

Time to be sex-mad'—doctor *rap*

By JEFF ETON

IN A VOICE DEVOID of emotion, Dr. James Middleton told of plans to appeal his conviction on charges of sexually assaulting a female patient and how, if exonerated, he would go right back to being a family doctor.

"It's my first love," said Middleton, who in headlines has been continually called "sex doctor."

In 1961, Middleton lost his Missouri medical license, accused of doping and taking advantage of a female patient. He was acquitted in that case.

In Illinois, where he obtained a license without reference to the St. Louis affair, sheriff's police were told of how he had performed similar acts on women patients in Des Plaines. Police searched Middleton's clinic and found what they reported to be a variety of "prurient" items as well as explosive devices.

THE 1970 DISCOVERY led to Middleton's jury conviction in Circuit Court yesterday, and the loss of his Illinois medical license.

Perhaps most striking in an exclusive interview last night was his completely dry, placid tone. In a monotone, Middleton told of how he could not possibly be the sex fiend he is alleged to be.

"I was a busy doctor with many patients a day. I had no time to be sex-mad.

"You ask if I am embarrassed. After all of this publicity, I am now immune to embarrassment. I actually take a light view of the case, now, because I know I am innocent and it will come out eventually.

"Then I can go back to my clinic in Des Plaines and pick up my family practice. I have no intention of going into research, if I win my appeal. I treat people.

"You know, I used to treat more than 20 people a day," said the former physician, who is free on appeal bond because of his

impeccable record of showing up for court appearances. "Even if I was so inclined, I didn't have any four hours to seduce a patient.

"That doesn't mean I don't like a well-turned ankle. But this? No. Not in St. Louis, when I was a poor, struggling doctor, not today, when they apparently found out about my past and tried to blackmail me."

MIDDLETON, WHOSE WIFE, Margaret, has remained by her husband thruout his problems, said yesterday's verdict by the jury of eight men and four women "shocked" him.

But it is hard to imagine anything shocking James Middleton, who sounds like he is giving a weather report while he is discussing the case.

He was certainly annoyed, however, by a court-appointed psychiatrist's opinion that he is "paranoid schizophrenic."

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