

Joseph P. Busch, 49, L.A. District Attorney

From News Dispatches

WEST COVINA, Calif., June 27—Los Angeles County District Attorney Joseph P. Busch, 49, was found dead in bed in his West Covina home today, the apparent victim of a heart attack.

As Los Angeles County district attorney Mr. Busch supervised the largest staff of county prosecutors in the county—500 deputy district attorneys and 1,500 other employees.

He took over the office in January, 1971. Mr. Busch had been a career prosecutor since 1952.

He graduated with a law degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles in 1951 and received the Bancroft-Whitney Special Award for being 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.

His most prominent cases as a prosecutor in the 1950s and 1960s were against former gangster Mickey Cohen; four men charged with libeling former U.S. Sen. Thomas Kuchel, and against several members of the U.S. Nazi Party accused of assaulting a number of persons attending the 15th anniversary celebration of Israel.



JOSEPH P. BUSCH

A broad-faced, outgoing man, Mr. Busch developed a consumer and environmental department in the district attorney's office, with three deputies prosecuting consumer offenses such as false advertising.

Under his leadership, the D.A.'s office started prosecuting lesser criminal offenses, such as marijuana possession, as misdemeanors rather than felonies.

Mr. Busch is survived by his wife, Jennie, and three sons.