

# Middleton

## 'annoyed' CDM by verdict

By Betty Washington

Dr. James G. Middleton says he was "just a little bit annoyed" by his conviction for deviant sexual assault and aggravated battery.

Middleton, 45, a former Des Plaines physician, was found guilty Thursday of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman patient in his office.

A Criminal Court jury of eight men and four women returned the verdict at about 2:30 p.m. after 14½ hours of deliberations.

MIDDLETON, almost expressionless as the verdict was read, peered over the top of

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His black horn-rimmed glasses and wrinkled his forehead.

His wife, Margaret, was crying during the reading of the verdict, but broke down in tears and fell into Middleton's arms as he left the courtroom. She said she remained "absolutely" certain of his innocence.

In an interview after the verdict was read, Middleton said he believed some of the witnesses' testimony "amounted to perjury in the fashion in which Mr. Cavanaugh (Asst. State's Atty. James Cavanaugh) used it."

One of Middleton's attorneys, Sam Adam, said he would file a motion for a new trial because of what he termed "procedural errors" in the trial. If the motion fails, he said he would appeal.

MIDDLETON, who already has lost his license to practice

medicine in Illinois, could be sentenced to from 1 to 5 years in prison for the aggravated battery conviction and from 4 to 16 years for the sexual assault conviction.

Judge Robert J. Downing set Feb. 24 for post-trial motions, but did not say whether sentencing would take place on that date.

Over objections from Cavanaugh, Downing continued the \$15,000 bail for Middleton. The judge said Middleton had appeared in court on time and for every hearing.

MIDDLETON was arrested in his office at 969 S. Elmhurst, Des Plaines, on Dec. 1, 1970, after former patients accused him of drugging and sexually assaulting them.

A 24-year-old former model who now is a Carpentersville housewife testified during the trial that she visited Middleton's office, then at 632 W.

Algonquin, Des Plaines, 10 times between Dec. 29, 1969, and Feb. 7, 1970.

The woman testified that Middleton injected a drug into her that left her with no "muscular control" and then sexually assaulted her. She also testified that her voice lowered as a result of the drug and that hair grew on her face.

Other women who testified during the two-week trial said they became dizzy after Middleton gave them injections.

Middleton denied making the sexual assaults and brought defense witnesses who testified that the drugs concerned could not have produced the effects the women said they did.

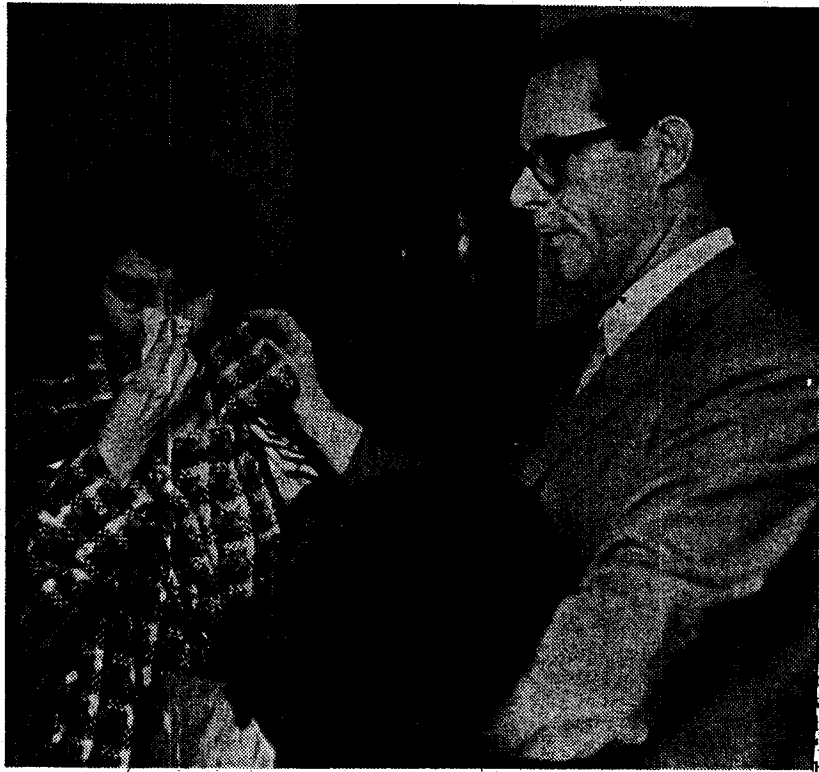
DEFENSE attorney Edward Genson argued that the testimony of only the Carpentersville housewife was relevant to the trial because Middleton was charged only with assaulting her.

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Dr. James G. Middleton comforts his wife, Margaret, who wept after the guilty verdict was returned. (Daily News Photo/John H. White)