

Los Angeles DA J. P. Busch Dies

West Covina

Los Angeles county District Attorney Joseph P. Busch was found dead in bed in his West Covina home yesterday — apparently the victim of a heart attack.

Busch, 49, was found shortly before 11 a.m. by family members who had assumed he was merely sleeping late.

Los Angeles county paramedic Terry Curtis said Busch had apparently been dead several hours when he was found.

Los Angeles county Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who has the responsibility for the District Attorney's office, met with Chief Deputy District Attorney John Howard early yesterday afternoon. It was expected that Howard would be appointed acting district attorney, pending selection of a successor by the full Board of Supervisors.

Word of Busch's death flashed through his 18th floor offices in the Criminal Courts Building in downtown Los Angeles shortly after 11 a.m.

A tearful spokesman for the office said Busch had not planned to come to his office yesterday because he was preparing for the marriage of his son, Steve, today.

Busch's wife, Jennie, and another son, Joseph Jr., as well as other relatives, had congregated at their home to prepare for the wedding.

A family source said Busch had stayed up late Thursday night helping with preparations, and had not complained of feeling poorly



AP Wirephoto

JOSEPH BUSCH

Heart victim at 49

District attorney, Busch supervised the largest staff of county prosecutors in the country — 500 deputy district attorneys and 1500 other employees.

He took over the influential office in January, 1971, succeeding Euell Younger who was elected state attorney general. Busch received a unanimous appointment by the Board of Supervisors.

He won a four-year term

He won a four-year term close margin over one of his former aides, Vincent Bugliosi, who won some fame by prosecuting the Manson family multiple murder case.

Busch had come up through the ranks and had

before retiring.

Busch was known as a robust man and associates said he rarely seemed to show effects of the long hours he put into his job.

As Los Angeles county dis-

Los Angeles Times

(Was chief prosecutor of Sirhan; recently been under growing pressure to reveal details of case against Sirhan, including a demand to permit ballistics tests of Sirhan's pistol).

been a career prosecutor since 1952.

He received his law degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles in 1951 and was recipient of the Bancroft-Whitney Special Award for being graduated first in his class.

Following graduation, he joined the district attorney's office as a deputy and quickly earned a reputation as a vigorous prosecutor.

Busch moved through the ranks, holding the position of assistant chief trial deputy in 1965, director of the bureau of special operations in 1968, assistant district attorney in 1969, and in 1970 he became chief deputy district attorney.