

## Private Homes

# Drug Raids By Mistake

*Associated Press*

Collinsville, Ill.

Herbert Giglotto, 29, and his wife, Louise, 28, had gone to bed about 8 p.m.

"At about 9:30 we hear this crash. We hear this screaming. I take about three steps out of my bed and I see these hippies with guns," Giglotto said yesterday. "I told my wife, 'My God, we're dead.'"

Across town at another home, Donald Askew, 40, had just sat down to dinner with his wife, Virginia, 37, and their 16-year-old son, Michael. He looked out the window, he remembered, and saw several armed men in the yard.

### Fear

Seconds later, he said, the men were at the door trying to kick it in. Askew called his wife to phone the police. She fainted. Askew told his son to run for his life.

The armed men who forced their way into the Askew and Giglotto homes last Monday were conducting narcotics raids. They made the raids with no warning and showed no warrants. They left when the raids turned out to be a mistake.

Myles J. Ambrose, director of the federal Drug Abuse Enforcement Program and a special assistant attorney general, said yesterday it is his "understanding" that the men were agents from the program's St. Louis office.

### Force

Paul Cigliana, Collinsville police chief, confirmed that the raids were conducted by a "strike force" of federal narcotics agents from the St. Louis office.

Cigliana said he believed that policemen

*See Back Page*

\* See NYTimes, 24 Apr 75, this file, "Levi Backs Shift on Drug Raid Case."

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From Page 1

from some municipal police forces in the area also participated, but he added, "I don't think there were too many of them."

Federal narcotics officials from the St. Louis office could not be reached yesterday, but had declined comment earlier. Askew said the men gave him the telephone number of the office to verify their identities.

Two days after the raids, Ambrose issued a statement: "I have directed an inspection team to thoroughly investigate this matter. If any federal agents have acted improperly, appropriate action will be taken. Under no circumstances will I permit my agents to violate anyone's constitutional rights."

Asked whether the investigation is top priority, Ambrose said, "You bet your sweet life it is."

Giglotta said the raiders did not identify themselves, and showed no warrant. "They knocked me down across the bed and handcuffed me and my wife. They had our hands behind our backs. I was in my underwear and she was in her negligee."

"One agent," Giglotta said, held a cocked pistol to his head and said, "You're a dead man. I'm going to kill you, you son of a bitch." The man, Giglotta said, called his wife a bitch and, not knowing they were married, suggested she was an adulteress.

"Just shut your mouth or I'll kill you," Giglotta quoted the man as saying after he was asked to identify himself. The man reportedly told Mrs. Giglotta he would kill her husband if he did not tell her where the drugs they sought were hidden.

With 14 raiders in the room and more downstairs, Giglotta said, his wife was pleading for his life. Giglotta asked, "Please look at my identification before you kill me."

No one did, he said. He added that the only identification the Giglotts were shown was a gold badge flashed by one of the intruders. Only Mrs. Giglotta caught a glimpse of it.



Louise and Herbert Giglotta cleaned up after the invasion of their home

As they lay trussed across the bed, Giglotta said, another raider walked up the stairs and announced, "Oh, I think we made a mistake."

They had torn the house apart and found nothing. The front room was a shambles, littered with books, overturned furniture and a smashed television set. Released from his handcuffs, Giglotta tried to put on his pants, he said, but a raider ripped them out of his hands.

"They were as rude leaving as they were coming," Giglotta said. He said he followed them downstairs, demanding an explanation, shouting: "My God, you just kicked in my door, threatened to kill me and my wife, can you tell me what's happening?"

Giglotta said one of the armed men turned and replied, "Shut your mouth, boy."

Askew said the raid on his

home began as he and his family were beginning a late dinner after he had stayed overtime at the service station he runs in East St. Louis.

As he held the front door, Askew said yesterday, two men knocked down the back door and levelled two riot guns at him. A man at the front door flashed a gold badge and Askew let them in.

Five men, all dressed as hippies, searched the house, looking for a suspect, Askew said.

He said they showed no warrant. Askew asked to see a badge again. A man who gave his name as Ted Williams flashed one, Askew said, but all he could read was "special agent" before the badge was put away.

Mrs. Askew, lying on the couch, revived. She saw the men with the guns and fainted again. When she revived again one of the raiders

said, "Take it easy, lady. We're really federal officers."

Askew said the men were polite. "Outside of kicking the door and scaring the — out of us, they were all right."

Satisfied the man they sought was not in the Askew home, one of the intruders said, "We just got a wrong tip." The men refused, however, to let Mrs. Askew call the police.

Askew said he asked the men to remain at the house while he tried to learn if they really were federal agents. He said the leader of the group told him, "No, I can't. I got four other places to go."

The Askews have filed a \$100,000 damage suit in U.S. District Court at Springfield. The Giglotts are to meet with their lawyer this morning to determine what course to take.

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