

Vice Lord Posts Bail Quickly

By CLANCY DuBOS
and ED ANDERSON

Bourbon Street vice kingpin William "Rick" Colacurcio Jr. posted a \$100,000 cashier's check as bond less than a half-hour after his arraignment on racketeering charges Friday.

Colacurcio, 57, was arraigned before U.S. Magistrate Ingard O. Johannesen, who set the \$100,000 bond after Colacurcio stated he is self-employed as a bar owner. Colacurcio gave as his address 522 Bourbon St., and said he has approximately \$100,000 in bank accounts and about \$185,000 in local real estate.

Colacurcio's attorney for the arraignment, Ed Castaing, asked Johannesen not to remand Colacurcio to jail because he intended to post the bond. Johannesen said Colacurcio would remain in jail until he posted the bond, and about 20 minutes later his son, Rick Colacurcio III, arrived with the cashier's check.

FBI agents verified the check, and Colacurcio was released. He will be represented at trial by local criminal trial attorney F. Irvin Dymond. Johannesen set a preliminary hearing for June 21.

A complaint filed against Colacurcio by the federal Organized Crime and Racketeering Strike Force alleges 13 overt acts in violation of the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute. The complaint alleges Colacurcio paid three undercover New Orleans police officers and one FBI agent 10 bribes totaling \$3,600 between

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Jan. 29 and April 17 to protect his alleged gambling operation.

Accused of bribing police in the same complaint as Colacurcio are Dinos Rallis, who identified himself Friday in court as Constantios Rallis, 42, and Theodoros "Teddy" Dimopoulos, 27.

The three allegedly ran a gambling operation on the second and third floors of 523 Iberville St., in the Greek-Italian Association Club. The club was raided at the same time police and FBI agents rounded up more than 100 prostitutes and panderers Thursday night.

Johannesen set a \$200,000 bond for Dimopoulos Friday, and a \$100,000 bond for Rallis. Neither had posted bond late Friday. Rallis gave as his address 523 Iberville, the club's location. Dimopoulos listed his address as 601 Iberville St. Neither is a U.S. citizen.

Rallis is charged in the complaint with paying one bribe of \$40 to officer Wilben Tank on Jan. 20. Dimopoulos is accused of paying a \$50 bribe to Tank on March 3.

Colacurcio is accused of bribing officer John Kastner on 10 occasions, usually in amounts of \$300.

Also arrested on RICO charges and arraigned Friday before Johannesen were:

— Orestes Pena, 55, 6100 Argonne Blvd., accused of paying 12 bribes to Kastner totaling \$3,400 between Sept. 6, 1978, and Jan. 16. He described himself as being in the real estate business and claimed to own four bars — two on Decatur Street — worth a total of \$214,500. He said he had about \$40,000 in the bank. Johannesen set his bond at \$75,000 and commented, "Seventy-five is kind of light." Pena posted a surety bond.

— Amelia "Amy" Rodriguez, 46, a native of Puerto Rico, 5862 Seagull Lane, described herself as owner of the

Pena owns the building, while Ms. Rodriguez owns the bar. She is charged with making 24 bribery payments totaling \$5,200 to Kastner and officer Ronald Brink between Oct. 26, 1978,

and May 23. Johannesen set her bond at \$50,000. She said she had no money, and when she was leaving the courtroom, she approached Brink and shouted in his face, "Pig!"

— Ruperto Pena, brother of Orestes Pena, 52, 5146 Mandeville St. and manager of the Copa Cabana Bar at 239 Decatur St. He was charged in a separate complaint with making 30 bribery payments to Kastner, Brink, Tank, and FBI agent Charles L. McGinty, totaling \$3,475 since last October. Johannesen set bond at \$100,000, which was not made.

— Paulino Lopez, a native of Cuba, 46, 4628 Reich St., Metairie, owner of Los Amantes (The Lovers) bar, 121 Decatur St. He claimed to have \$4,000 in the bank and a home worth \$50,000. Lopez is charged with paying 16 bribes to Kastner and Brink totaling \$2,600.

Lopez, according to the complaint, first discussed the payments last November during a meeting with Kastner and Brink at his bar. Local real estate records show Lopez sold half-interest in his bar to City Council fiscal officer Louis Gomez in January.

Johannesen set Lopez' bond at \$75,000, which Lopez later posted.

— Maria Christina Rubio, 39, of Honduras, 2165 Treasure St., a barmaid at Los Amantes, was charged with bribing Kastner on five occasions, totaling \$775. Johannesen set her bond at \$50,000. She said she has no money.

— Ramon Fernandez, 33, a native of Spain, 4645 Yale St., Metairie, identified himself as a carpenter with \$100 in cash and \$300 in the bank. He is described by authorities as an employee at Los Amantes and is accused of making three bribery payments to Kastner and Brink totaling \$525. His bond was set at \$50,000, and he later posted it.

Johannesen ordered the four who posted bond — Colacurcio, Lopez,

Orestes Pena and Fernandez — to leave the eastern federal judicial district. He further ordered Colacurcio and Pena not to dispose of any of their property, as it can be seized by federal authorities upon conviction of RICO violations.

sts Bail in Less Than Half

If convicted, each of the nine could receive a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$25,000 for each charge.

In addition, the seizures apply to any property involved in the racketeering activities. Eades Hogue, head of the strike force, said the government will ask for that penalty.

Of the more than 100 hookers and panderers arrested in Thursday night's raid, at least six have been paroled by public officials. They are:

— Shelisa Perkins, 16, charged with obstruction of a public sidewalk, was paroled by State Rep. Johnny Jackson Jr. of House District 101, and a member of the Democratic State Central Committee.

— Donshika Campbell, 22, charged with loitering for prostitution, was paroled by attorney Guy J. D'Antonio, a member of the Democratic State Central Committee and an unsuccessful candidate for Civil District Court judge last year.

— Mattie Harris, 19, charged with loitering for prostitution, was paroled by Hoilis Ruiz, a member of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee.

— Lewis Ratcliff, 39, charged with interfering with police, was paroled by Mrs. Dorothy Krasnoff, wife of attorney and twice defeated Congressional candidate Sanford Krasnoff. She is a member of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee.

— Jerry Battister, 26, charged with loitering for prostitution, was paroled by Charles Pisano, a member of the Democratic State Central Committee.

— Reginald Cummings, 25, charged with obstruction a sidewalk, was paroled by Frank J. Serio, a member of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee.

A complete list of persons arrested in Thursday night's raid was issued by New Orleans police Friday.

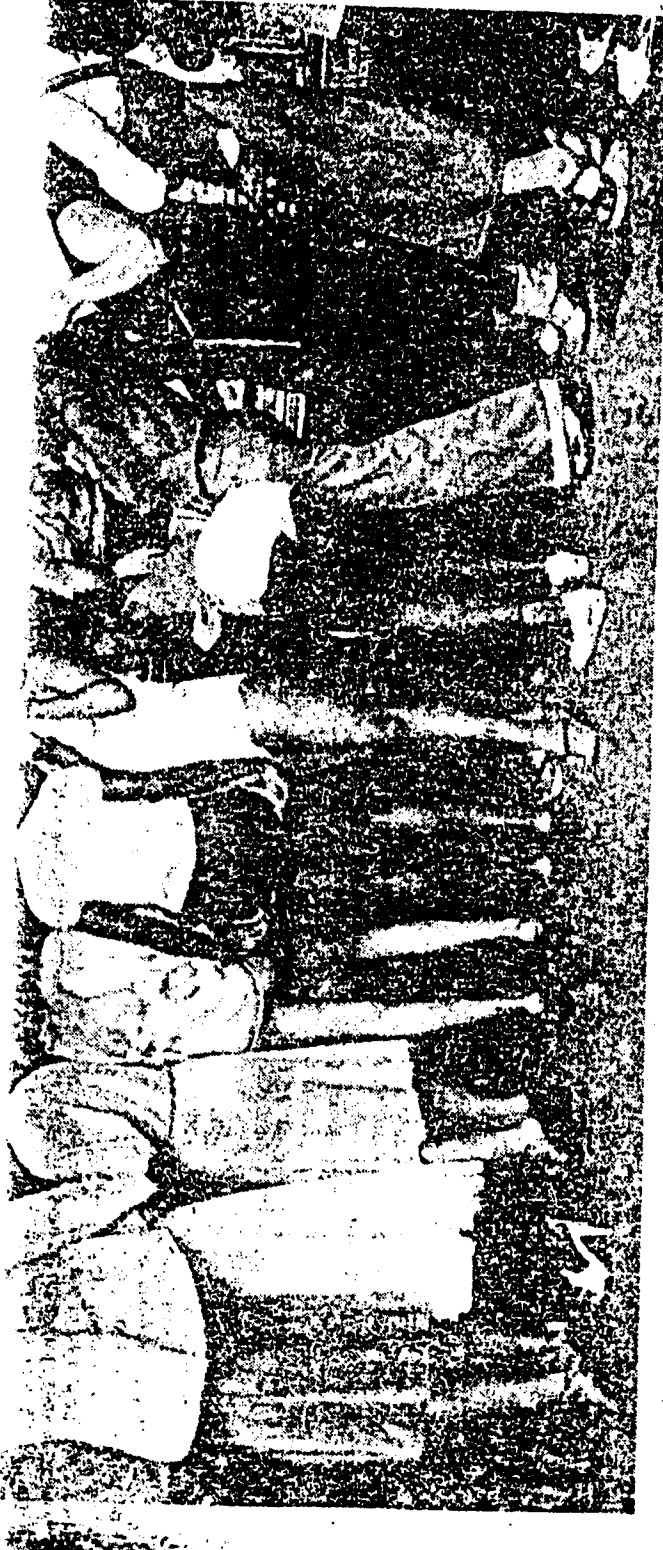
Some of the persons were released on bond Friday after appearances in Municipal Court. Others were brought before Magistrate Court Friday night.

Those arrested include:

1. DIANNE BAZLEY, age 27, 2104 Bienville Street, charged with loitering for prostitution, and aggravated battery.
2. GARY LARVINETTE, age 22, 2125 2 E. Whitney Street, charged with possessions of Sch. II to wit Marijuana and loitering for prostitution.
3. CLARENCE WILLIAMS, age 52, 2510 Du-raine Street, charged with pandering, possession of Sch. IV CDS to wit Talwin, convicted felon in possession of firearm.
4. COLEEN TARTER, age 23, 2841 Pauger Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
5. GENA FIELDS, age 20, 1003 Toledano Street, charged with loitering.
6. MARYANN LOCKERHAM, age 21, 4950 Chef Highway, charged with loitering.
7. PAULETTE M. WARE, age 19, 3305 Louisiana Avenue, charged with loitering for prostitution.
8. JEWEL TROTTER, age 24, 3936 Prylana Street, charged with loitering.
9. HOLLY A. BRITT, age 19, 2800, Rm. 104 Tulane Avenue, charged with obstruction of sidewalk.
10. ELICIA J. DERY, age 20, 841 Washington Avenue, charged with loitering for prostitution.
11. NADINE HARDIN, age 22, 3505 Tulane. Rm. 216, charged with loitering for prostitution.
12. IVY D. CONWAY, age 21, 2238 Clio Street, Apt. 3A, charged with loitering for prostitution.
13. DENISE D. WILLIAMS, age 27, 4979 Desire Street, charged with pedestrian blocking a sidewalk.
14. LATRICE BARRIS, age 25, 641 Barracks Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
15. ALYSIA GEE, age 21, 3820 Cascade Road, Atlanta, Ga., charged with loitering for prostitution.
16. ROSE M. WASHINGTON, age 20, 1228 Gen. Ogden Street, charged with obstruction of sidewalk.
17. DEBRA J. STALEY, age 20, 2212 Oak Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
18. JANE D. WEEKS, age 25, 539 Toulouse Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
19. YOLANDA WILLIAMS, age 20, 210 Chartres Street, Apt. 3E, charged for loitering for prostitution.
20. MATTIE HARRIS, age 19, 7611 Hurst Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
21. EVELDA M. DUFRENE, age 47, 237 Decatur Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
22. MARIA ETCHEVERY, age 19, 3400 Garden Oaks Drive, charged with loitering for prostitution.
23. MARINA D. PADILLA, age 37, 1906 Colorado Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
24. MAJUANA J. HARJO, age 21, 9407 Airline Highway, charged with loitering for prostitution.
25. RHONDA J. BORDELON, age 26, 8273 Burgundy Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
26. CATHERINE C. VAGIAS, age 23, 128 Tish Drive, charged with loitering for prostitution.
27. TINA BROWN, age 21, 2627 Laurel Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
28. CYNTHIA JAMES, age 21, 2226 Laurel Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
29. LULA YOUNG, age 27, 2338 Decatur Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
30. GALE MCRUCKER, age 26, 4948 Magazine Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
31. GALE MCRUCKER, age 26, 4948 Magazine Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
32. KATHERINE M. KARAVAGELIS, age 22, 1505 Marengo Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
33. SHELIA WEAVER, age 29, 1505 Marengo Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
34. MONICA CORLEY, age 22, 1131 Airline Highway, charged with loitering for prostitution.
35. KIM WOODS, age 23, 2314 Seventh Street, charged with loitering for prostitution and from Criminal District Court for prostitution.
36. TONI TREPAGNIER, age 24, 2131 Carondelet Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
37. JUDY MOBLEY, age 24, 14 Yvonne Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
38. KATRINA DONNER, age 24, 1129 Magazine Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
39. LAURA ANDEPSON, age 22, 2331 Magazine Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
40. KRISTINE ANDERSON, age 18, 601 Iberville Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
41. BARBARA GROOM, age 19, 1243 Esplanade Avenue, charged with loitering for prostitution.
42. ERIC THOMAS, age 19, 2020 Thayer Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
43. DERECK FROHM, age 21, 3316 Erato Street, charged with loitering with the intent to commit prostitution.
44. JEFFERY ZIMMERMAN, 2130 Clio Street, charged with obstruction of a public sidewalk, age 18.
45. NATHANIEL SNOWTON, 704 General Taylor Street, charged with obstruction of a public sidewalk, age 17.
46. LINDA MARSHALL, age 28, no local, loitering with intent.
47. LESLIE MCLEMORE, age 20, no local, loitering for prostitution.
48. HOUSTON DEARMAN, age 53, 4731 Banks Street, charged with loitering in place of prostitution.
49. BRANDY MAW, age 22, 2331 Broadway Street, charged with loitering.
50. SHELISA PERKINS, age 16, 2506 Galter Street, charged with obstruction of a public sidewalk.
51. PAUL RAMSEY, age 40, 1226 Baronne Street, charged with obstructing a sidewalk.
52. BARRY TINSON, age 26, 2145 N. Tonti Street, charged with theft of a vehicle valued at \$80.00.
53. ALICE MCMAHAN, age 23, 717 Eiliza Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
54. LISA AYCOCK, age 25, 1521H-Route Box, charged with loitering for prostitution.
55. RUTH MARKS, age 21, 1704 Law Street, charged with loitering.
56. ROSEMARY GREEN, age 26, 3522 Tulane Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
57. FRANC IWANCZYK, age 25, 1302 Tyler Avenue, charged with lewd conduct by urinating in public.
58. BARBARA RAAKUAR, age 24, 1732 Canal Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
59. CYNTHIA WELLS, age 26, 1805 Barracks Street, charged with prostitution for \$30.00.
60. LISA HANSON, age 21, 1415 Esplanade Avenue, charged with loitering for prostitution and from Criminal District Court for prostitution.
61. RAFAEL HERNANDEZ, age 27, 716 General Pershing Street, charged with lewd conduct by urinating in public.
62. PEGGY PRUITT, age 23, 608 Greenwood Drive, charged with fighting in public, resisting arrest, and from Jefferson Parish for traffic attachment.
63. MARY SIMMONS, age 23, 1674 N. Broad Street, charged with loitering and from Municipal Court A.
64. RITA BUIE, age 20, 3946 Hamburg Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
65. PEGGY WHITLOCK, age 48, 601 Bourbon Street, charged with loitering for prostitution, and theft of property valued at \$209.00.
66. JOSEPH RICHARDSON, age 18, 5053 Stephengir Street, charged with obstructing the sidewalk.
67. SANDRA WILLIAMS, age 21, no local, charged with loitering for prostitution, and possession of a Sch IV - CDS to wit - Talwin (26 units).
68. SHELIA MINOR, age 30, 3385 Louisiana Parkway, charged with loitering for prostitution.
69. BEVERLY LEE, age 19, 8720 Willow Street, charged with loitering with the intent to commit prostitution.
70. BEVERLY LEE, age 19, 8720 Willow Street, charged with loitering with the intent to commit prostitution.
71. CINDY HANSEN, age 20, 4950 Chef Highway, charged with loitering.
72. LINDA CLEATOR, age 19, 521 Iberville Street, charged with loitering in a house of prostitution.
73. JOSE PERFF, age 35, no local, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
74. SCOTT GROWNEY, age 20, 727 Merlon Square Road, charged with obstructing a public passage, and resisting arrest.
75. LAWRENCE DORSEY, age 42, 3300 Lancaster Street, charged with interfering with police, and exposing of genitals.
76. CHARLES SMITH, age 27, 925 Coffin Street, charged with obstructing the sidewalk.
77. ANTURO SANTIAGO, age 25, 1005 Barracks Street, charged with making threats.
78. DAVID PARKER, age 30, 8515 Cohen Street,

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- charged with obstructing sidewalk, and resisting arrest.
77. MICHALLA DOMQUE, age 34, 555 S. Ford St. — Chicago, charged with loitering for prostitution.
78. ALEXEZ DOMQUE, age 34, 555 S. Ford St. — Chicago, charged with loitering for prostitution.
79. NATE CHOTE, age 25, 83a Wash Drive, charged with warrant from Traffic Court.
80. TERRY VASAL, age 26, 1020 Espinasse Ave., charged with loitering in public place.
81. ROBERT MATTIA, age 29, 1004 French St., charged with loitering for prostitution.
82. MICHAEL DUFLOUTH, age 26, 1407 N. LaSalle Avenue, charged with loitering for prostitution.
83. DAVID RAMOS, age 26, 544 Melrose Chicago, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
84. ARTHUR L. PROBOST, age 23, 751 LaSalle Avenue, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
85. CHRIS CLOUEST, age 20, 1244 Espinasse Avenue, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
86. KEITH MESTER, age 19, 1244 Espinasse Avenue, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
87. PHILLIP MADDEN, age 29, 407 Madison Street, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
88. RICKY SCOTT, age 36, 1900 Carroll Street, loitering for prostitution.
89. JAMIE MORRIS, age 25, 401 Iberville Street, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
90. JOHN TAYLOR, age 24, 1114 Carroll Street, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
91. REGINALD J. CUMMINGS, age 22, Salcedo Street, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
92. ROBERT STAGE, age 30, 2409 Jefferson Highway, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
93. JERRY BANNISTER, age 26, 804 Carroll Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
94. WILLIAM JOHNSON, age 28, 521 Iberville Street, charged with loitering in house of prostitution.
95. LEONARD WILLIAMS, age 40, 1726 Carroll Street, charged with loitering in house of prostitution, State Charge.
96. ERIC GIBSON, age 21, 1808 Dumaine Street, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
97. KENNETH MCCALL, age 26, 521 Iberville Street, charged with loitering in house of prostitution — State Charge.
98. WILLIAM CAMPBELL, age 22, 643 Poydras Street, charged with loitering.
99. CHRISTINE CALVERT, age 18, 2433 Iberville Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
100. DAWN HAYDEL, age 17, 3743 Abundance Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
101. GALE SIMMONS, age 24, 1523 Goodrich Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
102. GALE WILLIAMS, age 19, 210 Carroll Street - Apt. E, charged with warrant from Criminal District Court — prostitution.
103. BARBARA TAYLOR, age 31, 3125 Elysian Fields, charged with loitering for prostitution.
104. CYNTHIA WATKINS, age 25, 841 Walton Avenue, charged with loitering for prostitution.
105. JANET KIDD, age 19, 2424 Primrose Street, charged with loitering for prostitution, and attachment.
106. GLORIA THOMAS, age 29, 3125 Elysian Fields, charged with loitering for prostitution.
107. PEGGY MARTIN, age 24, 521 Iberville Street, charged with prostitution for \$40.00.
108. ARMANDO PEREZ, age 27, 313 Decatur Street, charged with loitering for prostitution.
109. PATRICIA NEWELL, age 22, 3503 Bankhead Highway, Atlanta, charged with loitering for prostitution.
110. DENISE SHAW, age 18, 3743 Abundance Street - Apt. D, charged with loitering for prostitution.
111. DONSHIKIA CAMPBELL, age 22, 3207 Rose Lane Court, charged with loitering for prostitution.
112. LEWIS RATCLIFF, age 39, 1739 E. Ferdinand Street, charged with interfering with police.
113. JOSEPH RICHARDSON, age 18, 5033 Stephen Girard, charged with obstructing sidewalk.
114. RITA BUYE, age 28, 3946 Hamburg Street, Apt. B, loitering for prostitution.



STRIKING A DEFIANT if not suggestive pose, a group of prostitutes arrested in Thursday night's raid in the first two blocks of Decatur Street let photographers and police know exactly what their sentiments are about the bust. The raid netted more than 100 arrests, including those of nine persons described by authorities as key suspects in the eight-month-long undercover operation. — Staff photo

Fiscal Officer in Vice Probe?

By J. DOUGLAS MURPHY,
PIERRE V. DEGRUY
and PAUL ATKINSON

New Orleans City Council fiscal officer Louis H. Gomez is expected to be called before a federal grand jury investigating vice and racketeering activities in the French Quarter. The Times-Picayune has learned.

The grand jury reportedly will seek to determine if Gomez was aware of the prostitution activities and payoffs to undercover police and an FBI agent. Gomez owns a building on Decatur Street where one of the bars raided during Thursday night's police sweep of prostitutes is located.

Gomez Friday denied any knowledge of the prostitution and payoff activities which allegedly took place at the Los Amantes Bar, 121 Decatur.

Records show he owns the building housing the bar, and until January shared ownership with bar operator Paulinos Lopez, who was one of nine persons arrested Thursday night on federal racketeering charges.

City Council President Sidney Barthelemy and other members of the council, however, announced Friday that an investigation of Gomez ownership of the building is now under way, and that a report would be issued.

Sources said the federal grand jury is also expected to question Gomez about a trip he took to an annual carnival in

LaCeiba, Honduras, in mid-May.

Gomez was accompanied on that three-day trip the weekend of May 18 by Sgt. John Kastner and Ronald Brink, two of the New Orleans police officers who were working undercover investigating vice activities during the past nine months on Decatur and Bourbon streets.

Those officers had been posing as "dirty" cops, and accepted some \$19,000 in "protection" money from bar operators and others to look the other way while prostitution, gambling and other illegal activities flourished in the French Quarter.

Also on that trip, sources said, was Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office Deputy Andreas Pena, brother of

another of those arrested on federal racketeering charges Thursday night, Orestes Pena, owner of the raided Habana Bar. The officers also accompanied Reynard Rochon, chief administrative officer for Mayor Ernest Morial, on the trip.

Sources said Deputy Pena, who could not be reached for comment Friday, may also be subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

The same sources strongly emphasized that Rochon, who represented the city at the Honduran carnival, is not under investigation and is not expected to be called before the grand jury.

Reporters were unable to reach Rochon for comment.

What happened during that Honduras trip is one aspect of the joint NOPD-FBI undercover investigation author-

• Fiscal Officer

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ities hope to clear up with grand jury testimony in the next few weeks.

Why did the undercover officers go on the trip with Gomez?

"The motive was simple," said one source. "We wanted to open the net a little bit more so the fish could swim in."

While the trip may have been an interesting sidelight during the investigation on Decatur and Bourbon streets, and provided a brief vacation for the cops, "it turned out to be an absolute zero as far as law enforcement was concerned," another source told The Times-Picayune.

Gomez coordinated the trip, inviting Pena and Rochon along, sources said. Paulino Lopez, who was reportedly in Cuba at the time, was also scheduled to meet with the group in Honduras, sources said, but these plans were never carried out.

As chief administrative officer, Rochon was assigned bodyguards to accompany him on the trip. Kastner and Brink were chosen for the job.

Gomez said Friday that the trip was an innocent one, and said it is the fourth year in a row he has arranged to take New Orleanians to LaCeiba, where he was born. He said 80 to 90 people went on the trip this year.

Gomez denied that he paid for anyone's expenses but his own. He said everyone paid his own way except Rochon, whose accommodations were provided by the Honduran government.

"It's a foul ball, this story. It's going to throw a bad light on something that's been very pretty between two cities," Gomez said.

"Somebody's going to connect Rochon on the trip along with Kastner and the vice squad and Louis Gomez, but certainly there is no connection," he said.

"It's one of those screwy things," he said, referring to the story. "Don't let anybody try to say this is some kind of mysterious trip."

Gomez said he sponsors the trip every year, and takes along civic leaders, Latin American community leaders, doctors, lawyers and a television crew.

Morial, asked Thursday night about his knowledge of Gomez' property relationship with the arrested Lopez, would not comment. He referred a reporter's inquiries to Gomez himself.

Morial, U.S. Attorney John Volz and NOPD Superintendent James Parsons also would not discuss the circumstances surrounding the trip to Honduras and what role it might have played in the nine-month long investigation at a Friday press conference.

"We'd rather not get into that," Volz said, after acknowledging that Gomez did, in fact, own a building that had been a prime location for the nightly gathering of prostitutes and pimps.

"We have no plans to prosecute Mr. Gomez," Volz added.

Early Friday, Gomez denied owning any interest in any Decatur bar. He told a reporter to check his facts because "all five of you (reporters) were wrong" in an article in Friday morning's paper.

"That's all I will say until I contact my attorney," Gomez said.

Records, however, show that Gomez and Lopez purchased the building which now houses the Los Amantes Bar for \$125,000 on Dec. 20, 1976.

Records also show that on Jan. 12, 1979, Lopez sold his half interest in the building to Gomez and Gomez's wife for \$7,500 cash. Lopez testified in federal court that he owned the "bar business," but not the building.

Confronted with that information later Friday, Gomez admitted that he owns the building. He denied, however,

that he had any knowledge of the prostitution activities allegedly going on in the bar or in \$5 "trick" rooms above it.

He characterized the Los Amantes as a "seaman's bar," and said he was aware of nothing going on there.

Asked if he ever visited the building, Gomez said, "Sure, I went there 10 or 15 times. I own the building."

Gomez said he bought the building because he hoped a nearby hotel would buy it. "My own idea is that the raid is going to up the value," he said.

"I certainly had nothing to do with this scandal. The only reason I'm responding now is because I was disturbed about how it was reported."

Asked if he was now under "pressure" from the council because of his ownership of the building, Gomez said, "Well, they want answers. That's it."

Gomez was appointed to his \$31,764 a year post with the council in October 1978. He was formerly executive as



—Staff photo by Lee Crum

AMUSED POLICE POINT THE WAY TO CENTRAL LOCK UP
One of the girls of Decatur Street gets abundant help

officer in the Landrieu and Morial administrations.

His job was created by councilmanic vote, although it is technically a Civil Service position.

Gomez was suspended without pay

for 30 days in 1969 after it was discovered that he had met with Mafia boss Carlos Marcello at Marcello's Metairie home. Gomez told investigators that he visited Marcello to discuss private real estate transactions.

Catcalling Ladies Run Cops, Press Gauntlet

By BILL GRADY

"What a game," sighed a policewoman watching the buses unload their cargo of hookers at Central Lockup Thursday night.

She was standing off to the side. In front of her was the wisecracking press and a second line of smirking policemen. They formed a corridor from the door of the buses into the lockup.

The ladies were catcalling from their bus. They weren't overly witty, but virtually everything they shouted was greeted with howls from an audience ever-starved for color.

They'd been driven down in two buses — male transvestites in one, real ladies in the other, but there was obviously some overlap. The real ladies were noisy. The fake ladies were much quieter, and a few swished for the television cameras like beauty pageant winners strutting down a white-lit runway in Miami Beach. They seemed to enjoy the stroll into the lockup almost as much as the hungry bystanders enjoyed watching.

By and large, the fake ladies' taste seemed to run to leather and soft cotton prints with slits. The real ladies wore skimpier and louder clothes, but nearly everyone on both buses was in spike heels. They make anybody's legs look longer.

Once the transvestite bus was empty, the real ladies got the spotlight, and their banter with the onlookers grew positively furious.

"Where's Channel 4 at? I wanna tell what an injustice this is," said one.

"We ain't no dogs," shouted another.

"Where's my man at?"

They began filing off their bus.

"Honey, if you can't make bail, call."

"God — I think that's my ex-wife."

"I ain't never seen nobody so proud of their work."

"Listen, you guys make a living, why can't we?" asked one of the last hookers to get off.

The lights blinded a few of the women and they lurched into the media and police lines. Some covered their faces with coats and hats, found they couldn't see, and ran into each other.

One particular specimen blithely raised her shirt over her head, eliciting humming and cooing sounds from male members of the audience.

Only one brief episode dampened the fun.

A pale, very sick-looking man wobbled off the transvestite bus. He was trembling terribly and walking very slowly with a cane. His shirt was unbuttoned and he had braces on his feet. He held up the procession.

"God, look at him," somebody said.

When he'd finally made it inside, people started laughing again, but a little more urgently this time.

They couldn't help it. No one likes to think about human degradation. It's really not very funny.