed his ambivalence, "It's about as enjoyable as watching your mother-in-law going over the cliff in your new Cadillac."

For Hanrahan, victory is a matter of getting the city's Democratic precinct captains to do their work. That is no problem in the white wards, but it is difficult in the black wards which normally provide one out of every five votes in Cook County.

One tactic is to play the underdog running against a white establishment of Bar Association lawyers and newspapers. Another is to remind them that, regardless of the is-

# Again

sues, precinct captains are expected to produce votes to get their rewards.

Both appeals are combined in the laughter-provoking line which Hanrahan uses to close his speeches at the ward meetings.

"I'm not going to spend a single penny for ads in those newspapers," he said. "I'm going to use that money to throw a victory party for the precinct captains after the election that will be the biggest victory party we've ever had. And it won't be just popcorn and root beer. And all you have to do to come is one thing—get your precinct cards (showing the vote returns) signed by your ward committeemen."